

MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

TITLE: FROM THEN TO NOW A STORY OF GROWTH AND RESILIENCE

Introduction

Every life is a journey, and mine has been a unique path of growth, challenges, and triumphs. As I stand on the brink of graduation, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment and anticipation for the future. This autobiography is a reflection of my experiences, lessons learned, and the incredible journey that has shaped who I am today.

In the pages that follow, I will share my story one of perseverance, resilience, and the pursuit of dreams. This is the tale of my journey, from childhood to the cusp of adulthood, as I navigate the challenges and embrace the joys of life. It is a testament to the power of determination and the unwavering support of those who have walked beside me. Welcome to my story.

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Chapter 1: EARLY YEARS

My name is Ann Wairimu Gichinga. I was born on 9th March, 2003, and currently I am 21 years old. I am currently living at Bahati Center in Nakuru County, Kenya. My late parents are Joseph Gichinga and Lucy Wangeci. I am the lastborn to my parents, along with my 4 siblings—one brother and three sisters—Kelvin Ngunjiri being the firstborn and others following Esther Wambui, Hellen Wandia, and Eva Njeri.

I was born in Nyeri County, Mukurwe-ini district where my parents before then were living. I enjoyed my childhood of stability and peace where I had friends and many relatives around me. As the lastborn, I found my place within the bustling house hold, surrounded by the warmth of familial bonds. My parents worked hard to provide security and prosperity for our family. My father used to run some errands here and there although he was not that stable because his one leg was disabled. My mother ran the household and for us but she to manage a small business of catering and hospitality. When I was ten years old, my mother fell ill and passed away so we had to relocate from Nyeri to Nakuru where I went to live with my aunt and my sister Eva who I followed. My father was not well abled (pwd) so he could not take care of us. I grew up in my aunt's home with my sister since we were close to age.

We were bit apart with the rest of my siblings but we were still in touch and each member of my family contributes their own distinct thread to the fabric of our collective family. I stand here as a testament to the love and support that has nurtured me throughout the years. From the guidance of my guardians to the moments we shared with my siblings while we were together has shaped me into the person I am today.

As I traverse the intricate journey of life, I am guided by the principles imparted to me by my upbringing: perseverance, empathy, and an unwavering belief in the road ahead. With gratitude lighting my way and resolve fueling my steps, I welcome both the

trials and triumphs that lie before me, ever supported by the steadfast love of my cherished family.

1.1 A Tranquil Upbringing

My early years were characterized by a harmonious upbringing, rich in the bonds of family, friendships and a strong sense of community. I grew up in a close-knit village before relocating to Nakuru where life was simple, and the values of unity and togetherness were deeply ingrained considering I was living where most my neighbors were relatives. My father had a home in Eldoret before the clashes in 2007 where he relocated in his father's vineyard. I used to spend most the times with my grandparents before they passed away from both my parents because they used to live close to each other. The community around me taught me the importance of unity and compassion. So in my early life I was close to most of my cousins who we schooled together and it was fun to be around them.

I was fortunate to have cousins and childhood friends as neighbors. We shared a unique camaraderie that added a special dimension to my upbringing. Together, we explored the village, climbed trees, played games in open fields, and embarked on countless adventures. Our friendships were forged in the laughter and joy of carefree days, forming bonds that would last a lifetime.

1.2 Helping Our Parents & Guardians:

In our community, it was a common practice for children to assist their parents, or rather, elders were responsible for us. I eagerly anticipated helping my parents with household tasks, even though I was the last born. I cherished to do chores more than my elder siblings, and sometimes they could take advantage of that. Nevertheless, my aunt was quite impressed with my assistance in the kitchen, more so than my elder sister, because I had a deep passion for cooking. There were other tasks we used to help in my aunt's household, such as cleaning the compound, working in the posho mill because my uncle had one, and also picking coffee. My uncle had a huge farmland where he used to get income from the harvest like coffee, maize, and animals by selling the products. These early experiences were not just chores but lessons in responsibility, teamwork, and the value of hard work. By contributing to our family's well-being, I developed a deep appreciation for the efforts required to sustain a household. My passion for cooking, nurtured by my aunt's encouragement, and the

varied tasks on my uncle's farm, instilled in me skills and values that have shaped my character. As I look back on those days, I am grateful for the opportunities to learn and grow within a loving and supportive community. These formative years laid a solid foundation for the person I have become, ready to face the future with the same enthusiasm and dedication.

1.3 Early Education

My journey through early education began with my first steps into nursery school at Maganjo School. The vibrant atmosphere and the eager faces of my classmates marked the beginning of my academic adventure. I fondly remember the colorful classrooms adorned with educational posters that sparked my curiosity from a young age.

As I progressed through the early grades, my favorite subjects quickly became evident. Mathematics intrigued me with its puzzles and logical challenges, while English language classes opened doors to new worlds through literature and storytelling. Art classes were a creative outlet where I could express myself freely, and I eagerly participated in every opportunity to unleash my imagination.

Memorable teachers played a significant role in shaping my early years. Mrs. Johnson, my nursery school teacher, had a gentle demeanor that made learning fun and engaging. She encouraged my curiosity and instilled a love for learning that would stay with me throughout my academic journey. In primary school at Maganjo, Mr. Kamau stood out for his passion for science, making each lesson an exciting exploration of the natural world. My friends whom I cherished in my nursery school were Aisha and Billy who we made memorable remarks together through games and interaction.

We relocated to Nakuru where I had to change school and joined St Lwanga School from grade four to eight .As I look back, I am thankful for the loving and supportive community that surrounded me, fostering an environment where I could learn, grow, and thrive. The friendships forged in nursery school with Aisha and Billy, and the guidance of teachers like Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Kamau, have left an indelible mark on my journey.

With these foundational experiences, I am equipped with the skills, values, and determination to face the future with optimism and dedication. I carry forward the lessons learned from my early years, ready to embrace new challenges and continue building upon the strong foundation laid in my upbringing and education.

Chapter 2: CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Growing up in Maganjo, my childhood was filled with adventures and joy. One of my fondest memories was going to the nearby river with my cousins. We would spend hours swimming, climbing trees in the gardens, and plucking mangoes. The thrill of those simple pleasures was unmatched. We played various games that children loved in the 2000s, creating unforgettable moments with my friends at school.

After school, I often visited my friend Aisha at her home, where we played games and shared stories. From a young age, I had a passion for writing stories and drawing. When I was about five years old, my siblings would always recommend that I become an author when I grew up. Their encouragement nurtured my love for storytelling and creativity.

2.1 My Fears

When I was ten, my family relocated to Nakuru. The move presented challenges as I struggled to adapt to the new environment and make new friends. One of my greatest fears was being alone. This stemmed from my early years when my mother had to leave me alone at home while she went to work, and my siblings were at school or with friends. This experience instilled in me a deep fear of loneliness.

I also feared sharing my story with my new friends at St. Lwanga School. I was hesitant to talk about my parents, especially about my mother passing away. The thought of not having both parents, as most of my friends did, made me feel isolated.

2.2 Introduced to Faith and my talent

During our time at my aunt's place, she introduced us to the Catholic faith. She regularly attended St. Augustine Catholic Church, where I learned a lot about Jesus and joined a group called PMC (Pontifical Missionary Children). At around twelve

years old, I discovered my passion for dancing through this group. We would perform dances at the church, and it was a source of joy and expression for me.

These childhood memories, filled with laughter, challenges, and discoveries, have shaped who I am today. They taught me resilience, the importance of community, and the joy of pursuing one's passions. Despite the fears and hardships, the love and support from my family and friends provided a strong foundation for my growth and development.

Chapter 3: MY EDUCATION JOURNEY

3.1 Primary Education

My educational journey began at Maganjo Primary School, where I attended from the age of four until grade 4, when I was ten years old. My early years at Maganjo were filled with vibrant memories, especially with my friends Billy and Aisha. Billy was always full of energy and had an infectious laugh that could brighten anyone's day. We spent countless hours playing hide and seek, tag, and other popular games of the early 2000s. Aisha, on the other hand, was my confidante. After school, we would often visit each other's homes, playing games and sharing stories. These moments with Billy and Aisha created a sense of belonging and joy in my early school years.

3.1.1 Transfer to Another School

In grade 4, my family relocated to Nakuru, and I transferred to St. Lwanga Primary School. This transition brought new experiences and friendships that enriched my educational journey. My friend Mercy and I bonded over our love for various games, and it was with her that I discovered my talent for triple jump. John, another close friend, made primary school enjoyable with his endless jokes and stories. We often studied together, making learning a fun and collaborative experience.

Academically, my favorite subject at St. Lwanga was Mathematics, thanks to our inspiring teacher, Mrs. Nguyo. She had a unique way of motivating us by awarding mandazis to those who excelled in math exams. Social Studies, however, posed a bit of a challenge for me. One of the significant hurdles I faced was arriving late to school. Our home was quite far from school, and I had to wake up at 5 a.m. to be at

school by 6:30 a.m. Latecomers were often punished by the teacher on duty. One memorable incident involved my sister and me being late and trying to avoid punishment by concocting a story about encountering a dog. Surprisingly, the teacher believed us, and we were spared.

In class 7, my sister Eva's under performance in her final class prompted our transfer to Nyathuna Primary School, known for its better academic performance. This school, although small, had a competitive and focused student body, and I loved the environment. The primary challenge here was the long commute, often involving delays with matatus, leading to late arrivals and subsequent punishments. Fortunately, my aunt, who was the deputy headteacher at Nyathuna, provided some perks, such as eating school-prepared food, unlike other students who brought their own.

3.1.2 Achievements and Challenges

At Nyathuna Primary School, I discovered a new found love for Kiswahili, which had been challenging at my previous school. Thanks to Mr. Mwaura, our strict but effective Kiswahili teacher, we regularly did revisions, which significantly improved our performance. The unity, teamwork, and hard work among students and teachers helped us achieve our target mean marks as a class.

I also participated in athletics and netball, eager to test my abilities. Although I didn't advance far in athletics, I excelled in netball, which became a source of great fun and camaraderie with my teammates. My dedication and hard work paid off when I did well in my final KCPE exams. My sister, who had repeated her year at Nyathuna, also improved significantly, proving the effectiveness of the school's nurturing environment.

These experiences in primary education, from Maganjo to Nyathuna, taught me resilience, adaptability, and the importance of hard work. The friendships, challenges, and achievements along the way have left an indelible mark on my educational journey, shaping me into a determined and passionate individual.

3.2 SECONDARY EDUCATION

3.2.1 Academic Life

After performing well at Nyathuna Primary School and attaining 329 marks, I was invited to join Bavuni Secondary School. This mixed school, accommodating both boys and girls, offered both boarding and day school options. All boys were day scholars, while some girls, including me, were boarders. Transitioning to boarding school was a relief compared to the long distances I had to walk during primary school.

My academic life at Bavuni Secondary School began with a mix of excitement and anxiety. Form one was particularly challenging because we had 11 subjects, which was quite exhausting to keep up with. Despite this, I managed to excel and attained an A- at the end of the year. The school motivated students by awarding trips to the top 15 performers, and I was fortunate to be among them. Our first trip was to Kisumu, where we visited the museum, game reserve, and Kisumu International Airport. This trip was an unforgettable experience, filled with exploration and learning.

In form two, my academic life became somewhat easier as we were allowed to choose subjects and drop those we found challenging. I opted for three science subjects, reducing my total subjects to eight. This change allowed me to focus more effectively and continue excelling. I participated in a mathematics contest at Naivasha Girls, representing my school and finishing among the top three from our team. This achievement earned me a certificate and further fueled my passion for mathematics.

Form three, however, brought new challenges. The complexity of subjects increased, and my performance began to decline. The pressures of adolescence and high school life overwhelmed me, affecting my focus and academic performance. Thankfully, I found support among new friends and sought academic help, which helped me navigate these difficulties.

3.2.2 Sponsorship

I was fortunate to receive a sponsorship from an organization in Nakuru, which covered my school fees, shopping, and upkeep from form one to form four. I am forever grateful to this organization and to God for this support. Each student had a sponsor from outside the country; mine was Rowan from Spain. We communicated through letters after every semester, sharing my progress, challenges, activities, and

plans for improvement. His encouragement and support were invaluable, helping me stay motivated and focused on my studies. The organization also organized events to teach us about life after school, spirituality, and personal growth, which were instrumental in our development.

3.2.3 Spiritual Life

Before joining Bavuni High School, I was only introduced to the Catholic faith. Once at Bavuni, I attended both Young Christian Society (YCS) and Christian Union (CU) services. Initially, I was shy and hesitant to attend CU services, fearing intimidation from older students. However, I soon found that the CU services were profoundly impactful and helped me understand salvation better. In form two, I got born again.

Our school was spiritually grounded, with teachers and a patron who were strong mentors, teaching us how to live a Christian life. The CU organized events such as weekend challenges, running from Friday to Sunday, which included workshops, discipleship sessions, and Q&A sessions where we could discuss the challenges we faced as teenagers. These events provided a strong foundation in the Christian faith, with memorable moments of worship and praise where we danced for the Lord. Dancing, being my passion, made these moments even more special.

Life as a Christian in high school was not without its challenges. There were bad influences and peer pressure, and some friends tried to lead others away from faith. I remember praying for a friend who was influenced negatively. God answered my prayers in form four before COVID; during one of the services, he got born again. After the pandemic, he returned transformed, with a gift for preaching. We called him "pastor." He became my deskmate, and we shared a lot about our spiritual lives, encouraging each other in prayer. His academic performance also improved significantly, and we began to compete in some subjects, which was very motivating. His name was David, and he became a close and helpful friend in my life.

3.2.4 Social Life

Social life at Bavuni was vibrant and enriching. I made many friends who supported and motivated me throughout my secondary education. Sandra, whom I met on the first day of high school, became a close friend, and although we were separated in form two due to different subject choices, we remained connected. My social circle

expanded through participating in games, especially triple jump, where I competed with other schools and made lasting friendships. My new deskmate in form four, David, shared my academic and spiritual interests, and we supported each other through the challenges of our final year.

Achievements

My achievements at Bavuni Secondary School were numerous and rewarding. I consistently performed well academically, securing a place among the top students and earning trips to Kisumu and Nakuru's Lord Egerton Castle. Participating in the mathematics contest and excelling in triple jump were significant accomplishments. Despite the challenges, I managed to score a B in my KCSE, a testament to my hard work and determination.

Challenges

My time at Bavuni was not without challenges. The initial adjustment to a rigorous academic schedule and the complexity of subjects in form three tested my resilience. The distance from home to school posed difficulties, especially with unreliable matatu services, leading to late arrivals and punishments. The most significant challenge, however, was the disruption caused by COVID-19. The pandemic forced us to stay home for about five months, delaying our studies and KCSE exams. Studying at home was challenging due to distractions and household chores, but my sister and I supported each other, helping us stay on track.

3.2.5 COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on our education. Our KCSE exams, initially scheduled for November 2020, were postponed to March 2021. The prolonged period at home disrupted our study routines and added pressure as we struggled to keep up with our studies independently. Returning to school after the lockdown felt like a fresh start, and we had to adapt quickly to catch up on lost time. Despite these challenges, the pandemic taught us resilience and the importance of adaptability in the face of unforeseen circumstances.

Emerging Victorious

Emerging victorious from these challenges was a testament to our perseverance and hard work. My final year in high school was marked by a renewed focus on academics and spiritual growth. With the support of friends, family, and sponsors, I managed to overcome the obstacles and perform well in my KCSE. Scoring a B was a significant achievement, and it marked the culmination of my secondary education journey. These experiences have prepared me for future challenges, instilling in me a sense of determination and resilience that will guide me in the years to come.

Chapter 4: TRANSITIONING TO CAMPUS LIFE

4.1 Pre-Campus Preparations

The transition from high school to university was a time of great excitement and anticipation for me. After completing my KCSE exams, I had a five-month break before starting university. During this time, I decided to equip myself with essential computer skills, knowing that they would be crucial for my studies and future career. My sister and two friends joined me in taking computer classes at a local cyber café, which was a bit far from home. The daily walks were tiring, but the experience was worth it. We spent a month learning various computer packages and, despite initial anxiety, I passed the final exam.

During this period, I also faced the important task of choosing a university course. Initially, I had no clear idea of what to pursue. Our high school provided guidance based on our interests, favorite subjects, and desired career fields. I realized that I was passionate about business, even though I hadn't taken it as a subject in high school due to unavoidable circumstances. After careful consideration, I chose BBIT (Bachelor of Business Information Technology) despite having no prior IT skills. I was anxious but determined, as I wanted a course that offered a balance between business and technology, avoiding pure business courses like BCOM due to concerns about job prospects.

4.2 Choosing the University

The next step was selecting a university. I filled out applications for several universities with alternative courses. My top choice was JKUAT, primarily because of its location in Nairobi, a bustling city where I preferred to study rather than in smaller

towns like Nyeri. However, when the university placement results were announced, I was allocated to Dedan Kimathi University in Nyeri for BBIT. While I was happy with the course, I felt a bit disappointed about not being in Nairobi like my sister and friends. Nonetheless, my aunt encouraged me, highlighting the growing demand for IT professionals due to technological advancements. This reassurance, coupled with knowing that some friends from my local church were also going to Dedan Kimathi, helped me feel more positive about my placement.

4.1.1 Excitement and Anticipation

My excitement to join university stemmed from the newfound freedom and opportunities it promised. Unlike at home, I would have the autonomy to manage my time, make my own decisions, and explore new interests. I eagerly anticipated meeting new people, making friends, and participating in activities that aligned with my hobbies, such as going on picnics and exploring new places. Additionally, I looked forward to joining the Christian Union (CU) to continue growing in my faith, which had been an important part of my life since high school.

4.1.2 Family and Support

One significant factor that motivated me to embrace studying in Nyeri was the proximity to my elder sister, Esther, who was in Karatina, a town near my campus. The thought of visiting her on weekends when I felt homesick or needed a break from campus life was comforting. This familial support eased my transition and made me feel more at ease about moving to a new place.

4.3 Academic Journey

My academic journey at university has been a rollercoaster of challenges and triumphs. From the moment I set foot on campus, I knew that this phase of my life would be transformative. However, I was not fully prepared for the ups and downs that came with it.

First Year: Adjusting to New Academic Demands

In my first year, I was introduced to C and C++ programming, which were quite challenging since I had no prior skills in programming or coding. The steep learning curve tested my perseverance, but I managed to cope. My overall performance in the

first year wasn't stellar, but I remained hopeful that I would improve as I got more familiar with the IT units.

One of the highlights of my first year was my performance in Economics, where I achieved an A. This gave me a much-needed confidence boost. However, the second semester was tough, especially with Risk Management, which proved to be a challenging subject for me. My focus wavered during this period as I got involved in a relationship that negatively impacted my grades. I also fell into bad company, spending more time partying and socializing than studying. This led to a significant decline in my academic performance.

Second Year: Turning Point

The beginning of my second year marked a turning point in my academic journey. After my relationship ended, I struggled to move on but eventually managed to refocus on my studies. I realized the importance of surrounding myself with positive influences, so I distanced myself from the bad company and made new friends who were motivated and goal-oriented.

Returning to the Christian Union (CU) played a crucial role in my turnaround. The support and encouragement from fellow believers helped me regain my focus and enjoy my time on campus. In the second semester of my second year, my grades improved significantly, and I developed a positive attitude towards my IT units. This shift in mindset allowed me to perform better academically and set higher goals for myself.

Third Year: Maturity and Growth

In my third year, I aimed to excel in my studies to boost my overall GPA for the fourth year. By this time, I had become more familiar with IT units, and they were no longer as daunting. Our class performed better collectively, and I found myself enjoying the coursework. This year marked a period of maturity for me. I became more cautious in my relationships and focused on making decisions that would positively impact my future.

The CU also went through significant changes. Previous leaders resigned due to disagreements about registering the CU under FOCUS Kenya. The transition period was challenging, but it led to the CU being registered, which brought structure and mentorship. This change was crucial for our spiritual growth and ensured that we received sound doctrinal teaching. I stepped into a leadership role as the Creative Ministry Director, which involved organizing activities like dancing, poetry, and art. This role taught me valuable lessons about responsibility, hard work, resilience, and perseverance. Balancing my academic life with CU leadership responsibilities was challenging, but it helped me take my studies more seriously and stay focused on my goals.

Fourth Year: Striving for Excellence

As I entered my fourth year, I was determined to make the most of my final year on campus. I attended the Ezra Conference organized by the CU, which provided me with a fresh perspective on my life and goals. Meeting students from various universities and learning from their experiences was enlightening and motivating.

With new resolutions for my last year, I worked diligently to achieve my academic and personal goals. I performed well in the first semester, thanks to my renewed focus and determination. In the Creative Ministry, I introduced new activities such as spoken word, comedy, Bible reciting, and drama skits, which helped the ministry grow both spiritually and in number.

One memorable moment was my birthday that year. Instead of the usual partying, I opted for a dinner with friends, and my cousin Vincent generously covered the bill. It was a fun and meaningful celebration. The CU also organized a fun day, which included activities like eating competitions and other games. These events helped us bond socially, interact, and create lasting memories.

Overcoming Challenges

Throughout my academic journey, I faced numerous challenges. Balancing academics with social life, dealing with the influence of peers, and managing personal relationships were all difficult. However, each challenge taught me valuable lessons

and contributed to my growth. I learned the importance of staying true to my values, surrounding myself with positive influences, and prioritizing my goals.

My involvement in CU leadership was particularly transformative. It taught me the importance of servant leadership, humility, and dedication. Despite the challenges, I found joy and fulfillment in serving others and helping them grow spiritually.

Conclusion

Reflecting on my academic journey, I am grateful for the experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today. The ups and downs, the successes and failures, have all played a part in my growth and development. As I look forward to completing my studies and embarking on my career, I carry with me the lessons learned and the determination to continue striving for excellence. My time at university has been a period of significant personal and academic growth, and I am excited to see where the future will take me.

4.4 Extracurricular Activities

My time in university was filled with a variety of extracurricular activities that enriched my experience and provided a balanced lifestyle beyond academics. From dancing to social media engagement, these activities played a crucial role in shaping my personal growth, leadership skills, and social connections.

Salsa Dance Club

When I was in my first year, the first group I joined was the Salsa Dance Club. I was drawn to salsa because it offered a chance for fame and allowed me to stand out. At the time, TikTok was gaining immense popularity, and everyone was eager to share their content on the platform. I had always dreamed of becoming an influencer, a passion that blossomed once I joined campus. This zealous desire for fame motivated me to take my first steps into content creation.

Initially, I was hesitant and only created dance content without posting it. However, my roommate, who also loved dancing, encouraged me to participate in TikTok challenges with her. Her motivation gave me the courage to post my first dance video. Joining the Salsa Dance Club seemed like a natural extension of my passion for

dancing. The club was well-known on campus, and I quickly learned new moves and enjoyed the group practices.

Commitment to the classes was crucial because practice makes perfect in salsa. I made many new friends in the group, including one friend who significantly influenced my love for salsa classes. However, my impatience with learning new moves and the daily commitment required for classes at 5 p.m. became challenging. The faster learners had more opportunities to perform at school events, such as modeling contests, which I aspired to join. Unfortunately, my other commitments clashed with salsa classes, and I struggled to keep up with the pace. Eventually, I decided to leave the salsa group.

Innovatia Dance Club

After leaving the salsa group, I joined another dance club on campus, Innovatia. I stayed in Innovatia for about a month. Despite the fun and exciting dance routines, the group wasn't very welcoming, and their experience made it difficult for me to keep up. The members were fast learners, and attending numerous events added to the pressure. Although I left the club, I didn't give up on my passion for dancing.

Creative Ministry in Christian Union

In my second year, I became more involved with the Christian Union (CU) and joined the Creative Ministry before its transition. The team was welcoming and motivated new members by treating them to lunch upon joining. We danced during services and guided the congregation through various moves. Initially, I lacked the courage to dance in front of a church, but the supportive environment encouraged me to participate. I stayed with the Creative Ministry for about a month until the CU transitioned, which temporarily disbanded the ministry.

When I was appointed as the leader of the new Creative Ministry, I was thrilled. I loved dancing and wanted to create a team where members felt motivated and at home. The transition period was challenging, as participation numbers were low, but I remained determined. By my third year, I decided to focus on gospel dances for TikTok challenges, believing that God was preparing me for my leadership role in the ministry.

Leadership in Creative Ministry

As the Creative Ministry Director, I expanded our activities to include Bible reciting, poetry, spoken word, and drama skits. These additions enriched the ministry, helping members grow both socially and spiritually. Over time, our ministry grew in numbers and we organized events such as Creative Services, where we expressed our talents in worship, and Worship Nights, which were deeply inspiring.

Receiving positive feedback from members about our ministry's impact was incredibly motivating. We performed at various events and competitions, which was both exhilarating and rewarding. Our efforts culminated in receiving a reward for the leadership of the ministry. These experiences taught me the importance of balancing academics with hobbies and helped me develop time management and leadership skills.

Social Media and Influence

My journey on TikTok paralleled my involvement in campus activities. Initially, my content was a mix of secular and gospel dances. However, as I grew spiritually, I shifted my focus to gospel content. This transition aligned with my role in the Creative Ministry, and I believe it was part of God's plan for me. Engaging with TikTok allowed me to reach a broader audience and share my passion for dancing and faith.

Participating in these extracurricular activities enriched my university experience in numerous ways. I learned the importance of commitment, perseverance, and balancing various aspects of life. These activities provided a platform for personal growth, helping me build a strong network of friends and mentors. They also taught me valuable skills such as leadership, time management, and effective communication.

Work Experience

During my university years, I gained valuable work experience through various online jobs. In my first year, I worked on Remotasks, a platform that provides various microtasks, including data annotation, transcription, and image labeling. This job equipped me with essential skills such as attention to detail, time management, and

proficiency in various software tools. It also enhanced my ability to work independently and meet tight deadlines, which are crucial skills in the BBIT field.

In addition to Remotasks, I have engaged in online writing, creating articles, journals, and academic content. Platforms like Fiverr and LinkedIn have been instrumental in connecting me with clients. Through academic writing, I have learned the importance of thorough research, clear communication, and adaptability. This experience has also taught me valuable lessons in hard work, patience, and persistence. Meeting client expectations and delivering quality work on time have been critical aspects of my online writing career, further preparing me for professional challenges.

Conclusion

Reflecting on my university journey, I am grateful for the opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities. These experiences not only enhanced my personal and social life but also complemented my academic pursuits. They played a significant role in shaping who I am today, providing me with the tools and confidence to navigate future challenges. As I look forward to the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the lessons learned and the memories made through these enriching activities.

Chapter 5: FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Becoming an Influencer

One of my primary future aspirations is to become a well-known influencer. My journey on TikTok and other social media platforms has been a significant part of my life since university. It began with a simple passion for dancing and a desire for fame, but it has grown into a meaningful way to share my talents and faith with a broader audience. As I continue to create content, I aim to build a strong personal brand that resonates with people worldwide.

Becoming an influencer will allow me to inspire others through my journey, sharing the ups and downs, lessons learned, and the joys of pursuing one's passion. I plan to leverage various social media platforms to engage with my audience, offering dance tutorials, motivational talks, and insights into my life as a BBIT professional. My goal

is to create content that entertains, educates, and encourages my followers to pursue their dreams relentlessly.

Career in BBIT

My academic journey in BBIT has prepared me for a dynamic career in the business and IT sectors. The challenges I faced and overcame during my studies have equipped me with the resilience and skills necessary to excel in this field. I aspire to work in a role that combines my business acumen with IT expertise, such as a business analyst, IT consultant, or project manager.

In the short term, I plan to gain practical experience by working with innovative companies that value technological advancements and employee growth. This will allow me to apply the knowledge gained from my BBIT degree and further develop my technical and managerial skills. In the long term, I aspire to take on leadership roles, where I can influence strategic decisions and drive technological innovations within organizations.

Continuing with Dancing

Dancing will always remain a core part of my identity and passion. As I advance in my career, I intend to continue pursuing dance both as a personal hobby and a means of connecting with others. Whether through teaching dance classes, participating in dance competitions, or creating dance content for social media, I aim to keep this art form alive in my life.

My leadership experience in the Creative Ministry at university has taught me the importance of nurturing talents and building supportive communities. I aspire to create a dance community where individuals can express themselves freely, learn from each other, and find solace in their shared love for dance. This community will serve as a platform for aspiring dancers to showcase their talents and gain recognition.

Traveling for Further Studies and Job Experience

Traveling has always been a source of inspiration and growth for me. I plan to pursue further studies, such as a Master's degree, in reputable institutions abroad. This will not only enhance my academic credentials but also provide me with a global

perspective on business and technology. Studying in different countries will expose me to diverse cultures, teaching methodologies, and innovative practices that can be applied in my career.

In addition to further studies, I aspire to gain international job experience. Working in different countries will allow me to understand global business dynamics, adapt to various work environments, and build a robust professional network. This experience will be invaluable in achieving my long-term career goals and establishing myself as a versatile and competent BBIT professional.

Reflection and Conclusion

Reflecting on my journey so far, I am grateful for the experiences and opportunities that have shaped me. From overcoming academic challenges to finding my passion for dancing and influencing others through social media, each step has been a valuable lesson. These experiences have instilled in me the importance of resilience, hard work, and staying true to one's passions.

Challenges and Triumphs

Reflecting on my journey, I realize that the challenges I faced have shaped me into who I am today. From the early struggles of adapting to a new school environment to the pressures of academic and personal life in university, each obstacle has been a stepping stone to growth. My proudest achievements, such as academic awards, successful projects, and personal growth milestones, are a testament to my resilience and determination.

Philosophy and Beliefs

My personal philosophy revolves around continuous growth, resilience, and empathy. I believe in the power of hard work, the importance of staying true to one's values, and the impact of kindness and compassion. These beliefs have guided me through tough times and will continue to be my compass as I navigate the future.

As I look to the future, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Becoming an influencer, excelling in my BBIT career, continuing with my passion for dancing, and traveling for further studies and job experience are all integral parts of my

aspirations. I am committed to pursuing these goals with determination and an open heart, embracing the challenges and opportunities that come my way.

My future aspirations are a blend of professional growth, personal fulfillment, and a desire to make a positive impact on others. Whether through my career, dance, or social media presence, I aim to inspire and uplift those around me. With the lessons learned from my past and the goals set for my future, I am ready to embark on this exciting journey, confident that it will be as rewarding as it is challenging.

Closing Thoughts

As I look back on my journey so far, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences, people, and lessons that have shaped my life. Each chapter of my life, from childhood memories to university experiences, has contributed to my growth and development. With a hopeful heart and a determined spirit, I am ready to embrace the future, armed with the lessons of the past and the dreams of tomorrow.