

Dear Friend,

January 2006

I'm back from Africa, safe and sound! I was greatly comforted by your prayers – you're continual, ongoing prayers and those special prayers while I was so far away from home. Thank you. Our plans for this trip were executed with precision. *I was amazed how God continuously engineered the smallest of details to bring such success.*



A Day in East Africa: Each day started with prayer and then we traveled across the city of Nairobi, Kenya in East Africa preaching to large gatherings of people. We traveled in vans. Each van was equipped with an electric generator, small platform, sound equipment, a music team, and a preacher. Prior to our arrival in Nairobi, locations had been studied and selected for each day seeking to situate us where the largest flow of people would be. We maintained a schedule of five or six locations daily.

The Simple Gospel: The music would draw the people in by the hundreds and even thousands in some locations. Once a great crowd was gathered we would share the simple gospel and give an invitation. In the evenings, just at sunset, we had two teams in different locations showing the Jesus Film outdoors to crowds of 2 to 3 thousand. We would stop the film about middle ways through, preach a gospel message, give an invitation, and then resume the showing. We watched many people pray to receive Christ.

Four Day Crusade: We also conducted a four day crusade in an area where many people could walk from their homes to a large open field. We had a large stage, many musical talents, and gospel preaching at the crusade. Crowds of ten to fifteen thousand gathered and many prayed to receive Christ at the invitation.

This was also an opportune time to recognize and promote the local pastors. They were brought onto the stage where they were introduced to the people. We encouraged them to join their church next Sunday. Everywhere we preached in Nairobi we encouraged those who prayed to receive Christ to get a copy of God's Word and read in the Gospel of John, spend time in prayer, join a local church, and share with others the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We conservatively estimate that 60,000 people were saved during our 17 days in Africa!

Pastor's Conference: One of my privileges while in Nairobi was to lead a Pastor's Conference. Remember, ministry to ministers is ministry to multitudes. I shared with the pastor's and their wives the wonderful and freeing truth of "Our Identity in Christ." They drank it in. It was so new to them. I saw many liberated from the bondage of performance, competitiveness, jealousy, and many other works of the flesh that all too often plague the work of the pastor. Many of the wives thanked me for helping their husbands grapple with issues that come with ministering to God's people. It was a wonderful success and they have asked me to come back again. They loved it!

One Day: One particular day we had designated for rest but I had a wonderful opportunity to preach that day in local high schools and in an orphanage. I was well received and saw many saved and many encouraged with the truth of their Identity in Christ. Many of our youth get their identity so wrapped up in musical stars and sports heroes that they lose themselves. I teach them how to lose themselves, "in Christ."

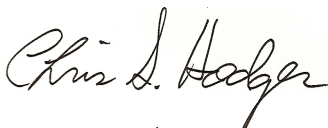
I cannot thank you enough for sending me and praying for me in this God ordained opportunity for Abiding Above Ministries. My mission is clear and I was able to fulfill that mission by *sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person, encouraging spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.*

February 2006: This month I look forward to preaching at the Forrest Hill Baptist Church here in Memphis on my birthday February 12. I will also be leading a Christian Life Convention in Georgia this month along with preaching in a prison in Atlanta. Please pray for me as I prepare for these opportunities.

Abiding Above on the Web: You may have noticed that our web site has finally been unlocked. You can go to www.abidingabove.org and enjoy reading about this ministry and all that God is doing through us. Be patient with us as we continually add to this web site. I assure you there is much more to come. I pray that this site will be an encouragement to you and will help you grow spiritually as a child of God. Tell others about us and feel free to contact me anytime if you would like me to speak to a group or your home church or anywhere God may put me on your heart.

May God bless you and continue making you a blessing to many others as you have been to me.

Seated with you in heavenly places,



Chris S. Hodges
President
Colossians 3:1-3