

No longer an employee of corporate America, she is the proud owner of Sheba Foods, the first and largest branded frozen fresh Exotic African Cuisine company in the United States—but it wasn't until God allowed her family to become very financially uncomfortable.

Success wouldn't come until the bills piled up, her husband lost his job, and the mortgage was 3 months late. Suddenly, a strong thought to sell her African cooking came to mind. At first she dismissed the thought. "As an African, you are raised to be a lawyer, or some kind of professional. You are looked down upon for pursuing a career cooking," says Kunmi. But the Holy Spirit kept poking her until she paid attention. Kunmi has always loved cooking and working with her hands. "If I had known that I could make money cooking, I would have done it 20 years ago," she adds.

The miracle came when she picked up the phone and called Ingles Supermarkets. She had called Publix and Kroger and was almost discouraged by their description of the long and tedious process to place products in their store. Yet on the third call, she dialed Ingles Supermarkets and had no idea who she was talking to. She found out two weeks later that it was the Vice President of Frozen Foods who drove out from North Carolina to Atlanta and met with her. Several months later her recipe became a physical frozen product and was placed on the shelves at Ingles Supermarkets. Wal-Mart also recognized the potential of Sheba Foods and has authorized 32 Wal-Mart Supercenters in Georgia to sell her products with the possible expansion to 1200 within the year. Other markets are watching and lining up to become a part of her success.

Kunmi's ultimate goal for Sheba

Foods is to help raise the quality of life in Africa. She wants to establish a presence in Nigeria and raise the bar on the way her people live and think. She wants to rear children to pursue their passion with a keen sense of business. Kunmi keeps a mini cassette recorder with her at all times to record her journey. "I want to remember every gut wrenching pain, every obstacle, every victory, and every word of direction from God. I want to keep a record of Who my source is so I will remember and my children will have a legacy and inheritance."

Kunmi Oluleye is a brilliant woman who admits to stumbling along the way in her new career. Some of her struggles have been support and finding answers to the questions "How does the food industry function?" "Who do I market and network with?" "How do I prioritize projects?" Kunmi humbly recognizes that she needs a mentor. "Many nights I cried myself to sleep because I am the marketing department, cook, secretary and all departments. Yet, I still manage to be a mother and a wife. How? The Grace of God," she says.

Though she may stumble and stagger momentarily at the present challenges, she rejoices in the truth that she is on the right track. She is pursuing her passion and making a lot of money doing it. Kunmi was delighted to find out about the NxLevel entrepreneurs training program at New Birth and plans to enroll.

In the meantime, as she continues to pursue her passion, the doors keep opening up. A local network has picked her up and has solicited her to do a cooking show. In addition, she will be conducting African cooking courses at the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Tucker, Georgia. Kunmi is also

working on an African Cook Book.

Though she is not a member of New Birth, she is amazed at the love and support she has received from the New Birth family. Kunmi has visited New Birth a number of times and has followed the ministry of Bishop Eddie L. Long. Her membership is with First Baptist of Atlanta where her husband and family attend.

wise words

"Don't put off God-given dreams and focus on current situations. How many people have ignored God's voice because they were too busy or it seemed ridiculous?"

"Before you go into business, pray and hear what God is saying."

"Even in the challenges, stand tall. Perseverance and faith will see you through. Perseverance says 'I can do it' and faith says 'trust God.' I persevere because God created me. I believe that I am wonderfully and fearfully made, therefore indestructible."

Kunmi Oluleye

Sheba Foods provides catering services and also delivers dry and fine frozen foods to your door. For more information, visit www.shebafoods.com.