

Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

February 2008

You Are Making A Difference: What a wonderful new year we are having! We are so grateful for your prayers and your financial support. This is your ministry and God is using us to *share the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person, to encourage spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.*



Ministry In Atlanta: I have just returned from Atlanta, Georgia where I had the opportunity to spend time with my friend, Chaplain Barry Singer, and preach to the inmates that are in his charge at the downtown prison. I spoke to the men about the difference between the temporary and eternal. I wanted to encourage them by helping them see their situation from an eternal

perspective. I shared with them that no matter what had happened in their lives up to this very day, nothing, could stop God from loving them. I used the life of the Apostle Paul to illustrate this love. Paul said,

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35 & 38 – 39

The key to this kind of love is in the last few words of verse **39**. . . . **in Christ Jesus our Lord**. I shared with them how they could have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and how God would take away all of their sin even the sin that put them in the prison. I shared with them that God would put them in Christ Jesus where they will be loved and protected for all eternity. Some of the men shouted, "Hallelujah, praise the Lord," when I said this, "What you are experiencing right now, whether you were right or wrong, is only for the temporary. What you can experience with God is for all of eternity."

I shared with them something else Paul said, "**Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**" 2 Corinthians 12:9 – 10.

Paul is saying that when he rests in Christ he finds the Holy Spirit's strength. When he strives and struggles he is operating in his flesh, which profits nothing.

I then led the inmates in a simple prayer for forgiveness of their sins and salvation. We had many raise their hands indicating they had prayed to receive Christ. They all will have an opportunity to do discipleship lessons with us through the mail with our volunteers here in Memphis. This would not be possible if it were not for your love and support of Abiding Above Ministries.

A Vision Of Christ For The Whole World: While in Atlanta, I was also able to meet with my friend Haile about our work in Ethiopia. He is still getting wonderful reports from the people we reached during the crusade we did in Hosanna. The leaders are reporting that the local churches are full of new people and are asking and looking forward to us coming back. They told Haile that the love of God came through all of the preaching and sharing of testimonies from the team. We had more than 89,000 in attendance and more than 10,000 prayed to receive Christ. We are looking forward to working together again in the months and years ahead.

The Vision Continues Here In Memphis: It was wonderful to preach at two of our rescue missions in Memphis. Calvary and Memphis Union Mission do a wonderful job taking in people who have no home and need a warm meal. I am grateful for the opportunity to disciple these men and women when I am home from my travels. We have seen 55 pray to receive Christ this month!

All this and more is happening with your ministry, Abiding Above. I am truly grateful for your prayers and support. Every morning I pray for all of you and ask God to protect, watch over, and grow you up spiritually as you continue to walk along with Him Who is your Life!

Abiding above,



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