

Florence Ntakarutimana - A Brief Autobiography

I am 32 years old and married to Dominic Niyonkuru. God has blessed us with three children. My family and I are members of the Religious Society of Friends. I received my degree of Arts in Christian Leadership in 2005. Since 2006 I have worked in Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) as a Program Manager. I have conducted many series of trauma healing workshops in local communities in Burundi, Rwanda and Kenya. My work also includes assistance with the HIV/AIDS struggle, mediation and peaceful conflict resolution. I like my work very much. It has allowed me to understand and address my own inner wounds and trauma; my mother died in 1996 having been poisoned by her sister, and the death of my father one year later in 1997, killed by rebels. Through my work, I have experienced that forgiveness and reconciliation are possible even though it can take time and much strength. I use my experience to help others and I will continue to do healing and reconciling work.

Florence is the co-author of “Now I Am Human: Testimonies from the Healing Companions Program in Rwanda and Burundi” which is on the AGLI website at <http://www.aglionline.org/publications/peaceways/fall2007/PWfall2007.pdf>. More recently she wrote “Healing HIV+ Women” which can be read at this site: <http://www.aglionline.org/publications/peaceways/winter20072/pwwinter2007healing.htm>