



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

May 2018

Praising the Lord for you and your faithful praying and support!

I've just recently returned from meeting with prison chaplains and their staff members in the beautiful state of Arkansas! We discussed how the Abiding Above Discipleship School was having a positive influence on the prisoners and how we can increase the number of inmates enrolled. We presently have 42 in Arkansas and 1 in Illinois. Please be in prayer for us as we take the necessary steps to make this happen!

As I entered the expansive property of the prison, I witnessed prisoners working in the fields wearing white jumpsuits and being guarded by men on horseback with shotguns across their laps. It reminded me of how good it is to be free.

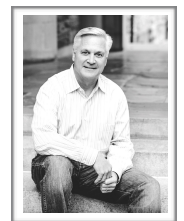
I know the men are paying the price of crimes committed (rightly so), but my heart went out to them and my thoughts turned to curiosity as to whether they had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and whether they had someone to help them understand how to apply God's principles to their lives. This just motivated me even more to get our Bible lessons to as many prisoners as possible.

As I entered the actual prison complex, I was met by security and went through a screening process much like that of an airport. When finished, I walked through the main gate and onto the prison courtyard. I heard the large doors shut behind me and I knew ***"I was locked in."*** I had immediate thoughts of what it would be like to be an inmate and then thoughts of thankfulness knowing that I would be walking back out in a few hours.

If Jesus were on earth today, would we find Him in the prisons, talking to prisoners? Of course, we would. He said of Himself in these verses

Luke 19:10 - *"For the Son of Man has come 'to seek and to save' that which was lost."*

Mark 2:16-17 - *The scribes of the Pharisees said to His disciples, "Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?" And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

And Jesus quoted a passage from Isaiah which speaks of Him, the Messiah, in

Luke 4:18-19 - *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”*

The ultimate prison, my friend, is for a person to be without Christ! Help me help those who are lost come out of their eternal prisons by finding a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Yes, these people are locked up in state prisons, but lost people are all around us and may be in your family. Sign them up for a free Bible lesson today. Our website or mailing address is listed below.

One of our students in the prison is named Fred. He was brought to the Chaplain’s office so that I could talk with him. When he walked in, he had tears on his face. I asked him what was wrong, and he told me that in prison, *“when you’re brought to the Chaplain’s office it can either mean you are in trouble or someone has died in your family.”* He said this about the Bible lessons,

“I will forever be grateful for the inmate named James who signed me up for these Bible lessons. I love the easy to read style in which they are written and that I can do the lessons at my own pace. It is as if I am being encouraged by someone on the outside who loves me. The multiple-choice questions cause me to review what I’ve read and to think harder and this helps me to remember.”

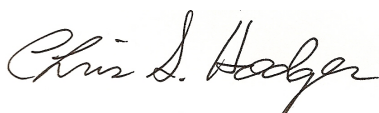
Please help us help people just like Fred.

Please be in prayer as I plan to return to Nairobi, Kenya in June for 14 days of ministry there. This will include ministry rallies in many of their local high schools, outdoor evangelistic events, a ministry leadership seminar, and a pastors’ conference.

Thank you for **abiding above** in the One who is your life! Thank you for your gifts and support to make ministry possible here and around the world. We love you!

We love you here at Abiding Above.

Abiding above,



President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3