

7/7/17 Journal

Kigali Genocide Memorial

The walls are filled with traitorous memories daring people not to forget. Rwanda shares with an open heart their harsh truths so that genocide may never happen again. They share with no walls, they leave nothing unseen or unheard. They continue to do everything in their power to remind others.

“We did not choose to be orphans.” This quote struck me while in the children’s wing of the memorial. The undeniable impact the events had on the youth, the children.. what courage to ever find peace with their neighbors. They repeatedly say that they to forgive. Forgiveness is the final form of love. They say if they seek revenge, the hatred and killing never stops. I am amazed at their grace and willingness to go on.. One woman stated that by loving their neighbors, it showed perpetrators that they gained nothing- incredibly powerful.

I feel more at peace today though I am still trying to understand many aspects of this event. I believe most people have gained dignity through their communities. Peace and reconciliation are the root of this country. Simple and silly, yet an unseen scene for an American, is the lack of road rage on their incredibly busy streets. Rwandans, while living in what we would may consider poverty, have grasped the kindness and community roots and hung on for dear life. Their priorities, compared to America, seem much more in line. And how when they country has faced so much turmoil and hurt? I am an awe that I sit in the exact place that once was grounds for mass slaughter of innocent lives. We will not forget Rwanda.