



The killers asked my mother where the man was that killed their companion. She told them that he had already been taken by other . He asked the other killers to beat us with their machetes. They started with my brother and my mother. At that time there were eleven of us. I was beaten after the others. We were all badly hurt. My father and brother had not been killed they came back and found us on the ground. They brought us into the house. After some days, a few had died because we did not have any treatment. My brother buried those who had died in our fields near our house. Their bodies are there even now. My father decided to escape and join the Rwandan Patriotic Front soldiers, to help the war effort.

Then a man came, telling my brother and I to follow him. When we arrived at his house, we found that he was giving refuge to about twenty Tutsis in his home. But the eventually found out that he was hiding Tutsis. They said that all male Tutsis had to die. He came and hid me with other men in a cabbage field. When the came, they did not find us. We returned to the house after they had left and decided we had to flee the following day. As we traveled to Ndera, we were stopped at a roadblock. They arrested us and we were ordered to sit down. After a few minutes, an came and asked us to stand up and go. God was on our side.

We finally arrived at Sainte Famille cathedral. But that was not safe. A man asked me to follow him to be treated because I had many wounds. The man treated me, but also demanded that I sleep with him for saving my life. I had no choice. I thought he would kill me if I refused. I was rescued eventually, but only a few of us survived.

My brother and I returned home. I didn't tell my brother about the rape. My father returned and things became a little better when we were reunited with a sister who we had long thought had died.

We have tried to rebuild our lives, but our experiences have left us scarred forever. We don't talk about what happened to us. It is too painful to deal with.

Today's Reading of the Testimonies marks the 15th Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, in support of su