



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

December 2016

Called According to His Purpose

From the Pastor's Desk

Psalm 139:16 "Your eyes have seen my unformed substance
And in Your Book were all written
the days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there were not one of them."

Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to
work together for good to those who love God, to those who
are called according to His purpose."

I need to tell this story as it brings out the important part that
Jesse played in our lives, the rest of the family, and even to
the very existence of Hillside Baptist Church.

His mother, Jean, and I were married on February 22, 1955
and we lived in Greenland, NH. I was serving in the Naval
Reserve Unit in Portsmouth, NH. We went for two- week
active duty training every year. The unit went to Key West,
Florida in 1956 and again in 1957. I was draft eligible and if
drafted would go in the Army. I checked with the Draft
Board and found I was third on the list for March 1957. Jean
and I talked it over and we decided that I should see if I
could go on active duty while in Key West.

The Reserve Unit flew to Key West and I was assigned to
the USS Trutta SS421. I was a 3rd Class Electrician and
there were not enough electricians on board. The chief
electrician, an instructor in Portsmouth, said a generator was
broken and I fixed it. He asked me if I would consider going
on active duty. I went for two weeks and ended up staying
five years. Jean came down and we bought a mobile home.

Jean got a job at a local doctor's office as a receptionist. We
wanted children but were unable to conceive. Dr. Lester had
a patient from up north who was pregnant and wanted to
give up the baby for adoption. He asked Jean if we would
like to have the baby. Eric came to us July 16, 1961. When
the adoption was completed, we had been married seven
years.

In 1962, I went to shore duty and we moved to Rhode Island
and thought it best to adopt another child instead of trying to
raise Eric alone. We applied to the state and they referred us
to the Sophia Little Home for Unwed Mothers in Cranston.
We were interviewed and given papers to fill out.

One requirement was to have a pastor's recommendation.
We had not attended any church since we were married back
in 1955.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Dec. 3, 11:00 a.m. – Memorial Service

For Jesse Page

Dec. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

At the end of the Worship Service.

Dec. 4, Midday – Christmas Potluck Dinner

A time of fellowship after the Worship Service.

Dec. 7 - Pearl Harbor Day

The 75th anniversary of "the day that will live in infamy"

Dec. 25, 10:45 a.m. – Christmas Day Service

A celebration to commemorate the birthday of the King of
Kings.

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

New Year's Resolution: to serve the Lord more faithfully in
2017.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

Our Rhode Island neighbors recommended Chestnut Hill
Baptist Church in Exeter, RI. We knew we would need to
attend for several weeks before we could ask for a
recommendation. Finally the time came and we got the
pastor's approval and our papers were complete.

We met with the agency several times over the next months
and the process dragged on. Attending another meeting in
August, we figured more of the same. Back for more
investigation and waiting. The social worker excused herself
saying, "I'll be right back." She came back with a baby. We
were stunned and unprepared. She said "He is yours if you
want him."

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On the web at <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

We were speechless. We had no baby stuff with us and would have to shop on the way home for bottles, diapers, formula, and all that. No baby car seats or seat belts. Moms had to hold their babies. We survived and our household was forever changed. We had to name him before we could leave. Jean had an uncle Jesse and our substitute grandparent in Key West was Jesse Slone, our landlord, so that became his name.

Jesse's life was very important to us because it started us going to church. Inviting Christ into our hearts prepared us for a critical surgery that Jean was to experience in October 1964.

She had heart surgery and we came readily through the trials because of the reality of the Lord's presence. He carried our little family. We might have made it on our own but only with hardship. Jesus has never failed us. He is the easiest way.

If we Jesse had not come into our family, would I have become a Christian? Would I have made it through the struggles of life? Would Hillside Baptist Church be here? We don't know but God has a will for those called according to His purpose.

God had a purpose for Jesse and placed him here at a specific time. He has a purpose for every life. We can see how the Lord worked all things together for good to those who love Him.

He worked through Jesse and the rest of the family and untold others all over the country.

✠ Pastor Al

Men's Breakfast

The December Men's Breakfast was canceled due to the Memorial Service for Jesse Page held on the same day. But this event will resume in the New Year.

That gives you a whole month to think of who you might invite to breakfast.

Fellowship Events

A Christmas Potluck Dinner is planned for Sunday, December 4th. This gives us one special day before Christmas Day to fellowship with each other at leisure without having to wrap it up because it precedes a business meeting.

Here's hoping you can attend.

Property and Space Patrol

Not much to report this month. The lawns have gone to sleep for the winter and all the fallen leaves have conveniently been blown down the road.

Most of the pre-winter chores were completed during the Fall Work Day.

Pray for God's blessing on the church and grounds in the coming year.

✠ Pastor Al

Squanto and the Providence of God

The following article by John Stonestreet was published on November 24, 2016 on www.breakpoint.org. It was based on a commentary by Chuck Colson, which you can listen to by going to this web page:

<http://www.breakpoint.org/bpcommentaries/entry/13/30145>.

The story was also recounted on a recent "Focus on the Family" radio broadcast with guest, Eric Metaxas.

The following is a transcript of the Chuck Colson commentary. Listen carefully for parallels between Squanto's life and that of Joseph of the Old Testament.



Most of us know the story of the first Thanksgiving; at least we know the Pilgrim version. But how many of us know the Indian viewpoint?

No, I'm not talking about some revisionist, politically correct version of history. I'm talking about the amazing story of the way God used an Indian named Squanto as a special instrument of His providence.

Historical accounts of Squanto's life vary, but historians believe that around 1608, more than a decade before the Pilgrims arrived, a group of English traders sailed to what is today Plymouth, Massachusetts. When the trusting Wampanoag Indians came out to trade, the traders took them prisoner, transported them to Spain, and sold them into slavery. It was an unimaginable horror.

But God had an amazing plan for one of the captured Indians, a boy named Squanto.

Squanto was bought by a well-meaning Spanish monk, who treated him well and taught him the Christian faith. Squanto eventually made his way to England and worked in the stables of a man named John Slaney. Slaney sympathized with Squanto's desire to return home, and he promised to put the Indian on the first vessel bound for America.

It wasn't until 1619, ten years after Squanto was first kidnapped, that a ship was found. Finally, after a decade of exile and heartbreak, Squanto was on his way home.

But when he arrived in Massachusetts, more heartbreak awaited him. An epidemic had wiped out Squanto's entire village.

We can only imagine what must have gone through Squanto's mind. Why had God allowed him to return home, against all odds, only to find his loved ones dead?

A year later, the answer came. A shipload of English families arrived and settled on the very land once occupied

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by Squanto's people. Squanto went to meet them, greeting the startled Pilgrims in English.

According to the diary of Pilgrim Governor William Bradford, Squanto "became a special instrument sent of God for [our] good . . . He showed [us] how to plant [our] corn, where to take fish and to procure other commodities . . . and was also [our] pilot to bring [us] to unknown places for [our] profit, and never left [us] till he died."

When Squanto lay dying of fever, Bradford wrote that their Indian friend "desir[ed] the Governor to pray for him, that he might go to the Englishmen's God in heaven." Squanto bequeathed his possessions to the Pilgrims "as remembrances of his love."

Who but God could so miraculously convert a lonely Indian and then use him to save a struggling band of Englishmen? It is reminiscent of the biblical story of Joseph, who was also sold into slavery, and whom God likewise used as a special instrument for good.

Squanto's life story is remarkable, and we ought to make sure our children learn about it. Sadly, most books about Squanto omit references to his Christian faith. But I'm delighted to say that my friend Eric Metaxas has written a wonderful children's book called "Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving." I highly recommend it because it will teach your kids about the "special instrument sent of God," who changed the course of American history.

How great to hear again from Chuck Colson. I know that I and my colleagues at BreakPoint are so thankful to God for all that He accomplished through Chuck's life.

And this Thanksgiving on behalf of Chuck and Eric Metaxas, I want you, our BreakPoint listeners, to also know how thankful to God we are for you—for all the encouraging words, and prayer and financial support you've provided this ministry over the years. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

And before I go today, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that my friend Eric Metaxas wrote a great children's book about Squanto called *Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving*. We have it for you at the BreakPoint bookstore online.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

A New Purpose

The following story blends American history with Jesus' early ministry. It comes from the "Our Daily Bread" devotional for Nov. 10 of this year and was written by contributor, Bill Crowder.

Jacob Davis was a tailor with a problem. It was the height of the Gold Rush in the 1800s American West and the gold miners' work pants kept wearing out. His solution? Davis went to a local dry goods company owned by Levi Strauss, purchased tent cloth, and made work pants from that heavy, sturdy material—and blue jeans were born. Today, denim jeans in a variety of forms (including Levi's) are among the most popular clothing items in the world, and all because tent material was given a new purpose.

Simon and his friends were fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. Then Jesus arrived and called them to follow Him. He gave them a new purpose. No longer would they fish for fish. As Jesus told them, "Come, follow me, ... and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17).

With this new purpose set for their lives, these men were taught and trained by Jesus so that, after His ascension, they could be used by God to capture the hearts of people with the message of the cross and resurrection of Christ. Today, we follow in their steps as we share the good news of Christ's love and salvation.

May our lives both declare and exhibit this love that can change the lives, purposes, and eternal destinies of others.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following brother and sister who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

12/16 Connor Robertson

12/21 Juliette Robertson



Hillside also wishes we knew who is celebrating a wedding anniversary this month:

If that's you, please let the editor know.

Prayer Requests

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

Hillside on the Web

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

Submissions for Next Issue

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



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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