Dear Friends,

My journey to Rwanda went well! I am now on the ground in, "The Land of a Thousand Hills". With the exception of some fatigue, I am very happy! It's wonderful to see so many friends!

I flew to Rwanda via Qatar Airways and slept one night in Qatar, which is a tiny nation bordering the northeast edge of Saudi Arabia. This morning, when I was in the airport to resume my journey, I saw many women dressed in burkas. Every inch of their bodies was covered with black cloth.

Gazing upon them, I couldn't help but contemplate the verse that exclaims, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:18). I was deeply saddened. As you know, their beliefs require that many women wear veils, which means that they rarely see one another's smiles or the brightness of their eyes or even glistening tears. And there is especially little hope of ever seeing the face of their god.

For Christians, we can clearly see the expressions of our family and friends. Not only that, God promises that we will see HIM face-to-face, and we will be transformed increasingly into the glory of his image! This gives me great hope, even as I see so many impoverished, struggling people here in Rwanda.

My primary purpose for these three weeks is simply to be the presence of Christ to all I meet. Each day, as I navigate the path and people God has sovereignly placed before me, I pray that my life will reveal a tiny glimpse of our Lord's face--even if it is greatly distorted! I hope my friends here will experience God's tender mercies and will grow in their relationship with him. And ultimately, I pray that they will "image" God's own mercy and love to others, so that many here will one day see [him] face to face" (1 Cor. 13:12).

Thank YOU for imaging God to me through your prayers and communications. I look forward to sharing more in the days to come!

With gratitude,
Martha Vetter, writing from Rwanda