



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

December 2023

Thank you for your prayers for us and for giving to the Lord! Lives are being changed!



Please go out to our Facebook page Abiding Above Ministries and listen to our recent interview with Byron Tyler on Bott Radio Network.

We discussed our evangelism trip to Germany, Poland, and Ukraine! It's always a great experience to sit down with Byron and discuss evangelism and multiplying disciple-making to the ends of the earth. Be sure to listen!

Matthew 28:18–20 - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Thank you, my friend, for praying for us and sharing with us as we continue to focus on what Jesus commanded us to do. We must go and make multiplying disciple-makers!



We all know what it is like to get our priorities out of order. The Great Commission is first and foremost. First, we should focus our attention on our immediate family, and then, we must reach out “to the uttermost.” I have learned to pray and trust God to lead me in the way He wants me to go to fulfill His plan for my life in the Great Commission. We all have a part; we have different

gifts and similar gifts. God never makes duplicates, only originals, and you are an original, my friend!

It's always a blessing when I'm preaching and ministering in the Memphis, TN area! One activity that especially blesses me is my teaching at Memphis Union Mission. I've been teaching there for more than 20 years every other Tuesday. When I'm out of town or out of the country, I pray for my substitute. It's a joy as I hear many men from off the streets pray to receive Christ and then after the teaching stand in line to ask me questions about the lesson instead of getting in line for a delicious meal. I like to remind them, "I'm serving the best meal you'll ever have, the bread of life!" They love that!

Just since I've been back from our recent mission trip to Europe, I have officiated four funerals. I also enjoy this time of being with families whose loved one has passed away. It's the perfect time to encourage and enlighten others from God's Word and to lead people to Christ. My favorite passage to use is **John 14:1-3**. Jesus said, *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."*

Often, when I'm preparing for the funeral and graveside service this comes to my mind:

"Others"

By C.D. Meigs

**Lord help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer shall be for – Others.**

**Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I do for you
Must needs be done for – Others.**

**Let "Self" be crucified and slain
And buried deep; and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again
Unless to live for – Others.**

**And when my work on earth is done
And my new work in heaven's begun
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of – Others.**

**Others, Lord, yes others
Let this my motto be
Help me to live for others
That I may live like Thee.**

May God continue to bless all you put your mind and hands to as you abide in Him Who is your Life. Thank you for helping me.

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris S. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris S. Hodges

President

Abiding Above Ministries

AbidingAbove.org

Colossians 3:1-3