

Gary Hawkins, Executive Director 2758 W 115th St S, Jenks, OK 74037 "Faith-based 501c3 org." 05/13/2019

Greetings in the Wonderful Name of Our Lord Jesus,

"Be careful to make a good improvement of precious time." A quote by David Brainerd, a missionary to the Seneca and Delaware Indians of New York (born April 20, 1718, died Oct. 9, 1747 of tuberculosis). Brainerd faced many personal struggles; physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Although he only made a handful of converts his diary published by Jonathan Edwards describing his passion and commitment to Jesus Christ for evangelizing and making disciples among the native people has influenced many missionaries in future generations, including William Carey and Henry Martyn, who went to India and Jim Eliot, the twentieth century missionary who gave his life ministering to the Auca Indians.

The challenges of Native ministry has certainly changed since Brainerd's days yet, many of the same challenges still persist. Throughout this past year, FoNAC has met with and discussed native ministry with a wide range of interested people and organizations. With these discussions, one thing always surfaces in that there are no quick fixes or simple solutions but in spite of that, more and more people are uniting their hearts in prayer seeking answers together, (*Proverbs 3:5-6*). It's like pieces of a large puzzle with many pieces slowly being put together that are beginning to form a large picture.

As time progresses, I realize more clearly that a quality network of like-minded believers who have a prayerful heart toward God can do far more than we can do individually. I believe the "buzz word" for that is "synergy", (*Ecclesiastes 4:12*). FoNAC as being a faith-based organization, feels strongly that the time for taking next steps of faith has come, in the way of raising awareness, educating people, developing leadership and networking with healthy ministry partnerships.

FoNAC has enlisted into our executive board and advisory council some young men who have brought some new ideas and approaches in getting our organization more in the public's eye with the intention of encouraging more involvement and support. We look forward to what the future of native ministry is going to reveal for the Fellowship of Native American Christians.

I have not done as much travel this year as previous years, my father and mother-in-law have had some serious health related issues, that has required much attention from my wife Paula and myself. Also, I have devoted time and energy to Native Stone Baptist, a church plant located in greater Tulsa. May 4-5, 2019 we held a Celebration/Dedication of Native Stone's family and facilities, which was a great time for the many attendees from surrounding churches as well as tribal officials from the Muscogee Creek Nation and some special guests that traveled from MS and KY.

Please join us in praying that our upcoming meeting in Birmingham, AL, June 10th will have many attending, desiring to learn more about partnering with FoNAC and that all our speakers and music will be anointed of our Lord. We need prayers as the 11th & 12th we'll be manning our booth at the Many Faces Exhibit Area at the Southern Baptist Convention sharing FoNACs ministry. Also, please uphold my wife and family in prayer and for all the executive board members and their families.

I conclude by offering my heart-felt thanks to all of you who have been such a blessing to us these last 7 years. To some it may seem like a long time but when I think of how long it's been since David Brainerd's ministry. I recognize that everything happens according to God's timing!

Love & Appreciation,

Bro Gary Hawkins, Executive Director, www.fonac.org, ghawkins@fonac.org