



Thirteen months have ended... What's next?

"Now to **him who is able** to do **immeasurably more** than all we **ask or imagine**, according to **his power** that is at work within us, **to him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! **Amen.**"

Ephesians 3:20

When I first came to Uganda, over a year ago, my intention was always to return home to Illinois after my one-year leave-of-absence expired. I know others suspected otherwise. In fact, I often had friends asking, or sending me emails saying that people back home are

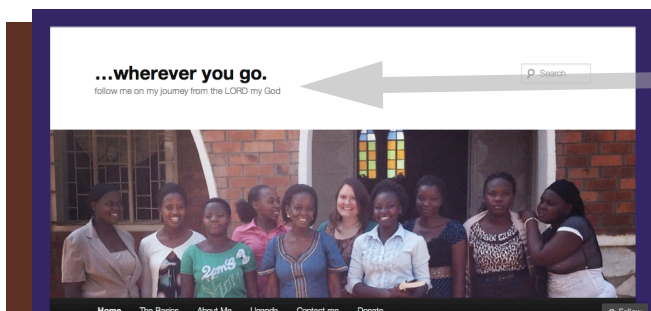
wondering if I am coming back to America or not. Well, my nonrefundable plane ticket had been booked for months, so I knew I was coming home!

However, in recent weeks God has been working on my heart and mind in regards to my next steps. Have you ever felt like you knew God was telling you to do something, but you just weren't ready to agree with Him? So you simply didn't make the decision to act on His direction? As if you are waiting for a lightning strike or an audible voice? Well...I finally stopped looking for something extreme, and realized through prayer and fasting, time in God's Word, and the affirmation of ABIDE and Juna Amagara staff members here, that what I was sensing was indeed the direction of the Holy Spirit.

All that to say, I am currently planning to return to Uganda and ABIDE for the program beginning in January 2015. Now, this is a big

step of faith for me...I originally only raised support for these 13 months, and God certainly provided. But now, within five months time, I am trusting God to make a way for me to return for an indefinite period of time. This will require Him to perform a miracle, but I know that *He is able to do immeasurably more than all [I] ask or imagine!*

So, please pray with me as I continue this journey of faith that God is leading me on. If you are willing to partner with me in prayer and/or finances, I would be extremely grateful. I hope you will prayerfully consider how God can use YOU to be a part of His work, through me, for the sake of transforming lives of young people in Uganda in Christian faith, character, and leadership. See the bottom of the next page for information on getting involved, or email me at golisaobrien@gmail.com.



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 once a week.

golisaobrien.com
golisaobrien@gmail.com



26 graduates have been added to the ABIDE Alumni Association...

This has been a busy season for ABIDE as we ran girls and boys programs at the same time. We had a full house of boys in Kabale, while the girls were in Mbarara (about 2 1/2 hours apart). I was among some of the few staff members that occasionally traveled between the houses, so I was able to stay connected with the boys, even though my main focus was the girls.

At the beginning of the six months, I was taking on the title of *Acting Mbarara House Administrator*, as Joseline, the Administrator, was on maternity leave. My responsibilities increased significantly for those weeks. When Joseline returned she took back some of her responsibilities (thankfully the ones I did not like too much, or am not so good at), but left me with many others for the remaining months!

I continued to teach Veritas, the curriculum we use for Bible interpretation. I really enjoyed seeing the students grasp how to read Scripture with the intent of understanding what the message was to the original audience, and how that impacts our application of it today. It is so easy to misunderstand the actual message of a passage, and then teach it incorrectly. I've really come to love being a better student, and therefore teacher, of the Bible!

One of our foundational classes is on the Gospel of John. I had the privilege of teaching this class as well. In fact, these lectures are often what took me to the boys' house in Kabale. We focus most of our time on chapters 13-17: Jesus' last night with his disciples. A close look at these chapters and these intimate

moments Jesus had with those who he was discipling really shows that the focus is on relationships...Which is exactly what we try to model in ABIDE. In fact, we like to say that *real relationships ignite true transformation*.

Throughout ABIDE, it is our goal to see God use us as His tools to transform students in Christian faith, character, and leadership. By God's grace, we have seen it happen!

A couple of weeks before graduation, we had a mission team from Village Bible Church come to Uganda. During their first week in the country they spent a few days with the ABIDE girls, then went to Kabale and spent a few days with the ABIDE boys. We decided to focus on creating opportunities to do ministry together, so that the students and team members were building relationships while ministering to other people with the Gospel. I was encouraged to see the groups join together so quickly and easily. It was also brought smiles to the faces of us as staff when we heard the VBC team members speak highly of our students.

One simple testimony of transformation was clear to me on graduation day. The students were asked to select one person from each house to give a speech about the impact of ABIDE on behalf of all of them. The one who was chosen to speak in front of hundreds of people was the very girl who couldn't stand in front of a small group of people for more than a few seconds back in January. Most people present at the celebration wouldn't realize the significance of such a moment, but as staff members, we were beaming with pride all day as we looked at 26 changed lives in front of us.

Thanks for all your prayers and support throughout this year!

~Lisa O'Brien

WAYS TO PRAY:

1. Pray for the recent ABIDE graduates: that they would continue to grow & apply what they've learned wherever they are now (school, work, home, etc.). Many have a desire to continue their education, but don't have the means to do so.
2. Pray for ABIDE staff as we continue to work and prepare for the next group of students that God has for the program in 2015.
3. Pray for the plans to open a third ABIDE house in Mbale, in the Eastern Region of Uganda. This is a major step of faith for ABIDE, and will bring in new challenges. Yet we believe it is God's desire for this expansion to occur in 2015.
4. Pray for me as I transition back home for a few months. Though I've missed home in different ways, it is not always easy to reenter a culture I've been separated from for so long.
5. Pray for me as I will be support-raising again, trusting God to perform a miracle and raise the funds I need to return to Uganda before the next program begins in January.
6. Pray for the financial provision of the program. (To contribute to God's work in ABIDE, follow instructions below, but choose ABIDE instead of Missionary Support.)

Thank you SO much
to you who have prayed and/or given
financial support!
God has used YOU to make
this ministry possible!



To get involved, send support to:

Juna Amagara Ministries
ATTN: Lisa O'Brien Support
P.O. Box 2384
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138-2384
OR

www.amagara.org
(donations, missionary support)