



August 27, 2008

Dear Friends and Family,



We are excited and delighted! In July LVIM sponsored its **first conference for female church leaders in Uganda** and we *clearly saw the hand of God* at work in our ministry. The meetings were **a success**, for so **reported the teachers and students alike**. *We praise the Lord for His faithfulness!*



Many of the **African women** attending the conference **gave thanks** for the way in which the **sessions contribute to their ongoing spiritual growth**. They realized that the teachers and their **teachings have increased their knowledge and understanding of Scripture**. They also came to recognize the **importance of women working together** to support each other's ministries, including building relationships internationally within the body of Christ.



*The impact of the conference reached the teachers as well. When someone noted what a privilege it was for LVIM to train these women, **Amanda Stout remarked: "It was a privilege that they trained me."** What did she mean? She listened to the story of the woman who has a sick husband, 10 children, and AIDS. She heard about other women who care for a number of orphans in their homes in addition to their own children. She met others who struggle with special needs children and few resources to care for them. *There is poverty, disease, and suffering everywhere. But they keep on going and their heart's desire is to follow Christ and do His will.**



What *Amanda* saw in the example of these women---what we all need to see---is an **awesome courage to live their lives for the Lord**, despite all the obstacles and heartaches. She noticed a spirit of selflessness that expressed itself in a **willingness to sacrifice themselves for others more needy than themselves**. She observed how they behave with humility and **offer themselves** for the Lord's service **in this spirit of lowliness**.

We travel to Africa as teachers---and through the prayers and financial support of partners such as you we are able to do so---in order to share God's Word with others, and we pray that their lives are transformed in Christ. But we are also students, and in Africa we live through experiences that can be life-changing. *In the eyes of our brothers and sisters, their joys and their sufferings, we see our own brokenness and insufficiency. **Only in Christ do we attain significance. May this realization give us whole hearts to serve Him!***

In Christ's name,

Jerry and Jolynne Brown

