



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2025

## Intellectuals Now Becoming Believers

### From the Pastor's Desk

I read an encouraging article this week in which the author described an apparently new development among intellectuals in the United States and other English speaking countries. Author Peter Savodnik has noticed that a significant number of highly educated intellectuals are starting to abandon their previous atheism and agnosticism, and they are now putting their faith in the God of the New Testament.

Here's a link to the article if you want to read it yourself. I highly recommend it, but I warn you it is kind of long. It's good news for a change, so it was well worth my time.

[https://www.thefp.com/p/how-intellectuals-found-god-ayaan-hirsi-ali-peter-thiel-jordan-peterson?utm\\_campaign=email-post&r=zdk00&utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.thefp.com/p/how-intellectuals-found-god-ayaan-hirsi-ali-peter-thiel-jordan-peterson?utm_campaign=email-post&r=zdk00&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

I mention this good news because all of my adult life the narrative has been that intellectuals with high IQs don't believe in God. Only people with merely average IQs or below average IQs believe in God. That was never true because some of the most intelligent people in the world have always been followers of Jesus Christ.

But the story the unbelievers tried to sell us was that the REALLY smart people (like them) don't believe in any religion, and Christianity least of all. The so-called high IQ intellectuals tried to mock anyone who believed in Jesus Christ and embarrass them into silence.

Being a high IQ person myself with three degrees earned after high school, I remember frequent

### Upcoming Events & Meetings

**Jan. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Jan. 5, 12:15 p.m., – Pastor Search Committee**

**Jan. 20, Noon – Inauguration of the President**

**Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**Weekly:**

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Discussion**

**Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Praise and Worship Service**

**Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study at Cairns home starting Jan. 9**

comments ridiculing me for my faith. I found that amusing in one sense because these same intellectuals would criticize Christians for being "holier than thou" (that is, Christians allegedly believed they were superior to other people and were quite happy to say so).

I noticed that these supposed intellectuals were loudly proclaiming their superiority to Christian believers, which was every bit as hypocritical as they claimed Christians were. :)

I've always taken my cue from the Apostle Paul who was one of the most educated and most

*See Pastor's Desk on p. 2*

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On the web at <https://www.hillside-sbc.org/>

**Pastor's Desk** (from p. 1)

intelligent people of his time. He was not intimidated and he boldly proclaimed the truth of Christ.

In his earliest letter, he wrote about how our message of the Son of God dying for us on the cross was foolishness to the intellectuals of his day but to us it is the power of God for salvation (1 Corinthians 1:18-25).

***For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:***

***"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."***

***Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.***

I rejoice to see the philosophers and geniuses of our age starting to come to faith in Jesus Christ! We may be at the beginning of a Great Awakening.

✠ Pastor Tom

**Property and Space Patrol**

A few light snow storms came in December and the roadways were plowed and sanded. Temps have been above and below 32F.

The blessing is that we have passed the low point in the length of daylight (Dec. 21). On January 1st sunset will be at 4:21 p.m. with daylight for 9:03 hours. Come January 31st, sunset will occur at 4:57 p.m. with daylight for 9:55 hours.

It may still be cold but we will have more daylight to enjoy.

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

In mid-December, Paul Chitwood, President of the SBC International Mission Board, broadcast this message.

In a world where the gospel is met with much resistance, there are brave IMB missionaries serving in some of the most dangerous regions on earth, courageously sharing the gospel. Many of these dedicated individuals cannot reveal their identities, as doing so would jeopardize their safety. Yet, their commitment to spreading the message of Christ remains unwavering.

These missionaries venture into regions where the light of hope is desperately needed, often facing unimaginable dangers. They know that the cost of sharing the gospel is high, yet they willingly embrace this calling because they believe in the transformative power of Christ's love.

...

By giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for the first time, you can directly fund the efforts of those risking everything to bring hope to the hopeless.

...

Your generosity enables us to send more missionaries, provide crucial training, and address urgent needs on the ground.

As the year comes to a close, I urge you to consider the cost of lostness and the sacrifices our missionaries are making. They cannot be seen, but their impact is profound.

...

Please consider making a gift today to help us achieve our goal of \$200,000 by December 31:

<https://www.imb.org/generosity/cye-2024/>

Thank you for standing with us in support of these brave missionaries. Together, we can continue to bring light to places shrouded in darkness.

It is noteworthy that, as of Dec. 29, Hillside has collected offerings totaling \$1,342.

**Thursday Night Bible Study**

After a winter break, this study resumes at the home of Tom and June Cairns. On January 9 it will start at Romans 8:1 and continue through Romans until the Thursday before Memorial Day.

## Pastor Search Update

The committee continues its efforts to search for a suitable candidate for Pastor. It has eliminated some pastoral candidates and is spending time listening to sermons from those still being considered. Interviews and reference checks will be the next step.

## Serving Others for Jesus

This passage comes from the Our Daily Bread Devotional for January 15, 2024. The scripture passage is Mark 10:35-45 and it deals with Jesus teaching the disciples about offering themselves in service to God. The devotional story involves an encounter between an actress from a sci-fi TV series and a famous minister.

Actress Nichelle Nichols is best remembered for playing Lieutenant Uhura in the original *Star Trek* TV series. Landing the role was a personal win for Nichols, making her one of the first African American women on a major TV show. But a greater win was to come of it.

Nichols had actually resigned from *Star Trek* after its first season, to return to her theater work. But then she met Martin Luther King Jr., who urged her not to leave.

For the first time, he said, African Americans were being seen on TV as intelligent people who could do anything, even go into space. By playing Lieutenant Uhura, Nichols was achieving a greater win—showing Black women and children what they could become.

It reminds me of the time James and John asked Jesus for the two best positions in His kingdom (Mark 10:37). What personal wins such positions would be! Jesus not only explained the painful realities of their request (vv. 38–40) but called them to higher goals, saying, “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant” (v. 43). His followers weren’t to seek personal wins alone but, like Him, use their positions to serve others (v. 45).

Nichelle Nichols stayed with *Star Trek* for the greater win it provided for African Americans. May we too never be content with a personal win alone but use whatever position we gain to serve others in His name.

## Feelings vs. Scripture

The following cartoon was supplied by our very own Pastor Tom. You could say it illustrates the difference between self-serving behavior and God-serving behavior.



## Swearing in a New President

With the November 5th election settled and behind us, January holds a few important dates that mark a solemn transition of federal power from the Biden to the Trump Administration. Let us pray for a peaceful and safe transition and a more hopeful future for our country and the world.



The House of Representatives will elect a Speaker on January 3 for the 119th Congress, after the new Congress is sworn in. On January 6, the full Congress will certify the results of the Nov. 5th election in accordance with Article II Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution (the executive power).

*See New President on p. 4*

### New President, from p. 3

Donald Trump's second inauguration as the 47th President of the United States will take place at noon at the U.S. Capitol on January 20, which is also the holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King. Chain link fences and National Guard troops are not anticipated nor expected.

The newly-sworn President Trump and Vice President Vance will go over to the East Front steps of the Capitol Building and there review military troops before leading a procession of ceremonial military regiments, citizens' groups, marching bands, and floats down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to these people who celebrate another orbit around the Sun:

1/11 Dr. Jim Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who is celebrate a wedding anniversary this month. If that is you, please let the editor know about it.

### Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Tom Cairns, Pastor Al Page, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership. It is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Tune in to Gospel Radio

In the Concord area, get more of God's Word by tuning into New Hampshire Gospel Radio at 99.1 FM or 104.3 FM.

For example, on Saturday mornings at 6:30 a.m., enjoy "The Brinkman Adventures," a lively well-done radio drama. In the wee hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings, if you can't sleep, tune in to Praise & Worship music.

During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly. In the evenings catch the latest episode of "Adventures in Odyssey."

Learn more at <http://www.nhgr.org/>.

### Hillside on the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <https://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Sermons are also recorded weekly and published on the web site as podcasts in mp3 format.

### Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Jan. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Churches of New England, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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