



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

June 2013

Just recently, my father, Curtis Hodges, went to be with the Lord in heaven. Many of you knew him, and some of you knew him as the encouraging grader of your Bible lessons through the Abiding Above Discipleship School that dad and I started together.

I remember how it all started. God was using me to lead other people to Christ wherever I would go, but I did not have a simple system to disciple others in the basics of the Christian life. One day, I was reading through a Bible lesson that I had done through a Christian organization. The lesson suggested partnering with them to distribute Bible lessons and also to start an associate school and begin discipling others.

So, I talked with my dad about starting one, a ministry of discipleship which we could do as father and son, for others. At first, he was a little hesitant and felt he was ill prepared for such an endeavor. I asked him to pray about it and said nothing more. The thought of it began to grow in his heart until one day he said, *"I will trust God and do this."* Years later, dad told me one day, *"Starting this through the mail discipleship school has been the most productive and rewarding thing I have ever done in my Christian experience."* So many students are glad that he did. Dad was such an encourager. Here are a few words from just two of the many students dad disciplined through the mail:

Carolyn Alsip writes, "In August 2005, I was introduced to the Mailbox Club Lessons through Abiding Above Ministries. It was through mailing in my first Bible lesson, "A Country Called Heaven," that I was introduced to my grader, Mr. Curtis Hodges, Chris' father, and the little yellow sticky notes he loved to write on. Curtis' notes were an encouragement to me, and from the beginning He let me know that the benefits of being a good steward of God's words were, 'out of this world.' I had not been one who had learned to read and study the Bible growing up, so this was to be my first Bible study and I was already in my 40's at this time. I was grateful for the simplicity of these lessons and equally grateful that they were written in such a way that it made learning easy for me. I found there were many things I knew and much more that I did not know. I always had Mr. Curtis there to answer any questions I had. He loved to share all that Jesus was to him, and I always came away knowing that this Jesus he spoke about and loved so much was my Jesus, too. It would take almost two years to complete all the Bible lessons Curtis had sent to me. When that last one came, I knew that I would miss not only these lessons, but also the man who graded them all. Curtis had a special way of making Jesus come alive through



his words and expressions. It has been a blessing for over 6 years now to be one of these graders myself like Curtis had been. I am grateful to be giving back to others through these same Bible lessons all that has been given to me, the opportunity for personal discipleship and spiritual growth, and the understanding of who I am and all that I have "in Christ!"

Larry Browning, Jr., has this to say, *"It was in July 2008 that I finished my first Mailbox Club Lesson entitled, "A Country Called Heaven." I had no idea that I would continue to complete every series they offered and would finish about three years later. I learned so much. My grader happened to be Curtis Hodges, Chris' father. At first, I looked forward to getting those lessons returned to me in the mail so I could continue learning but, the more I completed, the more I began to anticipate an encouraging word or note from Curtis. He would copy selected paragraphs or poems from books and send them to me with a hand written note that said, 'Thought you would enjoy this' or 'Hope this blesses you like it did me.' He was very funny as well. He once wrote on a yellow sticky note that he thought I was doing real good for a Doctor; then he signed the note Curtis Hodges, PHD (Praising Him Daily). I still laugh at that one even now as I'm writing this. Curtis was a great encourager and a great encourager will rub off on those he encourages, therefore, I want to encourage those of you who have not done so to sign up and complete every lesson The Mailbox Club offers. You will be encouraged."*

As you can see friend, my father did the right thing, he stepped out of his comfort zone and followed the leading of the Holy Spirit. As a result, he was blessed and many others were blessed across America.

My friend, I want to encourage you wherever you are in America. Step out in faith, do the unthinkable. Allow yourself to be put in a situation where you have to trust God. I promise you, life will take on new meaning. And you will be able to confidently say,

***"Only one life, 'twill soon be past
only what's done for Christ will last.
And when I am dying how glad I will be that
the light of my life was burned out for Thee."***

As always, we want to thank you for praying for us as we continue ministering to others. And please, send us your most generous offering possible. We have a great need to purchase new Bible lessons and postage for this wonderful ministry of encouragement and discipleship.

Abiding above,



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