

may

2013 edition

A portrait of Lisa O'Brien, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a patterned headband and large brown earrings. She is smiling and holding a small, dark, round object in front of her. The name "Lisa O'Brien" is written in large orange letters at the bottom of the image.

Lisa O'Brien

My departure date is quickly approaching [June 10]...

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

John 15:1 & 2

John 15 largely focuses on the idea of *abiding* in Christ, the idea of living our lives while engaged in an intimate relationship

with Jesus. The chapter talks about the blessings that come from this close relationship, which Jesus describes as a friendship in verse 13. Naturally this is a central passage to Juna Amagara's ABIDE program.

Yet, as I anticipate working with the ABIDE program in Uganda, my attention is drawn to the first two verses of the chapter. My main role in the program is to teach and mentor young women in their walks with Jesus. But really, I expect much spiritual growth of my own during the next year. I know that I have plenty that needs to be *pruned* or even *cut off*. I'm sure it won't be an easy or fully pleasant process, yet I expect God to work on my heart and overall spirit to draw me closer to Himself. I don't know what

exactly to expect in this journey He is taking me on, but I'm confident that He has a perfect plan.

Over the last few months, while I have been preparing to go, the ABIDE staff has been preparing to pilot the Women's ABIDE program. A staff of Ugandan women is being developed, and I am excited to work with (and learn from) these women. Additionally, eight young women have been invited and interviewed for positions as students. I look forward to meeting them soon and walking alongside them in their journey into adulthood. We will formally begin the program in August. I'm excited to join the team & look forward to seeing God at work in, around, and through me!

...wherever you go.
Follow me on my journey from the LGRD my God



Please check out my website: golisaobrien.com. Take a look around the different pages to find out a little bit more about me and Uganda.

Don't forget to **Follow** me as well so that you are kept up-to-date when I post blogs from Uganda.

golisaobrien.com
golisaobrien@gmail.com



The last few weeks...

All I can say is *busy* is an understatement! I'm not sure I could have packed anything more into my last month before leaving for Uganda...

One major under-taking was my church's 4th annual Missions Garage Sale. My friend Kate and I spearhead this fundraiser, and it is quite the job! We've had planning meetings as



far back as November. During the week of set-up and the sale, I worked at my church about 70 hours [over 8 days]. And I was still working my normal job! *Exhausting* is not a strong enough word to describe it! With the help of some incredible volunteers and generous donations, we were able to see God bring in over \$18,000 for missions. Praise God!



In the midst of all of that, I was winding up the school year as well. Projects were graded, classes were finished, final exams

were administered and scores have been entered (thank goodness for scantron!). My classroom walls are bare, Tech Support has my computer, hugs were given, and my keys have been turned in. It feels a bit surreal. I have to keep telling people that I really am planning to come back to my job as a high school teacher after I return...Apparently there are bets out that I won't!

In addition, my church had a little commissioning for me on a recent Sunday morning. We didn't even plan it, but all of my family was in town that weekend (a rare occurrence), so they were able to attend. I was able to share my video (check it out on my website in the *Basics* tab), answer a few questions, and have the elders pray over me and my year in Uganda. My oldest brother is one of those elders, and he took advantage of the opportunity to say a few words. Before the



service he asked how much he was allowed to embarrass me...I gave him permission to say whatever he wanted (risky, I know). It turned out to be more encouraging than embarrassing though.

Now I'm in the middle of packing, packing, and more packing! I've got to sort

THE STEPS IN THIS ADVENTURE:

1. I requested a one-year leave of absence from my job as a high school teacher.

The opportunity to take a leave-of-absence seemed like God's way of helping me to see that He wants me to go. Making the dream a reality has been a journey of obedience!

2. I will co-lead a short-term team from Village Bible Church in June.

Like I have now done twice before, I will be a part of a team from my church involved in orphan care & evangelism in Uganda.

3. July - December I will work with the Girls ABIDE pilot.

During the pilot program, I plan to live in the ABIDE house with the students, developing God-centered relationships, as we explore what it means to abide in Christ (John 15).

4. January - July I will continue as ABIDE staff.

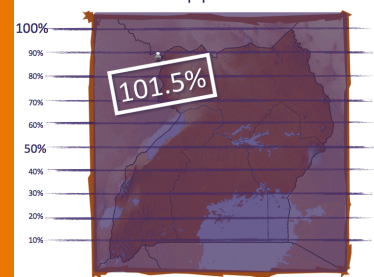
My role during these months will depend on whether or not a 2nd girls' ABIDE begins simultaneously with the guys' program. Either way, there will be work to be done amongst the staff.

5. I need to raise \$1,500/month.

During my 13 months in Uganda, my expenses will vary, but they average out to \$1,500/month. I know I don't have much time to raise this much money, but I am confident that if God wants me to go, He will provide.

Mukama Asiiimwe! Praise God!

Current Support Level...



Thank you for your support!

through the first 3 weeks as I travel with my team, the rest of my year in Uganda, and all my household belongs that I will be storing until I return. It's a lot of work, but I have had many friends and family willing to help me sort through the chaos. Of course I have many other details to take care of before I leave as well--not to mention squeezing in some quality time with people too!

Thank you so much for your encouragement and prayers along this journey so far, and over the next 13 months!

~Lisa O'Brien