

APRIL 2009



I will be joining the New Hope Uganda Team on July 4, 2009!



My ministry video is done and ready for viewing. You can view it from my blog—www.lifewithlena.blogspot.com!



I am a part of the Africa Home Front Team. The group serves as senders to missionaries all over Africa!

I didn't get a lightning bolt, but I did get the call

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

—Luke 12:33-34

The call

It wasn't a voice from heaven booming down or a large flash of light. It was God's word that called me into missions. It was through the story of the rich young ruler, who walked away sad when Jesus told him to sell all he had and follow him. I saw myself in the rich young ruler, and it scared me. I had been sitting back for years asking God to make it clear that He wanted me in Africa. Yes, my heart was there, and I was participating in ministry there, but for some reason I wanted more from God. Why, I don't know, but it was if I was sitting around waiting for a lightning bolt from the Father to give me a thumbs up to proceed.

Well, I didn't get the lightning bolt, but God's word is powerful, and it convicts when convicting is needed. That is just what the story of the rich man did for me. It convicted me. There I was, wealthy in comparison to much of the world, living in a nice home, working a good job, going to church, giving my 10%, but knowing that God wanted more. He wanted a lot more. He wanted me to sell everything; He wanted me to give my whole life, not just parts of my life; and He wanted me to store up my treasure in Heaven rather than on earth. So that's when I got "the call." It was more like a realization that I was, in fact, the same as the rich young ruler who was sad to give up his stuff. It was a hard lesson, but one that I wouldn't trade for anything.

Stepping out on faith

As I sit here writing this newsletter, I have already sold all of my furniture, rented my home, gone to my first round of training, started fundraising and told my boss about my

departure. Each day has been an adventure that God has me on and each step has been another confirmation that I am exactly where God wants me at this point in my life. Praise God for His faithfulness through this process! I am leaving for my next training on May 25. Then on July 2, provided that all my funding is in, I will be leaving for my first three-year term in Uganda!

My first six months in Uganda will be spent at New Hope Uganda, which is a Christian school and orphanage in Luwero. The New Hope Institute will give me some biblical, language and cultural training as well as offer valuable insight into the history of orphans and education in Uganda, allowing me to better meet the needs of the people I will be serving! I am enjoying the ride God has me on and am excited to have you along for the journey as well!

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I

send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" —Isaiah 6:8

Thankful for your support

First let me say a HUGE thank you to all of you who have joined me in this journey. Thank you for your prayers; thank you for your encouragement; thank you for your kindness; and thank you for your financial support!

Obviously, this is something that I can not do alone. It is a team effort with the body of Christ, and it is amazing to see how well that "body" works together! I am at 56% of my monthly support costs and at 44% of my start up costs. I am scheduled to leave for Uganda on July 2, but I need to have 90% or more of my funding in order for that to happen. Please prayerfully consider partnering with me!

In Christ,
Lena

Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Ft. Myers, FL
 Permit No. 473

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LENA PIRA'S
 NEWSLETTER

PRAY

- My goal is to be 100% funded by May 25 so that I can deploy on July 2!
- My next training begins on May 25! Pray for understanding and learning as well as unity with the other participants.
- Please pray that my car will sell quickly and that God will provide another for me to use while I await departure.

PRAISE

- My furniture sold!
- My house is rented and being managed by a friend!
- My prayer and provision team is growing!
- New Hope Uganda Institute accepted my application for July!
- I have a great temporary home until I leave!



I will be in Luwero (highlighted green) for my first six months in Uganda, which is about two hours north of Kampala (red), the capital city.

New Mission Systems International
 Impacting People Worldwide

WE VALUE YOUR PARTNERSHIP

THANK YOU

NMSI honors preference of gifts solicited and, in accordance with IRS regulations, retains discretion and control over their use.

Yes, Lena! You can count on me.

I want to partner with you in your ministry by:

- Committing to monthly support for \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____
- Providing a special gift of \$ _____
- Becoming a prayer partner and praying daily weekly
- Receiving information about future adult Short Term Projects with NMSI
- Receiving email updates at: _____



Send to: New Mission Systems International, P.O. Box 547, Ft. Myers, Florida 33902
 Please write "Lena Pira" on the memo of your check, or donate online at www.nmsi.org/donate.

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____