

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

January 2011

Thank God for giving all of us the most expensive gift ever given, Jesus! For many of us the New Year brings with it new possibilities as we make New Year's resolutions.

I was thinking about this very thing while driving home from attending the funeral of Dr. Bobby Moore in Southaven, MS., who was pastor of Broadway Baptist Church for more than 33 years.

As an ordained minister myself, I could not help but ask the question, "*What would be the last word I would want to leave to family, friends, and those I minister to?*" I think I would say:

1. Clear your calendar and be quiet for an entire day.
2. Listen to the Holy Spirit in you and write down specifically what He brings to your mind for you to do or change.
3. Prayerfully plan to accomplish what He puts on your heart.
4. Live every moment of every day extremely sensitive to the inward promptings of the Holy Spirit.
5. Be willing to do what others will not, simply because God is asking you to.

My friend, we want to make 2011 the best year possible. With your prayers and financial support we are making a difference in the lives of many. I want to share with you just some of the ways we are impacting the lives of others here and around the world.

-Here is what one of the inmates we are discipling had to say:

"The most important thing I must do is to let go and let God work on me! I received the Lord Jesus as my Savior in a 10' by 12' cell made for two, but had four men living in it. I knew no one loved me anymore. That's when I came to know God's love for me."

-We also receive notes from our radio and Internet listeners, and through our website.

"I pray this note finds you and your family well. I feel you are with me in the sermons I listen to while driving. I am truly thankful for you, you preach the truth of God's Word. Finally abiding, how sweet it is."

“A special thanks for your web site, especially the audio sermons. It is amazing what a few words from the Lord, when you need them, will do to clear the clutter out of your mind, and keep you on track. We really appreciate your ministry.”

We will be making many plans in the days ahead as we are presented with numerous choices regarding how to share the “Good News”! I am looking forward to preaching here in America this year, and at this point, my speaking engagements are all in the land that I love.

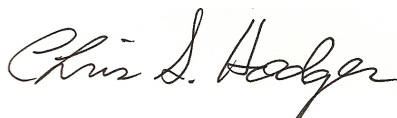
There is a trend going on right now among Bible teachers of many different faiths. This trend is to knock down what we have known as, “*The American Dream*.” I believe those who do this are just a little spoiled, confused, and somewhat forgetful. It seems they have forgotten the story of the pilgrims and how they came here to escape the tyranny of Europe and to be free to worship. It is wrong to knock our country which has raised up godly men and women to be teachers, pastors, and missionaries, though it is good to recognize where America has fallen short of God’s standards.

It seems many have forgotten the hard work of their grandparents and their parents who paid their way through school so they would not be burdened with debt when they started their own families. It seems they have forgotten just how much it has cost all of us to keep America and the rest of the world safe.

By far, Americans have given more than anyone on earth when disaster strikes. We have given billions of our own personal tax dollars to local, national, and international relief organizations. I for one am proud of America and proud to be an American.

Have we become too materialistic? Yes, we have and that is a sin. What should we do? Stop it. It’s that simple. No one knows what the future holds, but there is one thing that is certain - we should give generously to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth just as our Lord instructed us too. Together, my friend, let’s do the right thing. Let’s win people to Jesus and teach them His Word.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges
President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3

-P.S. Let’s remember what we sang as children: “God Bless America, land that I love. **Stand beside her**, and **guide her** thru the night with a light from above.”