

Dear Friend,

June 2005

It is with great joy that I write this first monthly newsletter to you. For over six years I served as Minister, Pastoral Care of the 29,000 member Bellevue Baptist Church, with Dr. Adrian Rogers.

Just recently I have answered God's call to a wider field of ministry and joined the staff of Abiding Above Ministries as the staff evangelist. What is an evangelist? The Greek word in the New Testament for "evangelist" means one who announces the good news. The New Testament gift and office of the evangelist has never been withdrawn from the church. The gift of the evangelist is to be used like all gifts, "*so that the body of Christ may be built up.*" (Ephesians 4:12)

**The mission of Abiding Above Ministries is:**

*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.*

We have two primary messages, **Christ Died for You**, a simple message to the lost. Also, **You Died with Christ**, a message to build up the body of Christ by sharing with them their identity in Jesus Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Do you realize the wonderful encouraging fact that you are right now seated with Christ in the heavenlies? To know and abide in this great fact truly brings that peace that passes all understanding. All of us know there is something missing among believers across our nation, and yes, even the world. We are going from one new thing to another. We are tired. I believe that we already have what we are looking for but are trapped in all of our activities trying to find it.

This is the revival message for believer's world-wide. I pray that you will help me take this simple and encouraging message to the multitudes. To see Christians who are defeated rise again and become the children of light God intended them to be all along as they began to be transformed in their minds as they see themselves for the first time through the eyes of their heavenly Father, perfect "in Christ."

The decision to step out in faith to do the work of an evangelist was certainly done with much prayer and counsel with my Pastor. Dr. Rogers guided me in this decision for over a year. He is a wise man and I am grateful to God for him and his willingness to listen and discern with me.

Also, during this critical time in our lives, my wife Kellie, and I were in the process of adopting a little girl. I want to personally thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers and support through this 20-month process. This has been a faith building 2 years for us, but God completed what He alone put in our hearts to do. If you have met Maclaren Elizabeth Hodges, you know she truly is a gift from God to us, and we receive her just that way, "a gift." We will continue to be faithful members at Bellevue Baptist Church, being encouraged and instructed by you and raising our daughter with godly people who love God with their whole heart.

Since I have left my position as a minister of staff at Bellevue, I have been busy. We conducted a Tent Crusade on the campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, and then, I immediately flew to El Salvador for eight days to hold a revival and pastor's conference, along with a leadership seminar with local business owners. As a result of my time with them I was able to speak on two radio stations that covered the entire country! We did not have time to address all the callers! It was truly a blessing! They have invited me back for next year. This invitation came from one of our missionaries with the International Mission Board. Upon return I preached at Southaven Community Church, and the following Sunday I preached in Arkansas.

During the week of our celebrating the Fourth of July, I led a spiritual growth seminar at Galloway Baptist Church. I continue to disciple the children at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, and to preach at Memphis Union Mission, a rescue mission downtown. I have over the years preached at Brickey's Prison in Arkansas, and during the month of May I led a spiritual growth seminar on "*Our Identity in Christ*" each week. I look forward to ministry there in the years ahead. I have revivals and seminars already scheduled throughout the year so please pray for me and my family.

I would absolutely love to hear from you. Your thoughts, words or encouragement, instruction and kindness, are a great motivation in this step of faith as we abide in Him, who is our life.

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris S. Hooper".

President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3