

Dear Friend of Abiding Above,

September 2006

Mark your calendar! You do not want to miss, "An Evening of Inspiration with Abiding Above Ministries!" Monday, October 30, 2006 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. You will receive an invitation by mail very soon. Please be looking for it.

Thank you for your prayers. Tonight will be my last night preaching at a prison in Arkansas. Each Thursday we have seen men pray to receive Christ. The simple gospel, "**Christ Died for You,**" is and always will be so powerful for that person who has never put his trust where God has put his sin, **on Jesus.** So far **145** men have believed and experienced the shackles of sin dropping away. Even back to back life sentences are short compared to an eternity with God in heaven where your sins are remembered no more. (**Jeremiah 31:34**). That is real hope in this discouraging environment. The message, "**You Died with Christ,**" was freeing to those men who are saved but have never seen themselves the way God sees them, "**in Christ!**" (**Romans 6:5; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 1:3; Colossians 3:1-3**). I only wish it were possible to take pictures and videos so that I could share with you the exciting things that happened. At one point in a message I said, "right now, look at your eternal brother "**in Christ,**" and say to him, "**I am in Christ, therefore, I am free!**" You should have seen the tears mingled with joy and radiant faces, all behind barbed wire. What a blessing! Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." (**John 8:32**). I shared with them the truth from the Word of God. Not alot of hype but with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

My friend, what prison might you be in? Right now, you can pray this simple prayer,

*Dear Lord my prison is _____.
I confess it and turn from it towards You.
Thank you for the forgiveness I have in Christ.
I do not see it as cheap; I know it cost the life of
Your dear Son, Jesus. It is the most expensive gift
that has ever been given. In Jesus name. Amen.*

Bertha Smith, career missionary in China often said, "**Keep close accounts with God.**" This simple prayer above can be whispered in a moment. I encourage you to pray it often.

We are also receiving lessons from the prison where I ministered in Atlanta, GA. One package had 39 completed lessons for our volunteer graders! Out of those there were 9 that shared with us they had prayed to receive Christ while reading the lesson!

Praise the Lord for these paper missionaries! You can know, my friend, your gifts to Abiding Above Ministries is reaping for you and all of us eternal rewards. Without your gifts, we could not get to and help thousands of people. You are prayed for by name each month as we receive your gift. I guess you could say **we say grace over what you have entrusted us with.** We need you! We are grateful!

This past Sunday as I baptized 4 precious souls I was reminded again of the believer's crucifixion with Christ. The Apostle Paul said to the church in Rome, "**Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**" (Rom. 6:3-4)

My friend. Let's wake up each day and walk in this **newness of life.** I pray your life has a radiant heavenliness about it. This reminds me of the quote below:

"Be rightly related to God, find your joy there, and out of you will flow rivers of living water. Be a centre for Jesus Christ to pour living water through. Stop being self-conscious, stop being a sanctified prig, and live the life hid with Christ. The life that is rightly related to God is as natural as breathing wherever it goes. The lives that have been of most blessing to you are those who were unconscious of it." Oswald Chambers

Remember, you are baptized into Christ, forever, that is your new position. Where Christ is, there you are. According to God's Word Christ is seated at the right hand of God. So, you are, right now, with me, in Christ, at the right hand of God! Glory! Look at it, think about it, believe it, walk in it, and you will experience a heavenly life on earth!

Seated with you at His right hand,



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