

Dear Friend,

September 2005

I want to personally thank you for your prayers and support. I am grateful and feel a great sense of responsibility to God, number one, and to you, for what you have entrusted me with. With your prayer and support I have been able to share the gospel with many people since my last letter to you.

The revival services at West Frayser Baptist Church went very well. A dear lady writes,

“Although I thanked you at the church, I still felt that I needed to thank you again. It has been so hard for me to just sit down with my Bible and not know where to start or be able to understand what I am reading. Last week gave me so much knowledge. Things I did not know. Bless you and your family and may you continue to teach God’s word.”
(thank you L. for encouraging me- C.H.)

My friend, letters like these and many more are coming to our mailbox and we truly rejoice at what God is doing with your support through this ministry. Many people are discouraged though faithful in attendance week-after-week in their local church. Why is this? They know about God instead of knowing Him in a day-by-day living fellowship. They are sons and daughters adopted into His family but experience God as a slave to a master. Yes, He is our Lord and we are His servants. This is positive not negative. We are not slaves that He despises, but saints that He loves and gave His life for.

Your help is delivering people from bondage to the truth that sets them free! As we share the position, possessions, and privileges that are ours, **“in Christ.”** Remember friend, we share in all that He did! **Crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:3); Buried with Christ (Romans 6:4); Raised with Christ (Romans 6:4) Ascended with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-7).** Friend, please pause, just for a moment and think about this! Sharing this truth is the only answer to depression, anxiety, rejection, guilt, anger, and so many more traps that are set for us. When we feel something has been ripped from us, we justify these responses whether it be your reputation, your finances, a relationship, etc.

My friend, when you see what you **already** have **“in Christ”**, and that it is for keeps and that you cannot maintain it in order to keep it, but can solely rest in what God has eternally provided for you **“in Christ.”** You will be satisfied, and carry about you, that peace that passes all understanding. This is the answer! What a positive message! What possibility thinking this will bring you!

I was encouraged also this month by seeing 16 men and women pray to receive Christ as I gave the message **“Christ Died for You”** and extended the invitation to come to Jesus at a mission downtown. What a privilege to see just one more soul walk down the aisle!

As always, we follow up these salvations with simple discipleship material to help them on their way in their new life in Christ. This is accomplished by my father, Curtis Hodges, who directs our through-the-mail discipleship ministry, **“Abiding Above Ministries Discipleship School.”** Just this past year my father, as a volunteer, graded over 2,000 lessons! If you would like to enroll in these simple, but profound lessons, please write to us at the address below and we will be sure to send you a

first lesson right away! We have lessons for children and adults. Please let us know if you are an adult or the ages of the children you wish to enroll.

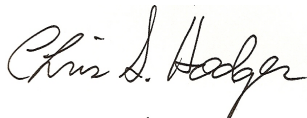
These lessons are provided free to all who ask for them. This is only possible by the gifts we receive from supporters like you. Thank you for making this possible, and thank you, Dad, for lovingly grading these lessons and sending out the certificates. We love and admire you.

I mentioned in my last letter that I would be temporarily filling the pulpit at Berclair Baptist Church in Memphis until they call a new pastor. My time with these dear people has been so wonderful! We are seeing the work of the Holy Spirit. Moving testimonies have been shared and I have led many in a prayer of rededication. Please continue to pray for this local congregation as they seek a new pastor and pray that I will be a blessing to them during this critical time for their church.

I was blessed to be the spiritual leader for my church, Bellevue Baptist, in an effort to bring relief to victims of the hurricane in Slidell, Louisiana. What a fantastic week we had! Certainly, it was not fun and games, but very hard work as we cleared large trees from the homes of many people. I was able to lead 3 people to the Lord for salvation and many more also prayed to receive Christ with other team members. We started each morning with a devotion that I led with the theme of Our Identity in Christ. Continue to pray for these people as they make major decisions about their homes and future.

As always you can know. You are special. God loves you. We love you and we pray God's very best for you and your family.

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris S. Hager". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name below it.

President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3