

On December 3, while I was resting at Agneta's, four Friends came to see me from Kabras area. They said they had learned that Malava used to be the gathering site for witches, and they felt the area was still bewitched. Arthur Chilson, a missionary back in early 1900s had been chased away. In 1975, three teachers (including myself) who had masters degrees were chased (in order to only have less-qualified teachers from the local tribe). Since then, a person who tried to build a new medical facility was chased and several strong Christians have had sudden mysteriously caused deaths. They were willing to stand on behalf of the Kabras people and asked me (to represent those who had been chased), and to pray for forgiveness together.

This was a different request than from the usual requests for help that I receive! We prayed, and I also asked for forgiveness for the former missionaries who were often made mistakes due to being colonial in attitude.



*Malava group at Agneta's (she's in blue dress)*



*Zelika and I receive gifts from West YM Women*

December 4, I helped Agneta get to a clinical officer as she had a bad case of malaria. Here in Kenya, they immediately do tests to find out what disease you have (usually within an hour) and they treat you with appropriate medicine (as compared to USA where tests might be done, but it often is weeks before you get the results). Then I joined Zelika Galavu to go visit two of the Kenyan USFW Conferences (since the Tanzanian one had planned to attend was canceled due to violence and unrest in that country over elections). The Kamusinga Conference met at Kamusinga Boys Friends High School—a national school often a top performer in national exams located in Kimilili. They had around 1,000 women present. Margaret Amudavi was the main speaker, and the women really enjoying her teachings and sense of humor as well. There were several younger women teaching various topics. On Friday the 5th, we went to the West YM Women's Conference held in Bungoma. It had only around 100 women present. Then I traveled by matatu to join Agneta who was on her way to Uganda.

The next morning, we travelled via several pikis and matatus to Sibuse, Uganda to visit Beatrice Murefu, an elderly, but very active Sunday School teacher. She is a widow whom we had not seen for several years who is living with nine children/grandchildren. She jumped up and down with joy to see us arriving at her house. Agneta helped counsel several of Beatrice's daughters. Beatrice then accompanied us the next day to Bududa region, on Mt Elgon.

We had been asked by the clerk of Uganda Yearly Meeting to go with him to visit Friends in that region who had recently broken off from Uganda YM. It turns out they had left due to Uganda Yearly Meeting changing its name to officially Uganda Friends Church. Since the time of Idi Amin, when all churches became illegal, the government now requires the word church in order to be registered as a religious organization. We had a good time of fellowship, and encouraged them, especially the women and youth, to return to make one group again. Peacemaking seems to be another need in parts of East Africa. Agneta and I then traveled back to Busia and rested in a simple, quiet hotel in Busia before travelling back to Malava. On Saturday, we had a late

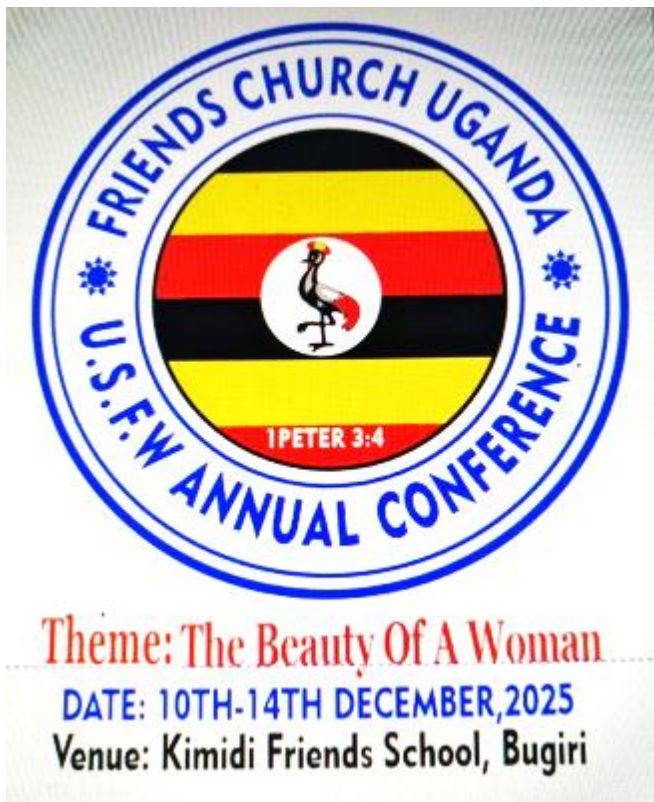
breakfast and fellowship with Elizabeth Malenje in Kakamega on our way home. It was a hot day, but good for getting clothes washed and dried quickly.

On Thursday, I went to Kakamega and collected 50 headscarves that Rose Afandi Muhanji had printed for me to take to the USFW Conference of Uganda. I had asked her if she could find some Kenyan women to help raise some funds to enable a couple of the women pastors of Uganda to attend the East African Pastors Conference the end of this year in Entebbe, Uganda. Instead, she told me to take the scarves and get the women to each buy one at 250 shillings Kenyan. Since 250 Kenyan shillings is equal to 7,500 Ugandan shillings, and Uganda women are young and normally do not wear scarves, I doubt this will work.

My next message will be about the USFW Women's Conference in Uganda plus final activities in Kenya and returning to New Hampshire.

Thanks for all your messages and support.

In gratitude,  
Marian



Logo that was printed on the headscarves. (The center is the Ugandan Flag colors)