



Dear Friend of Abiding Above,

July 2022

Many years ago, as I was trying to make one of the hardest decisions of my life, transitioning from pastoral care at Bellevue Baptist Church to beginning Abiding Above Ministries, I sensed God lay this on my heart:

Go and make disciples to the nations. This will involve you in two primary things: 1) Preach Christ died for you to the lost and 2) Preach you died with Christ to the saved.

To be honest, to do anything else seems to be a nuisance that slows down these two primary pursuits. Every person eventually dies. They must be born again before that happens.

Jesus said to Nicodemus in **John 3:6–7** - ***“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”***

Thank you, my friend, for praying and giving so we can keep the main thing, the main thing!

2022 Annual Italian Festival Tract Distribution, Memphis, TN



A team of us handed out thousands of gospel tracts for 3 days as our schedules permitted us. When we do gospel tract distributions, we hand the tracts directly to people, we put them in the door handle of the driver's side of cars, and we pause and have spiritual conversations with those who, like Nicodemus, are searching for meaning and show a genuine interest in hearing more. A beautiful sound is hearing someone pray, asking Jesus to come into his or her heart. As Samuel Rutherford once said, *“That makes our heaven two heavens.”*

We handed out this tract written by our friend, Steve Coplon, and our standard tract “How Can I Get To Heaven?”, written by me and longtime friend, Brad Jolly.

2022 Audubon Park Outdoor Concert Tract Distribution, Memphis, TN

A team of us distributed more than 1,000 gospel tracts at this large outdoor event. We plan to do more of these between now and the end of the year.

One of the greatest privileges I encounter each year is the opportunity to disciple one-to-one with men who have prayed to receive Christ. These men who have put their trust where God has put their sin, on the cross of Jesus Christ. They now go on to learn that they were crucified with Christ and, therefore, baptized into Christ.

Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me”.

Colossians 3:1–3 – “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

Not to see and abide in this most beautiful truth causes a person, after salvation, to continue thinking and seeing himself the way he was before he became a new creature in Christ Jesus. Eventually, a person begins to privately wonder, “Am I truly saved?”

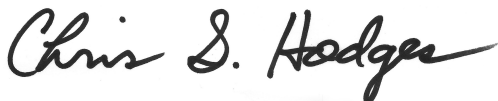
Since the beginning of Abiding Above Ministries, we have encouraged people to be discipled and who should begin to be disciplers of others. The main thing Jesus really asks us to do is to share the simple gospel with those in our presence and to do as He did, make multiplying, disciple-makers to the ends of the earth until He calls us home to heaven.

Go to **www.abidingabove.org** and click resources. There you will find exactly what you need to be discipled (**online or through the mail**) and you will find training in how to begin being a multiplying, disciple-maker.

Next month, I look forward to sharing with you our completed report of our evangelistic outreach in the Greater Philadelphia, PA area.

Praising the Lord!

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges

President

Abiding Above Ministries

Colossians 3:1-3

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