

Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

July 2008

Nigeria, Africa - Pastors Conference: I am writing this newsletter to you while sitting on the platform waiting to preach in a church in the heart of Nigeria, Africa. I am a long way from home, my family, and friends. The church is packed and people are sitting outside the open doors and windows looking in. It will be another hour before I preach. These people sing and sing and then sing some more! Anticipation of this American preacher is building. I will finish this newsletter later so I can share with you what happened.

Ok, I'm back at the guesthouse after a long and hot day. God certainly anointed the message and messenger. As I preached I could feel the wind in my sails. I preached without notes for almost one hour as I taught these pastors who they are in Christ. They had never heard this teaching before. It was liberating to them! Many of them had doubted their salvation for years but found assurance as I preached the unsearchable riches that we have in Christ. These men had never been taught the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and how to abide in Him. They were enlightened and praising God. My interpreter was very tired but smiling like a child with the response. We saw more than 80 people pray and ask Christ to come into their hearts. The people were saying over and over again, I'm in Christ and Christ is in me.

There is an old saying that **ministry to ministers is ministry to multitudes.** What we have shared with these brothers in Christ they will carry with them to their churches and share with their people. Pray that this conference and its impact will be long lasting in the lives of these pastors and their people.

I was also privileged to lead the morning devotion for open assembly at an elementary school. I finished with a gospel invitation and saw 35 children pray to receive Christ. To see children come to Christ in this increasingly dark world encourages me. I know this sets the direction for the rest of their lives and it gives me a great sense of satisfaction and reminds me to continue seeking eternal things and let the temporary things fade away.

Dr. Adrian Rogers's son, Steve, traveled with me on this trip. We shared with 296 pastors the DVD series "What Every Pastor Ought to Know." They loved it!

A workbook was provided for each pastor. They carried them around with pride and they made sure they had every blank filled; they were thoroughly trained. These men will never be able to attend a Bible College or seminary. They thanked us many times over and told us this would change their ministry forever! I wish you could have heard the interviews.

NIGERIA, AFRICA – PASTORS CONFERENCE



You Are the Light of the World: Last month I heard a wonderful and inspiring testimony in a local church by my friend Jesse McClerkin. He was moved to tears as he shared the faithfulness of God throughout his life. It was the most moving testimony I have ever heard. Everyone was visibly blessed.

My friend, sharing your testimony with others is one of the most powerful things you can do. Why? It is because you are a witness to what God has and is doing in your life. It comes from the heart you do not need notes to share what you have personally experienced. Please, begin to share your simple life story with others and watch God take you to new heights in your spiritual life!

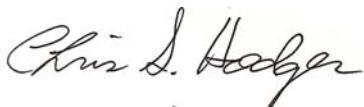
Southern Baptist Convention: I attended the Southern Baptist Convention this past month and as I listened to all of the speeches and sermons I came away concerned at the direction we are heading. There seems to be much confusion; everyone was talking about it. We had times of gathering together to pray for revival in our churches and our convention. I ask you to pray for personal revival in your own heart, for our convention, our country, and around the world.

There is much heated debate about the style of worship in the local church. You can know God would never have us divided over this issue. What has happened is this; all of us have become complacent. My friend, we are in a state of apathy. Instead of comparing ourselves with others we need to individually turn our hearts back to God. We cannot control others. We need to renew our fellowship with God. We need to stay close and clean and keep short accounts with God. I believe we are living in the last days. You can expect more controversy in the religious world and the secular world. There will continue to be unrest worldwide. Do not be surprised. Jesus tells us in the gospels, "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." **Matthew 24:7**

Make Every Decision Count: I believe within one year from right now that we are going to be humbled as Christians. What seems so important to us now will look ridiculous to us soon. Right now, let's turn our hearts home to where it belongs. God would have us live intimately with Him. Begin again to spend time in His word. Read and listen to His word more than you listen to music, even Christian music. Be careful with music, it has a strong pull on the soul and leaves the spirit shallow. Remember, our spirit is where the Holy Spirit lives. Nourish your spirit by abiding in his Holy Spirit this will have a positive affect on your soul. Do not get the order turned around. Remember, the order is spirit, soul, and body. Live this way my friend and you will be blessed!

Please, help me continue by making this ministry yours. Ask God what He would have you to do. We need your financial support. Pray for me as I travel this week to Atlanta for three days of ministry and for the various revivals and speaking engagements I have scheduled in the weeks and months ahead. I pray for you daily and I love you.

Abiding above,



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

PS – If you would like a copy of my sermon “Renewing Your Fellowship with God” please write to us at the address on this letter and we will send you a free copy.