

Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

July, 2007

Ministry in Tennessee: This has been a wonderful month and we do appreciate your prayers and support! I had the joy and privilege to preach a revival at the Hickory Valley Baptist Church in Tennessee. We saw decisions for Jesus Christ. Some were for salvation and some were for rededication. There was much time spent at the end of each service counseling, instructing, and encouraging brothers and sisters in Christ. What a blessing it is for me to also minister in these rural churches, the kind that most of us remember from our childhood. I was saved many years ago in a church the size of this one I preached in. Look what God has done! I always wonder if there may be a child there that will one day go into the ministry as a pastor or a missionary on the foreign field. I know for certain, the day I was saved in Mississippi in a small church I never would have dreamed that one day I would be an ordained minister preaching the gospel to thousands of people each year.

Memphis Union Mission: It is always an inspiration to preach at the rescue mission downtown in Memphis. I preached there twice this month and saw some 40 men and women pray to receive Christ. As I prepare for these meetings, it always helps me to consider what I would feel and how I might think if I were in this difficult situation. Yes, most of this is brought on by wrong choices people make. But, when I think of how patient God has been with me all of these years I can't help but be overwhelmed with compassion for these men and women. It is my continual prayer, they will see the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ and turn to Him and begin to walk in His ways.

A Rest for Your Soul: Do you find yourself weary in these days? I believe many are. I know what it is like to be weary and I always take comfort in the words of Jesus, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

As a child of God our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We usually think of Him as living His life through us and of course that is very true. But there is another way to look at this passage. Jesus said, "I will give you rest." How does He do this exactly? As you abide in Him Who lives within you exercising childlike faith in Him, He will lift the weight of the burden off of your soul. Sometimes, praise the Lord, He takes the burden away. But, many times He leaves it for our own good. You can know my friend; He will lift the pressure off your soul if you will only abide in Him moment by moment.



Abiding Above Ministries in Puerto Rico: I'm sitting in an airport waiting for my flight home as I think of you and type this newsletter. My time in Puerto Rico has been very productive. I have met with many local pastors and shared with them my vision for establishing an Abiding Above Discipleship School here. I have been met with enthusiasm! We have already had one pastor place an order for \$750 worth of lessons. He has already carefully planned how he will use these lessons in his church and community to reach hundreds of people. Please help us cover this cost. **Will you?**

Here in Puerto Rico I have also preached in the local churches. We have seen many come forward praying to receive Christ. The people were absolutely excited! I was excited! It always blesses my own heart to see one more soul walk down the aisle.

Abiding Above Ministries in Russia: What's next! Russia! I am leading a team of five men from my home church Bellevue Baptist in Memphis, TN. Jim Wheeler, Mike Hopkins, Dan Carrington, and Jimmy Dunn and I will travel to Moscow on July 19. This trip will last 14 days and we certainly need your prayers and financial support! We will be holding evangelistic crusades in 8 prisons. Each prison has 1,000 inmates. Please pray even now that God will prepare their hearts. We are setting up an Abiding Above Discipleship School with a local church in this region and plan to hand each prisoner a lesson who shows a willingness to be thoroughly disciplined. We will also encourage local pastors and their wives at a special luncheon we have planned while we are there. We are also planning to spend time ministering to children in a local orphanage. We will have a team of 12 to make up our crusade team. Five Americans and seven Russians. This time it is good for the Russians to outnumber the Americans as we battle side by side for the Lord Jesus Christ!

As always I want you to know, without you, we could not set these God-given goals and obtain them. You make this possible with your support. We are truly grateful. May God continue to bless you and your family and make you a blessing to all people to the ends of the earth.

Your friend,

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

