

April

2016 edition

Working for
**My sheep listen to
my voice; I know
them, and they
follow me.**

John 10:27

Every Thursday afternoon we take time to do a challenge or team-building activity. ABIDE always plans activities that are not simply fun, but also lead us to reflect on life-lessons, often related to our weekly themes. One of our themes has been *communication*. That week, our challenge activity was *Obstacle Course*. Students started on a line with their accountability partner.



Lisa O'Brien

t h e L O R D i n A B I D E 2 0 1 6

One person was blindfolded. The other remained on the line, giving verbal directions for the partner to navigate around various obstacles in order to find me in the midst of the items scattered around the grounds.

Imagine sixteen students shouting out directions across a field, all at once. Students are straining to listen to the correct voice, trusting their partner to guide them well to the end goal.

As a staff member, I always love watching the students struggle through the *obstacle course*. One reason I enjoy it is because it is quite entertaining to see the variety of emotions and responses to the task. This time, since I was the one students were trying to find, I had to

keep my laughter silent!

Another reason I love this activity is because of all the spiritual connections and lessons that it brings up. As we walk through life, we encounter many obstacles. We have many voices begging for our attention, but there is One voice that we should trust to guide us in the right way. It's not always easy to hear it over the competing noise. However, the more we abide in Christ, the more familiar we are with his voice, the more obvious it is, the more it overshadows all others.

It is my desire to draw close to him, to hear his voice clearly, to confidently obey his words, to find peace in his guidance, and to glorify his name as a result.

...wherever you go.

Follow me on my journey from the LORD my God

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Don't forget to **Follow** me as well so that you are kept up-to-date when I publish new blog posts!



HALF-WAY THROUGH...

Since my first visit to Uganda in 2010, God convicted me to begin sponsoring Rauben. This year's ABIDE program is extra special because Rauben is now a student! It's exciting for me to know that he is receiving solid teaching in how to be a disciple of Christ. For years he has told me that he desires to be a reverend. I'm happy that before he even pursues a formal degree in theology, that he is learning so much in how to study the Bible, foundational doctrines, and practical ways to live out his faith.

Recently we took a mission to his village with all the ABIDE students and staff. I have been to his village and met his family many times. But this time I had joy in seeing his natural gifting as a pastor. He was the student who was most involved in organizing the events of the ministry, and did very well. Yet, what I loved witnessing the most was walking through the village and seeing him stop and greet just about everyone we found along the way, inviting them to church, the film show, crusade, or whatever other activity was coming up. I was really

proud of Rauben, and happy to see how God is at work in his life.

Not only Rauben, but all of the students have been growing in their faith. They have all come to ABIDE from different perspectives and at different stages in their relationships with Christ, yet they are showing that the program is having a positive impact on their lives.

Currently, we are about to complete our mid-term break. For three weeks, students have gone back home, and are expected to be active in their homes and churches, practicing the various lessons and skills that they have been learning. For staff, our break is cut a little short as we come back together to have some meetings. As mentors, we desire to evaluate the program, discuss what progress we have seen with our students, how we can improve, what needs the students still have, etc. The intention is to refocus as a team so that we are most effectively in loving and training these young adults God has entrusted into our care. We are excited to see what God has in store for ABIDE in the next several weeks!

Thanks for your support!
~Lisa O'Brien

REASONS TO PRAISE:

1. God has enabled the staff to invest in the lives of our students, and we are seeing them growing in Christian faith, character, and leadership.
2. We have an intern from Central Illinois in the girls' house, Samantha, who is a blessing to us.
3. God has been providing the funds we need for operations.

WAYS TO PRAY:

1. Pray that God will continue to use ABIDE to fulfill the vision of forming students in Christian faith, character, and leadership.
2. Pray for the many missions that we will be going on with students over the weekends throughout the rest of the program.
3. Pray that ABIDE alumni will continue living for Christ, abiding in Him in their daily lives, growing on the foundation they received in the program, and representing Him well wherever they are.



If you have already joined my support team...THANK YOU SO MUCH for playing a key role in this ministry!

If you would like to join my financial support team, then please visit www.golisaobrien.com/donate for instructions.

If you would like to receive email updates, send me an email at golisaobrien@gmail.com

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