

Dear friends and supporters of God's kingdom work,

This is a letter of great thanks for your prayers and financial support, and great praise to God for the miracles we witnessed before, during and after our conference against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Kapchorwa, Uganda on January 17-21, 2011. In all my years of ministry, I have never experienced the power of God bringing change in such revolutionary ways. He broke the stronghold of FGM among the Sabiny people who have practiced the tradition for 2000 years. God heard the secret cries of the Sabiny women. And God heard your prayers for them!

This may be the longest “trip report” you have ever seen. Ever since arriving home from Africa, I have tried to write and rewrite shorter versions. But each time I tried, I fought with myself saying, “Oh, I can’t leave that out,” and “If I tell that part I ought to tell this first!” Each time I have deleted parts of the story, I have felt that I was cheating you. You have given so much, and so much happened because of your prayers and gifts. You deserve to know the full story if you want to read it. Your prayers and gifts paved the way for God to perform miracles!

There were 190 participants at our FGM conference: 120 men and 70 women. They were pastors and their wives, as well as other church and local leaders from the four archdeaconries (districts) of the Sebei Anglican Diocese. Even Bishop Augustine Salimo attended the majority of the sessions. (Read more about this remarkable man below.) These leaders represent the 225,000 people who make up the Sabiny tribe of Eastern Uganda. They are the only remaining indigenous people in Uganda who still practice FGM. Most of the Sabiny are church-going folks. But, up to this time, the Sebei Church had not spoken out against FGM with a united voice.



The Sabiny are not false Christians. We came to understand that only the most educated members of the community speak and read English fluently, making deep study of God’s word difficult. (Bible translations are in English.) Along with being isolated in the mountains and lacking funds for theological educations, many Sabiny pastors and leaders mesh their understanding of the Bible with the traditions of their ancestors, and so have encouraged female parishioners to be cut (“circumcised,” as they call it.) They honestly believed FGM to be a good, even a holy, practice. They believed that FGM was necessary for a Sabiny girl to become a woman. Being cut made her eligible to marry a Sabiny man and to participate in many important family and community activities. The Sabiny believed that cutting a woman would set her free from the sexual desires that might lead her into immorality and infidelity (no similar requirement, however, exists for men.) These have been long-held beliefs, yet these leaders were so ready to learn a more godly way.

I came to Kapchorwa with my long time ministry colleague, Dr. Anne Mikkola, from the University of Helsinki in Finland. Rev. Whit Trumbull, a North Carolina pastor and counselor, with degrees from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, also joined us. Delmark Mangusho was the amazing Sabiny conference coordinator who worked closely with Rev. Robert Erone from World Shine Ministries (WSM). World Shine is the Christian organization in Uganda that I have been working with for eight years. (See picture to the



Patti, Whit, Anne - Ivan, Julius, Delmark

right.) Delmark worked tirelessly putting

this conference together for months in advance. He did this because he hoped God would help his people bring FGM to an end. In the picture to the left, you see Sipi Falls in the beautiful landscape of Sebei Diocese. (Ivan has been my trusted driver for seven years, and Julius is a theology student who helped on many fronts.) Other speakers and experts came and went throughout the week we were in Kapchorwa. Ours was a multi-cultural team of black and white, men and women from three continents.



Delmark, Patti and Rev. Erone of WSM

As the warm afternoon sun filtered into the church on the first day of the conference, we let these Sabiny church leaders know our desire to be servants to them as fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. We had two reasons for being there, I told them. One reason was to arm them with information on the biblical, scientific and medical issues regarding FGM. "The more information you have," I suggested, "the more clearly you will be equipped to decide what your own vision of the future will be as you lead your communities forward." But then I opened my Bible to Esther 4: 14 and told them the other reason why I believed God had brought us all together.

"Could it be that God has raised up each one of you to be like Esther who used all her influence to save her own people from destruction?" I asked. "I believe that God is calling you to save your own daughters, sisters, wives and female parishioners from the destruction of FGM. But *'if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for [your women] will arise from another place...yet, who knows but that you have come to [your position of influence] for such a time as this?'*" (Est 4:14). I told them that I believe God intends to bring an end to FGM in Uganda--not through some visiting Westerners (me and my team), not through secular NGOs fighting for women's rights, not through Uganda's newly enacted law against FGM (which was being unabashedly defied), but through the Christian community within the Sabiny people themselves. "I believe that God will use the very men and women in this room to bring an end to FGM in Uganda because this is your God-given destiny!" I believed this message was from God. It had captured my heart and faith from the moment I was asked to come and teach. I hoped it would capture their hearts as well.

At this point however, we had no idea if there was even one person in the room who was against FGM. But after hearing my sincere belief that God had raised them up "for such a time as this,"

to our great joy, there was a rousing applause! At that moment, my team and I felt the power of all your prayers. We were infused with courage to speak boldly (but gently), and we were encouraged that God had indeed begun to release his life-transforming power among these Sabinian Christian leaders.

But before we taught them, we asked them to teach us. We needed to hear, in their own words, why this tradition has been such an integral part of their society for 2000 years. We divided the participants into eight small groups, being careful to separate those who had attended together; this ensured that women could speak freely (away from husbands and in-laws). We asked them to write the top five reasons for believing that FGM has benefitted each of three groups: girls/women; boys/men; and the community. We respectfully listened to the reasons why the practice has been of central importance to their culture. As a result, we learned a great deal about the Sabinian people, and we feel we garnered mutual respect because of our sincere desire to understand them without judgment.



Sabinian woman stands in front of "reasons for cutting" and shows the scar on her arm proving she is a cut woman.

For five days we taught about FGM, approaching it from as many angles as possible: biblical theology, scientific research regarding male/female bonding through the release of oxytocin during sexual pleasure, psychological abuse, testimony, deliverance prayer, medical evidence of the harm of FGM, and even the law (see below). Every approach was firmly tied to the Bible and God's way of walking through *life together* as male and female.

Before I go on, I have to back track and tell you an important miracle story. Prior to going to Kapchorwa, God amazingly connected us with the Honorable Miria Matembe; an outspoken, born again former Parliamentarian and Minister of Ethics and Integrity for the Ugandan government. Matembe had fought for 17 years to get the law against FGM passed through Parliament, and she finally won. The bill went into effect in April of 2010, but the Sabinian people defiantly disregarded the law and carried on the practice, cutting at least 120 girls in December, 2010. Matembe is the most famous woman in Uganda! Every person we met (even on the plane from Amsterdam to Uganda) knew what she stood for and what she had done in Parliament. Most nights she appeared on the news, outraged about those who were defying the FGM laws in Kapchorwa.

Several people we knew, and whom Miria Matembe trusted, had contacted her in efforts to arrange a meeting for us. As a result, Anne, Whit and I were invited to her home for tea. We hoped to convince her to come to Kapchorwa since we believed her presence would have a huge impact on the success of our mission. Miria Matembe's presence in the little village church in Kapchorwa, addressing the conference, would be something like Hillary Clinton entering a humble American home! Also, if God planned to do what I believed he would, Matembe would have the blessing of seeing God finish what she had started. We wanted her to be our guest of honor on the last day of the conference. Of course, every minute of Matembe's schedule is

planned months in advance. We knew it would require a miracle for her to join us. Also, my budget was maxed out, so any additional costs would require additional miracles!

As we sipped tea, Matembe shared her disappointment that the law had not brought an end to FGM in Kapchorwa. I expressed my thoughts that though the law is important, God had made it clear to me that he was *not* going to allow the government to steal his glory any more than he would allow Pharaoh (the government in Egypt at the time) to steal his glory during the Exodus. I invited her to join us in Kapchorwa, saying that I believed God wanted to honor her vast efforts. I expressed also that the real battle was going to be won not by the law but by the Spirit of God working through his *deliverers*, the Christian leaders at that conference. "You have fought long and hard on the secular level," I entreated, "Now come with us and finish the job on the spiritual level!" She loved the idea and was willing to come. Miraculously, God had called her to a seven day fast from working, and from being in the public eye, so she could seek his heart. Her fast was to end at noon on the very day we wanted her to join us! For the first time in years her schedule was clear. We all saw this as God's divine appointment, and so she consented to come! (More on that later.)



Having tea with the Honorable Miria Matembe in her home

Now back to the conference: I began the second day with the creation story, showing that the Bible teaches mutuality and interdependence as the God-given design for relationships between men and women, and for marriage. It seemed that everyone at the conference was shocked to



discover the true meaning of the Hebrew word, *ezer*, translated as "helper" in Gen. 2:18 & 20. This is the same word used to describe God as our helper, and is not used in the Bible to describe a subordinate helper.

Previously, the Sabiny had believed the woman was created to be the "worker of man." Two pastors approached me at a break to say that I had changed their minds in "revolutionary ways." One pastor said, "We had always thought our wives were only a burden to us. We have an insult we use to control them. We

say, 'You are only a *woman*; a worker of man appointed naturally!'" He told me that if a man loved his wife, his friends all believed the woman had bought herbs from the witch doctor and put them in his tea, bewitching him into loving her. "We have thought it is wrong for a man to love his wife; a thing that he bought with his hard earned bride price, and which he owns. We thought, how can a man control a woman he owns if he loves her?" he admitted.

I asked him what he thinks now. He answered, "You have taught us that our wives are not our workers, but they are meant to be our partners and it is *good* to love them! It is a relief to know that we can love our wives and not be afraid we are no longer strong men." (I could have died and gone to heaven after that conversation!)

That same day, I spoke about the good and godly design of the woman's body. (It took three different interpreters before we could find one who was "elder" enough to be willing to say the proper name of these body parts!) The Sabiny believe it is important to remove a woman's clitoris in order to reduce her enjoyment of sex. They believe this will prevent a wife from being unfaithful to her husband. I taught about God's creation of the "bonding hormone" oxytocin, released in both men and women during their orgasms in pleasurable lovemaking. They were shaken to learn that God had created oxytocin to bond husbands and wives, and that FGM thwarts the release of oxytocin that an orgasm is designed by God to give. "FGM," I said, "works against the very thing you have thought it would accomplish! It interferes with the woman's ability to bond with her husband through the one flesh union in the way God designed."

We invited cut women to tell their stories of horror, pain and sexual frustration. Women, who had never had the courage to tell their stories about their anguish, boldly came and spoke before their husbands, their pastors and even the bishop. Some spoke with tears, others with anger. It was a powerful time for all to hear formerly silent women telling the truth about FGM including the horror it has caused them.



Rev. Erone embraces Bishop Augustine after the Bishop's confession and repentance

After those sessions, the bishop stood from his seat and interrupted me in mid-sentence as I addressed the participants. With a grave and sorrowful face, he expressed his desire to repent. The room grew silent. With halting speech, and tears streaming down his face, Bishop Salimo confessed that he attended the cutting ceremonies prior to being saved; dancing, singing and saying degrading things as the girls were cut. Those pictures still came to his mind. He expressed remorse over ever encouraging any woman to be cut, and repented of that sin. And he asked the women in the room to forgive him. The women spontaneously burst into a song in their language; it translated, "We praise you Jesus/ Jesus is the Lamb/ the blood of Jesus saves me." The bishop knew he was forgiven. He hugged me and whispered "thank you" in my ear. Many people later told me they had never seen a bishop repent; his repentance had powerfully affected them. I, too, was awed by his humility, courage and determination to help change the tide of FGM in his diocese.

That night, a respected Ugandan priest, Rev. Medad Birungi, the founder of World Shine Ministries, gave a powerful testimony of how his father's abuse against his mother, and against his mother's children, had destroyed their family. But through a long process of forgiveness, his father repented and reconciliation came to the entire family (his father had five wives). Rev.



Medad Birungi and translator Rev. Moses Salimo

Birungi's message was—even if you have been cut, and have held bitter unforgiveness towards those who cut you, God can help you forgive and release you. He exhorted the men—if you have been dominating women, and if you have wrongly believed your wives are nothing more than “house girls” (a household indentured servant), you must repent and ask their forgiveness. Rev.

Birungi's talk was scheduled before we had any idea the Bishop would repent and ask for forgiveness! I could see the Holy Spirit working through what looked like divine “scheduling.” Afterward, there was time set aside for prayer and deliverance. Many women experienced freedom from bitterness over what had happened to them. Many men also repented and asked for deliverance prayer.



Rev. Whit praying with pastors.

Birungi's talk was scheduled before



Dr. Anne Mikkola, Finland with translator Samuel from Compassion International

The next day, my colleague Anne Mikkola from Finland, taught about the results of the Fall on relationships between men and women. She explained that one of the powerful results of Christ's death and resurrection can be seen in Gal. 3:28. Here Paul proclaims that there is no longer a domination between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, but we are all one in Christ. Whit Trumbull taught from her counseling background about the psychological effects of FGM. She explained about freedom in Gal. 5, and what Paul meant when he said, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor



Rev. Whit teaching through testimony with Rev. Moses translating

uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.” She taught that women are neither free in Christ if they have to submit to “circumcision,” nor are men living by faith that is working through love when they require women to be cut (circumcised).

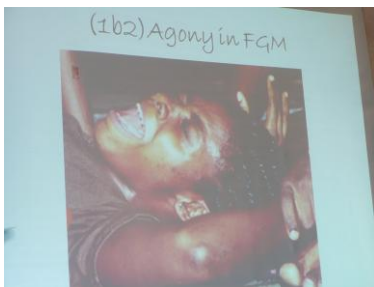


Dr. Andabati Gonzaga is introduced to the participants

The morning of the fourth day, a Ugandan gynecologist, Dr. Andabati Gonzaga gave a power point presentation that had an impact greater than we could have imagined. Girls in Sebei are cut between the ages of 14 and 16. The cutting ceremony is a huge community event that happens every two years on the even numbered year, during “circumcision season.” The girls are

allowed to heal for two months, and then they are expected to marry, quit school and start a family. Dr. Gonzaga's power point featured pictures: of girls in agony as they were being cut, the look of a woman's mutilated private parts after "healing" and a simple line drawing of what happens in a woman's body when a baby cannot get through a heavily scarred birth canal—the womb bursts and both baby and mother die.

With every slide, there were groans and sighs of pain and horror. People covered their eyes momentarily or looked away. I wondered why these two dimensional pictures had such a powerful impact on everyone. After all, they had gone to these ceremonies, every two years, throughout their lives. They had seen the real thing happening with live, screaming young women. But then it dawned on me. When these ceremonies have taken place, the entire community was in a highly celebratory mood. They were eating, dancing and drinking alcohol. The men were excitedly looking at the selection of soon-to-be marriageable young girls, discussing which ones they would like to have. They were influenced by a mob mentality; they were inebriated; and there was demonic activity on top of everything else.



One of several slides showing FGM taking place

But on the day of Dr. Gonzaga's presentation, they were in the church, in the presence of God—not demons—and they were sober. They were at a conference that had been bathed in prayer for many months. And many of you were praying for them at that very moment. It was as if they were seeing this evil for the first time without any filters



besides the Holy Spirit! During the question and answer period, after the doctor's presentation, the young woman in the picture to the right stood up and commented with conviction in her voice that if the girls in her area could ever see these pictures, and hear what the doctor said about the future complications of cut women, none of them would ever submit to FGM again!



Honorable Miria Matembe and translator Rev. Dianna

After that powerful morning, Miria Matembe arrived and addressed the cheering crowd for two hours. On the first day of the conference, when I announced that Matembe would be our guest speaker, the participants' response was quite subdued. Clearly, I did not understand that there would be some reservations toward her. After all, she was the very person who had taken away their



Enjoying Matembe!

right to practice FGM legally. But now, on the fourth day of the conference, after all the teaching they had received, this groundbreaking lawmaker was seen in an entirely different

light. She was welcomed with open arms as a hero! Miraculously, Matembe talked about creation, fall and redemption *just as we had taught*. She re-taught everything we had been teaching, but with her own fabulous African flair! She explained the new law against FGM in simple, but biblical terms and they saw the value of it, perhaps for the first time. She was funny and memorable; loving, yet hard-hitting about the evil of FGM. She was fantastic and the crowd loved her!



Hosea Musobo discussing the radio program with Matembe and me

A man named Hosea Musobo had come to our conference for the last two days. Hosea is a leader in Sebei Diocese and the talk show host for the local radio station. His radio program reaches across the entire country from the border of Kenya, (on the east) to the border of Rwanda (on the west). After Matembe spoke, he approached us about being his guest on his talk show that evening from 7-8 pm. What a golden opportunity!

Honestly, I did not want to go.

You see, at the wise suggestion of Delmark Mangusho, we had planned a very special ceremony to take place the last night, *if* the participants were willing to abandon FGM. Delmark realized that if each archdeaconry made a concrete resolution to bring FGM to an end, every village in Uganda that had been cutting their young girls for 2000 years would have a pastor who was ready to lead the congregation out of that terrible darkness. Rev. Medad Birungi added that we should create a solemn candle lighting ceremony to bring out a sense of seriousness with regard to fulfilling the resolutions. That ceremony would be the culmination of all our prayers, all our efforts and the fruit of all your donations. I did not want to miss that ceremony if it was going to take place. But Anne Mikkola said to me, "It's more important for you to go to the radio station." The rest of the team would be there for the ceremony with our 190 leaders. This was an opportunity to potentially speak to 1.5 million people—including the other 225,000 Sabiny who could not be at the conference. So, Miria, myself and another Ugandan speaker against domestic violence, Sarah Timarwa from Pan African Christian Women's Alliance, went to the radio station.

Our last speaker was an evangelist named Godfrey Dutki. He spoke with conviction about making the choice to separate the practices of ancestral tradition from the practice of Christianity. "Whom will you choose?" he asked. "Your ancestors or your Lord?"

Just before we left to go to the radio station, the entire congregation—*every participant at the conference you helped to create*—made the united decision to abandon FGM in their families, in their churches and in their district! **The Christian community of Sebei now has a united voice against this horrific practice for the first time in the history of Uganda!** Praise God, praise God!



Groups gathered to write resolutions to end FGM

Each archdeaconry wrote not just one resolution, they wrote multiple resolutions! They said (in their own words), "Yes, we will form intercession teams to fight FGM, but we can also put a girl's secondary school in each sub-county to encourage their education and destroy ignorance." (This was one of my favorite resolutions. Education is key!) "We can come up with films [power point presentations] which will be taken to schools and communities showing the dangers of FGM on the body," they resolved. "We will live by example

as leaders and in-laws who do not practice FGM, and do not give pressure to our sons and daughters in-law to follow the FGM tradition." (The pressure on uncut daughters-in-law by their husbands' parents is very strong.) "We can raise our children according to the practices of Christian faith." (That is, in the new ways they had learned about during the conference.)



After writing their resolutions, everyone went outside into the darkness and gathered together in groups according to their own archdeaconry. Three men and three women from each of the four archdeaconries came to the center as representatives of their churches and communities. They were each given a candle. Whit sang, *Go Light Your*

*World* and lit the first candle. Each representative read the resolutions of his or her group, and then he lit the candle of the next person. This continued until all the resolutions from each archdeaconry had been read, and the symbolic light of Christ had lit up the darkness all around them! It was a moving and powerful ceremony that intensified the awe of the stronghold-breaking power of the Holy Spirit.



Meanwhile, at the radio station, Miria Matembe had the audience eating out of her hand. She answered tough questions with wit and grace. Then the talk show host addressed me. He said, "Patti, I understand that you are interested in bonding between husband and wife. You have some scientific research to share with our audience about how female circumcision prevents that very thing we think it helps. Can you tell us about that?" I knew that speaking bluntly about such things was taboo in the Sabiny culture, so I prefaced my talk by saying, "OK listeners, I have some things to say that might be difficult for you to hear. So I want you to think of yourselves as students in a biology class, and I am your teacher. You know your biology teacher can't teach you well unless she calls things by their real names, so that is what I must do. But you will be fine if you listen because you are all good students, ready to learn." I spoke about the bonding effect of oxytocin created by an orgasm. I explained that oxytocin shuts off the "judgment receptors" in the brain, making it impossible for a woman (or man) to think a negative thought about the spouse who is giving them an orgasm. At the end of the hour, they would not let us go! We stayed on the air for a full second hour.

Earlier in this letter I said that my budget was completely spent and that if having Miria Matembe cost anything, covering her expenses would require a miracle. Well, she did not want an honorarium, but I did have to rent a car for two days; pay for gas to cover twelve hours of partly mountainous driving from Kampala to Kapchorwa and back; pay for her, her two guests and her driver's hotel rooms and for all their food for two days. That cost \$500 beyond my budget. But, on the last day of the conference, when I went to the bank to try and figure out where I would get the money to pay for Matembe's expenses, there was an EXTRA \$500 in the FGM account, EXACTLY!! I had no idea how that large sum got into my account, but I recognized it as another amazing miracle of our loving God. Choking back the tears, I gratefully withdrew the money and took care of my financial responsibilities with a heart full of joy and gratitude.

When I returned home to the States, I received a call from Rev. Richard Lee, the pastor of Bethany Well Church in New Jersey. Richard told me that his church had intended to donate \$500 in November, long before I left for Africa. But because of a mix up in the accounting office, the check for *Life Together* had been sent into the wrong account. That issue wasn't resolved until the last day of the conference, just when I needed it the most! (I always say, "God waits until it is two seconds before it is too late!") If the use of that money had been available to me before the conference, I surely would have spent it on food for the participants before I knew Matembe was coming. Making sure everyone was properly fed was a huge concern for me. But I was worried unnecessarily. All of you had donated *exactly* what was needed to care for each participant's needs. It seems God knew my concern over food was beyond what was needed, so he "hid" Bethany Well's check in another account until all the conference participants had eaten their last meal with us!

Obviously, God really wanted Matembe at our conference. Four days after I got home to America, I got an email from Hosea (the talk show host) saying that many callers were requesting a replay of our program every single day! Again, he sent me another message in the middle of March exclaiming that the radio program we did with Miria Matembe is so popular that they have had to make CDs of it. They are selling it to raise money for teaching against FGM! He said, "Patti, I am telling you, people are getting the message that cutting women impedes bonding!"



Nelson had the name of Whit's son and proudly wore it next to his own name.

Before I close, I want to tell you one last thing. On the first day of the conference we gave out name tags. On the back of each name tag we put a slip of paper bearing the name of each one of you; our sponsors. We included only your first names and the region of the world in which you live. I told the participants that the name on their slip of paper is the name of the person who made it possible for them to

be at the conference. I said, "These people have given to you, now will you give back to them by praying for them each day we are together?" They loved the idea of being able to give back to all of you. And prayer is the most powerful way to give back.

Several people asked me how to pronounce the name on their slip. They wanted to be sure they pronounced your name correctly to God. Two people came to me excited that they had received the names of people in Australia. Long ago they had met some Australians and had felt a connection to that country ever since. All throughout the week, many people came to me and asked if there was anything in particular they could pray for the person whose name they had. Each time I could tell them something like, "Steven has a ministry in Congo; Pat is a Bible study teacher and her husband Jim leads groups to the Holy Land; Alyssa is the mom of four children and her husband Scott is a doctor..." They were all so grateful for you and really took their prayers for you very seriously.



On the last morning of the conference, I called out ten names of sponsors from the little slips on the back of the name tags; one man and one woman from Canada, Finland, Australia, and one person from the north, south, east and west of the USA. I asked the participants who had these ten names to come to the front and pray as representative for all of the people in each of those countries who had given so generously to make the conference possible. They gratefully prayed long, heart-felt prayers in their own language. Those seated responded to the representatives' prayers by softly calling out your



names from time to time. It was one of the sweetest sounds I've ever heard. The only thing I understood was the sound of your names being mentioned in solemn prayer all throughout the room. Can you imagine? I am sitting there in Africa, hearing your names spoken in gratitude from the lips of people whose lives you have helped to change profoundly! Just the night before, these Christian men and women had chosen to abandon an evil practice that they and their ancestors have lived by all their lives. But now, because of your support, God has set them free! I am telling you, I could not stop crying. A spirit of profound gratitude and awe permeated the room because of what God had done through you, our sponsors. Everyone knew that if it had not been for our generosity, it might have been years before the Sabiny decided to abandoned FGM. Many, many tears of thankfulness flowed during those long, sweet prayers! (Oh God, I thank you for these sponsors; bless them Lord!)



After the prayers, we said good-bye to our new Sabiny friends with tears. As we were loading up the car to return to Kampala and back to our countries, Delmark took me aside and said, "Do not

think your work is finished. There are two years before the next circumcision season. You must ask God to send you back next January to refresh the message and support those deep in the villages. By then these pastors will need reinforcement. The woman who have already been cut are still suffering years later and need your support."

I know Delmark is right. These people have caught a new vision for the life that God wants them to live. But as every leader knows, vision leaks! Vision has to be cast and recast until it has created a completely new lifestyle, so powerful that no one wants to go back to the old way. So please, please pray for the Christian leaders of Kapchorwa as they work out their resolutions and teach their people. Pray for me as I begin, even now, making preparations to go back so that Satan does not steal the seed that has been planted. And be assured that there is a little slip of paper somewhere special in a Sabiny home with your name on it, reminding that man or woman to pray for you, too.

How do I thank you for making this conference possible? You have participated with God to positively change the future of over one hundred thousand women in Uganda, as well as all the future girls born into the Sabiny tribe. You have also helped to change the history of a nation! God did get the glory through his deliverers—both the Sabiny leaders and you! Through your future prayers, God will continue to receive the glory. I am completely overwhelmed with gratitude for each and every one of you, and I am completely humbled to have seen the glory of God at work with such power and love for his daughters and sons in Uganda.

With tremendous thankfulness and appreciation,



Patti Ricotta  
*President, Life Together International*

