

Dear Friend of Abiding Above,

May 2006

Happy Birthday, Baby Girl: Can you believe it! It has been one year since we wrote to you sharing the joy of our hearts in adopting a baby girl from Russia. Her name, Maclaren Elizabeth Hodges. We will celebrate her second birthday on June 9.

Again, we thank you for being so involved in this through prayer. It was a long 20 month process. She is special. All children are special. They are gifts from God to us. Maclaren knows how to say "Jesus" and "Bible". Important things first! She is doing well and says "hi" to all.



Retreat in Arkansas: This month has been another month of wonderful ministry! It was my privilege to be the guest speaker at a Father/Son retreat in Arkansas. My good friends Jim Avery and K. Osborne invited me to share with the men and their sons the message of the riches we already have in Christ. We had a wonderful time sharing after our evening session and woke up the next morning with this message burning in our hearts. Much of the conversation during breakfast centered on the personal experiences men have had as they have simply abided in the indwelling Christ!

The Bible records the disciples, as they talked with the risen Savior.

Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" – Luke 24:31-32

Remember, this same Jesus, lives in you right now. He lives to minister to others *through you!*

Faculty Meeting: It was my privilege to share a message with the faculty of the Germantown Branch of Union University. The message was *How to Handle Frustration*. Dr. Randy Shadburn, Executive Director, was a wonderful host, and we enjoyed such fellowship together after the session. I encouraged the faculty with the Apostle Paul's exhortation to ***"be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."***

As you renew your mind by dwelling on *whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable*; the God of peace will be with you; God offers this prescription for frustration:

- Calm your speech. Let it always be with grace.
- Practice silence, and know that He is God.
- Relinquish control in all things, and stand firm.
- Know your work has been done for the Lord, rather than for men.

I say to you, my friend, as I shared with the faculty. . . Try it. You'll like it.

Testimony: A dear lady, Mrs. Carolyn Alsip, member of Berclair Baptist Church in Memphis, shares:

In my church I heard a liberating message by Rev. Chris Hodges of Abiding Above Ministries. The message was "Christ Lives in Me & I Live in Christ." Having heard this message for the first time I accepted my new position in Christ by faith. This new truth has set me free not only in my Christian life but in my ability to share the gospel of Jesus Christ as I learned through the "Evangelism Explosion" program offered by Bellevue Baptist Church.

What a testimony of the wonderful way God has used this ministry and teaching in the life of this dear woman of God! Trusting God, she has led over 30 people to the Lord! She is also one of our volunteer graders for the Abiding Above Discipleship School. Last Wednesday evening she shared her inspiring story at her home church and we have the CD available to you simply by writing to us. We will put this in the mail to you right away at no cost to you. You deserve to be blessed and inspired by this servant of God.

Also, request the message I preached: "**How to Live Heavenly on Earth.**"

In Need of Prayer: Please pray for me as I prepare for ministry in Atlanta, GA, at the downtown correctional facility, as well as for the upcoming revivals here in the U.S. and for international travel to Russia, where I will minister to ministers alongside my dear friend Jim Wheeler.

Also, I have been invited back to Nairobi, Kenya, in East Africa. God is using me, and I am humbled by the thought of it. Opportunities abound! Please pray as we make each decision before the Lord.

This is a wonderful time, right now, to support the work of evangelism with someone you know. I need your help to reach more people with the message: **Christ died for you and you died with Christ.** Can you imagine what will happen when many others like Carolyn Alsip find what has been missing all these years in their Christian experience? The amazing results of God's children who are free! Many will be saved, and many will be encouraged *by the power of the Holy Spirit* and *to the glory of God!*

Please . . . be **that person!**

Seated with you in heavenly places, **in Christ,**



Chris S. Hodges
President
Colossians 3:1-3

P.S. Don't forget to request **your free copies** of the inspiring personal testimony of Mrs. Carolyn Alsip and my heart's message: "**How to Live Heavenly on Earth.**"