

# UNITED SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WOMEN - KENYA

## TRIBUTE: USFWK

Today we are gathered here to celebrate, a life well lived, of great woman of God. A visionary leader, a mentor, a prayer warrior, a mother and a friend to all, Mama Rachel Kabwai Sabwa.

Rachel Sabwa purposed to give her life as a living sacrifice, as described in Rom 12:1. She accepted a call to ministry which reflected in the following:

- i. Prayer life
- ii. Administration
- iii. Guiding and counselling
- iv. Generosity

### PRAYER LIFE

Rachel was a powerful prayer warrior, praying for her family needs and the needs of others, during the split of East African Yearly Meeting of Friends church, she set a group of women in her house for prayer, it is out of this group that USFWK prayer meeting was born. It was a painful occasion but Rachel said, and I quote, "*keve ku ho kitama Nyasaye dave*", end of quote. We thank God for her determination.

### ADMINISTRATION

Rachel was a treasurer for East African Yearly Meeting USFW from 1952-1979. It was during her tenure under the leadership of Mama Lenah Mwenesi, the Amalemba Friends Church Plot was bought and the meeting house built in 1978. It was dedicated in 1980, she was USFW clerk for EAYM south, now Vihiga yearly meeting.

She was the first 1<sup>st</sup> clerk for USFWK. During her leadership she said to us, and I quote, "*vakana munyi kuhenze ku havundu kuumbake ho kindu kali niva icho, kulange, USFWK*" end of quote. It was during this time we looked for Handidi plot, She came and prayed for ground breaking in Nov 2015, and the three storey-building called, Quaker Resort center came to being through her initiative.

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### GUIDING AND COUNSELLING

Rachel committed herself to counselling and resolving of disputes in and out of our church. Her house became a baraza where many people came for any type of help they needed.

She mentored so many, church leaders depended on her for advice even when things went wrong: she helped to resolve conflicts and guided many who were close to divorce. She intervened in difficult situations and helped to find solutions. We thank God for Rachel.

### GENEROSITY

Mama Rachel and her late husband Simeon Sabwa were generous, they welcomed many with open arms, they raised many children who were not their own, fed, clothed and even educated them. We came for prayers and committees and prayers in their house, ate and left without giving a single penny to them. In all my life I had not seen anyone as generous as the Sabwas.

Rachel was a person of extra ordinary integrity and personal strength, very humble, soft spoken yet very strict. She was a strong leader among Quakers and was respected by many. As the National chairlady for United Society of Friends women –Kenya (USFWK) she has set an example for all the women in our church, she has united all the women regardless of our region balances.

On 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, we gathered at Handidi Quaker Resort Centre, all sitting clerks and retired clerks of all our Y.M.S, all our pastors, then we invited Rachel to come and pray with us, She sad to us, I quote, "*vakana munyi, muhambane ,muyanzane , ma mulindi livugana vulahi.*" End of quote, then she prayed. That was our last time with her. We thank God for the many blessings we received in our midst.

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### SUMMARY

Mama Rachel Sabwa was:

- ❖ A great leader
- ❖ A person of extra ordinary power and integrity
- ❖ A faithful servant of the God
- ❖ A role model
- ❖ A mentor
- ❖ A visionary Leader
- ❖ A spiritual adviser
- ❖ A Quaker icon
- ❖ A woman of valor
- ❖ Umukali wi Kivuni

Rachael you have fought a good fight, you have finished the Race, you kept the Faith. 2

Tim 4:7

Rest in peace Mama.