



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

January 2010

Praise God for this New Year to love Him with all of our hearts and minds. In ourselves we do not have the kind of love that the Lord commands. But God never commands us to do something without enabling us to do it. To love God with ones whole heart naturally leads to a life of service for our Lord. It is only as God's love flows through us to others, and we yield ourselves to Him, that we can be channels for His love.

**Looking To 2010:** We look forward with anticipation to 2010 as we walk by faith through the doors God is opening for us, simply trusting in Him. Without you we could not reach the lost at home and around the world. When you stand back and look at what God is doing through Abiding Above Ministries it is truly amazing! We are living by faith moment by moment, looking to Jesus, living in the Scriptures, and leaning on the Spirit.

**Accountable To God:** God has entrusted each of us with the ministry of sharing the good news with others. It should be the purpose of every believer to point others to Jesus Christ and you are accomplishing that purpose through the ongoing work of Abiding Above Ministries. I want to thank you once again for your prayer and financial support this past year. Without you we could not reach so many others. I truly believe far more can be done through our local churches if we can move from being self-centered to others-centered. This world we live in is looking for hope, and you and I should be living in such a way that people should be asking us why we are hopeful. It should be our purpose that the Gospel be proclaimed and that Christ be exalted. Do not get distracted, the center of power in your life is Jesus Christ and without Him we can do nothing. Be faithful in proclaiming all that He has done, and is doing in your life, and your life will be a beacon of hope that lights the way for those who are lost, and leads them to the arms of a loving Saviour.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

[1Peter 3:15](#)

Please pray with us as we plan for a trip to Ethiopia where we will be laying the groundwork for our first Abiding Above Church Plant. The capital city of Addis Abbas is in great need of a sound biblical church where men, women, boys, and girls can be thoroughly disciplined and equipped to influence their community for Jesus Christ. Over these many years of ministering overseas I have learned how great a need there is for training in local churches. There is much wrong doctrine “taught” and “caught” as they watch ungodly men and women teach on television. They have been strongly influenced by those who mesmerize people with staged signs and wonders. This naturally appeals to man’s flesh and is doing great harm in spreading the gospel. The answer, plant biblical churches with Bible believing and Spirit-filled pastors. Addis Abbas needs a church that would involve itself with local orphanages helping them get children off the streets and teaching them about Jesus.

**Matthew 18:1-4** - At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

*"I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold; I'd rather be His than have riches untold; I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands; I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand. Than to be the king of a vast domain, or be held in sin's dread sway. I'd rather have Jesus than anything, this world affords today. I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause; I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause; I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame; I'd rather be true to His holy name. [Miller/Shea](#)*

Praying for you each day for God’s protection and blessings to be upon you.

Abiding Above,



Chris S. Hodges  
Colossians 3:1-3

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