

October

2013 edition



We are over halfway through the
“We loved you so much
that we were delighted to
share with you not only the
gospel of God but our lives
as well, because you had
become so dear to us.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Recently we had a visitor come stay at the ABIDE house for a week. About halfway through the week she told me she felt like she didn't want to leave, and asked what the secret is that makes it that way. I simply told her that we are a family. And it's true...in every aspect of the program, we do our best to function as a family.

Another thing I love about ABIDE is that *everything is a form of training*. We have classes that cover a variety of topics. The main classes that I teach are Bible Interpretation, Discipleship, and Purity classes. We also have Spiritual Leadership and the Gospel of John (focusing most of the time on chapters 13-17). But that isn't all; the girls also learn about business, computers, and a variety of life skills. Recently the girls have really been enjoying learning some practical skills like baking, sewing, and jewelry making. We have even sold some of their jewelry! Another exciting hour of the week is when the girls work through team-building activities. They are often both physically and mentally challenging, and we always learn from these activities and discussions. Most of the classes are taught by our regular staff, but we also

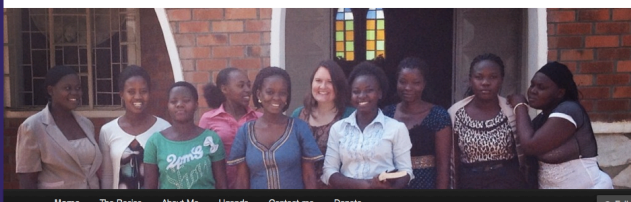
ABIDE program!
enjoy having guest speakers come in to share their expertise.

But the day is not just filled with classes. The girls run Bible studies at high schools in the area, lead a church service at the children's home on the same compound, cook supper, clean the house, prepare for weekend ministry, visit the neighbors, go on missions to their home villages, and so much more! Every aspect of the day is training...and not just all of the scheduled things...simply living in a house full of people is a training ground. Through those natural interactions, as well as all the programs, we are really seeing the girls grow in their faith, character, and leadership.



...wherever you go.
follow me on my journey from the LORD my God

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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.

I try to post stories and pictures at least once a week.



What is coming up next?

The girls still have a few more weeks left in the ABIDE program. Classes are winding up, and before we know it, they will be getting ready for their exams. (That's right, they have exams over what they've been learning the past few months!) Graduation is scheduled for December 8th. It will be an exciting day, as it will be the very first ABIDE Girls graduation! After six years of a program for boys only, this will be a monumental day!

Recently the ABIDE staff has had a few meetings and serious discussions about how things will run in 2014. In the past, we have run a boys program in two different towns, with 12 male students in each house, from January to July. For our first girls program, we have had eight students from July-December. Looking forward to 2014, we were debating over two possibilities. We could have two boys houses like usual, then fill both houses with girls for the second half of the year. The other option is to have 24 boys in one house, and 12 girls in the house where I currently live, from January to July.

There is no *right* or *wrong* answer, and many possible opportunities and challenges for both options. Through much prayer and discussion, we decided to run both male and female programs in January. One of the factors that led to this decision was the desire to take advantage of my presence until mid-July. If you remember from my earlier newsletters, I had said I wasn't sure if I would be working with a new set of girls in January, or assisting

with the boys program. Well, now that mystery is solved!

I'm excited to have the opportunity to get to know, teach, disciple, and just overall invest in the lives of 12 more young women as they grow in their Christian faith, character, and leadership. I'm honored to have the privilege to be used as one of God's tools in that process.

As a result of that decision, the staff has begun interviewing potential female students from various regions in the country. After interviewing, we will invite the candidates that we sense the Holy Spirit leading us to, hoping to fill 12 spots. We have already invited most of the boys that we are hoping to have.

In the picture above, I am standing with the two other main female staff that I work with. Joseline (left) is the Administrator for the girls program. Dorcus (right) is the residential leader, the other staff member who lives in the house with the girls and me. I have really enjoyed partnering with these ladies, and it has been a blessing that we work so well together. Joseline will be delivering her third child at the end of the calendar year. So, as she has a new baby during the first few weeks of the next session, I will be temporarily taking on some of her responsibilities.

Thanks for all your prayers and support!



~Lisa O'Brien

If I'm not with my girls, you can expect these little twins are close by me!

WAYS TO PRAY:

1. Staff and students alike would really take advantage of every opportunity in the last weeks of the current program.
2. Wisdom and discernment for the staff as we strive to be God's tools in developing these young women in Christian faith, character, & leadership.
3. As the girls finish up the program, they will sense the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they make decisions for their next steps, & that they would continue to apply all that they have learned in ABIDE as they are sent into their communities throughout the country.
4. Wisdom and discernment for the staff as we make decisions about the 36 potential students to begin in January.
5. December will be a good time of rest and refreshment for the staff before beginning the new session.
6. Joseline's delivery of her new baby will go well, she and baby will be healthy, and adjustment for the family with the third child. Also, pray for me as I gain some responsibilities during her maternity leave.
7. God's continual provision for both my needs through faithful supporters, as well as the needs of the ABIDE program.

Thank you SO much to all of you who have been praying, given support, or are continuing to give monthly! God is using YOU to make this ministry possible!



To get involved, send support to:

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