

MY JOURNEY: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY

Introduction

Life is a tapestry woven from countless threads of experiences, challenges, and achievements. My journey, like many others, has been shaped by a series of pivotal moments and influential people who have guided and inspired me along the way. In this autobiographical essay, I aim to provide an in-depth look at my life, from my earliest memories to my current endeavors.

This essay is not just a recounting of events, but a reflection on the lessons I have learned and the values I hold dear. It is a celebration of the cultural heritage that has shaped my identity, and a testament to the resilience and determination that have driven me to overcome obstacles and pursue my dreams.

Through this narrative, I hope to offer insights into the person I have become and to share the wisdom I have gained. Whether it is through recounting the joys of childhood, the rigors of academic life, or the milestones of my career, each chapter of my life has contributed to the mosaic of who I am today.

I invite you to join me on this journey, to explore the experiences that have defined me, and to understand the principles that guide my actions and decisions. ***This is the story of my life – a journey of growth, discovery, and continual learning.***

Early Life and Family Background

A Humble Beginning

On the 20th of June, 2000, in the serene surroundings of Nanyuki Hospital, located in Nanyuki Laikipia County, my story began. Born to Francis Kamara Chege and Lucy Wanjira Mungai – farmers in Murungaru village and Kenyan citizens by birth, I entered the world as the youngest member of a vibrant and bustling family of seven. Both parents are Kikuyus with their parents also as Kikuyus. My arrival was not only a new chapter for my parents but also for my siblings – one brother and three sisters – who would become my lifelong companions and mentors.

My birthplace, a village called Murungaru near Kambi Tigithi sub location in the Kieni East division, is a place rich with culture and community spirit. It is here, amidst the struggles and joys of daily life, that my identity was forged. Our family, though faced with many challenges, was bound by a deep sense of love and perseverance. Growing up in a modest household, my early years were filled with the simplicity and purity of rural life, where every small victory was celebrated and every hardship faced with resilience.

I was named Henry Wanyoike Kamara, the name that my parents had agreed upon before I was born. Wanyoike is a family name from my mother's side since my brother who came before me was named Chege — a family name from my father's side. My English name Henry would later be changed to Stephen due to reasons still a mystery to me. As a child my mother used to work a lot. My father would travel to Nairobi city and neighboring towns with an aim to provide for his family. This left my mother as the only immediate parent and hence she had to work to provide for us. I was a peaceful child who welcomed even strangers to hold me in their arms.

In the village where I was born, there's a man whose name is Mr. Kioni a.k.a Baba Jose. He is a family man and a pillar of the society as I would later come to experience. He is well known for his generosity, patience, lifelong wisdom and a provider at all cost. With no doubt he and his whole household witnessed my birth and have been a part of my life ever since.

In the 2000s, life had not yet seen the light of day in the rural areas. It was hard to raise a child, let alone five. My siblings had all joined a primary school called Kambi Primary School, a local institution well known for its discipline and production of high-quality pupils with insightful and intuitive mindsets. I admired them in their school uniforms as they always left early in the morning grumbling and returned in the evening tired and beat. I always wondered why they hated school so much, considering I imagined it to be a utopia in my young, innocent imagination. Little did I know that I'd be joining them soon.

At the age of two, I was introduced to family traditions and values. My mother, deeply rooted in Christian faith, was a loyal friend and disciple of the Lord Jesus. She had been raised this way by her mother, my grandma Wanjirũ. With this in mind, my knowledge of the existence of a God out there somewhere began at a tender age. I remember that we used to hold a prayer session before every meal, especially before supper. As a child, I hated it. Having not eaten anything since lunchtime, I was always very hungry, and the sight of food made my stomach hurt. My mother

served the food and then ordered the prayer session. Each one of us gave our thanks to this supernatural being who I'd later come to understand as Jesus Christ, the King of Israel. In my later years, I understood that the point of this prayer session was to instill discipline, patience, and endurance, which played a great role to this very day.

My mother, brother, and elder sister Hadassah played a significant role in my life. They raised me to become the person I am today. They pointed me in the right direction and encouraged me to press on. I remember the words of hope that my mother always said to me, "Son, poverty has no roots. The one who began this work is with you to the end of the age." These very words have been my principle and a major rock in my life.

Educational Journey

Early Education

Primary School

At around three years old, I eagerly embraced the news that it was "time to go to school". Up until then, I spent much of my time alone while my mother worked, eagerly awaiting the return of my siblings each evening. Joining Kambi Primary School, where my siblings also attended, marked a significant turning point. School became my sanctuary from the chores at home, offering me a chance to make friends and enjoy a different environment.

I started early, entering the pre-unit (formerly Baby Class) and nursery under Kenya's 8-4-4 education system. Despite being younger than most, I made a promising start, demonstrating sharp academic abilities and consistently excelling in class activities and competitions. However, the transition to Class 1 brought unexpected news—I had to repeat the year due to my younger age at enrollment, despite leading academically by a significant margin.

This setback fueled my determination rather than dampened it. I remained committed to my education, viewing it as a pathway to a better future for myself and my family. I eventually progressed through primary school with a notable record of academic achievement, rarely experiencing defeat until encountering formidable competition in Class 7.

In Class 5, I also joined the school's scout team, a decision that would significantly shape my character throughout primary school. Serving as a scout until the end of my primary education, I learned the values of teamwork, leadership, and responsibility. This experience complemented my academic pursuits, providing a holistic foundation for personal growth and community engagement.

The arrival of a highly skilled student from an Academy school challenged my long-standing academic dominance. Initially shaken by this new competition, I struggled with my first taste of defeat, shedding tears in private. However, guided by the encouragement of influential teachers like Mrs. Matu, who emphasized the importance of social connection and resilience, I regrouped.

In Class 8, with newfound determination and the support of friends equally committed to academic success, I overcame my rival by a narrow margin in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams. This victory, achieved through hard work and collaboration, marked a turning point in my educational journey, reinforcing the lesson that growth often emerges from adversity.

Beyond academics, I also immersed myself in extracurricular activities, joining the local KAMBI All-Stars football club as a midfielder, further enriching my school experience.

As I reflect on my early years in education, I recognize the challenges and triumphs that shaped my resilience and determination. Each hurdle, from early setbacks to later successes, contributed to my growth and prepared me for the journey ahead.

High School .

Having completed my primary school education at Kambi Primary School, my future looked promising. I received an invitation to join Baricho Boys High School, a national-level institution located near Kerugoya and Kutus in Kirinyaga County, Kenya. This was thrilling news. Out of all the students who took the KCSE at Kambi Primary School, I was the only one who secured a place in a national school. Despite this opportunity, the reality was that we had no money. It had

taken everything my parents had to get me this far, but I never gave up hope. Patience and endurance were virtues I had learned well.

Fortunately, I had made friends abroad in class eight. One from the University of Minnesota [Wisconsin] in the United States came to my aid. They had sponsored my sister, Hadassah, and were willing to support me as well. Thanks to their generosity, I was able to make it to Form 2.

Life was challenging at first in high school. Coming from a local primary school, I had never experienced a life where so many students lived together, ate together, slept in the same dormitories, watched football together, and went to church together. This was all new to me. I joined high school 15 days after the rest of the students because my family couldn't acquire the intake requirements within the given time. By then, everyone else had settled in, and I was the newbie among many strangers. A loyal friend of mine, Maurice Njihia from Nyandarua County, was the first to welcome me. This was a confusing time, and finding a helping hand amidst so many was a blessing I never forgot.

I spent the first week lurking in the shadows, trying to figure people out. Finally, the weekend came. Universally, weekends are the best time to blow off some steam and rest from the tiring work. A key moment that would change my entire life happened then. I remember washing all my newly acquired and unlabeled uniforms and hanging them on the line. I then followed my colleagues for a good old movie time. When evening came, I felt the cold and rushed to check if my blazer had dried. To my astonishment, nothing was on the line—not even my handkerchief. I was confused. I thought people here were nice, but my uniform was new and unlabeled, making it untraceable.

Confused and beaten, I sought aid. This point in my life was crucial, as it pulled me out of my shadows. I began to know some people and make friends. Then, it so happened that a student from my home's neighboring village, Tony Mwit, who had also schooled at Kambi Primary, was a student at Baricho Boys High School. Tony picked me up from my low position, assured me that things would get better, and encouraged me to adapt. He gave me a shirt and a pair of trousers and encouraged me to survive. I thank Tony for watching my back when I was at my weakest.

Even amidst chaos and misfortunes, I managed to score a B+ in my first high school exams with only a week to study. This was something, but it almost led to a severe punishment since it was average for a national school. My teachers, especially Mrs. Muriuki, were lenient and gave me a second chance. It was a time to pull up my socks right from the word go.

High school finally started getting easier. I joined the class football team as a defensive midfielder. This was exciting for me as I got to know more friends like Ken Jotham, who was excellent at dribbling, and Moses Oketch, who was literally the Kenyan Mbappé. I would have loved to join the Karate club but lacked the registration fee. Instead, I embarked on self-training and held some local showcases with Derrick, a black belt level kickboxer. He taught me a lot, which added to my discipline and personal growth.

Chemistry was my favorite subject. The teacher, Rebecca Asikoye, was kind and experienced in high school chemistry. I came to love the subject dearly and managed to score a straight A in my KCSE. I also learned a lot from Mr. Onsongo, my Biology teacher and the discipline master. He taught me hard work, endurance, and accountability.

I am forever grateful to God, my mother, and my teachers for their efforts in ensuring I learned from my mistakes and got up and dusted myself off every time I fell. Their hard work, generosity, and selflessness amounted to something great. I also thank the University of Minnesota [Wisconsin] for supporting my high school education through the second year. Their help will never be forgotten. With all the support I received, I was able to score a B+ despite all the challenges.

Adolescence and Teenage Years

Navigating Teenage Years

My teenage years were a whirlwind of emotions and self-discovery. Like many adolescents, I struggled with finding my identity and fitting in while navigating the complexities of high school. One of the most significant aspects of this period was the friendships I formed. These weren't just friendships; they were lifelines in the tumultuous sea of adolescence.

I remember meeting Maryanne in seventh grade English class. We bonded instantly over our shared love of literature and soon became inseparable. Maryanne was more than just a friend; she was a confidante who listened to my teenage rants about crushes, teachers, and family dramas without judgment. Our everyday conversations about our dreams and fears became the cornerstone of my adolescence.

Another important friendship was with Daniel, the son of the humble Baba Jose. We were neighbors and as teenagers we used to do a lot together like fetch firewood, play soccer, fetch water and just be boys. He taught me the value of perseverance and teamwork. Together, we faced challenges, celebrated victories, and learned invaluable lessons about loyalty and friendship. Back then I would not have predicted it but to this very day Daniel is my best friend. We are brothers in Christ and follow the Lord's teachings with the knowledge of the principle that there is no room for compromise. Daniel is a pillar in my life. He is a family friend and a lifetime homie.

Formative Experiences and Lessons Learned

During these formative years, I encountered experiences that shaped my values and beliefs. One such experience was overcoming my fear of public speaking. I vividly remember trembling with nerves before my first presentation in front of the entire class. With encouragement from my friends and support from a patient teacher, I gradually gained confidence and even discovered a hidden talent for storytelling.

Another pivotal moment was when I volunteered at a local shelter during a school community service project. Witnessing firsthand the struggles of the homeless and marginalized deeply impacted me. It taught me empathy, gratitude for my own circumstances, and sparked a lifelong commitment to helping others in need.

Throughout my adolescence, I learned that setbacks and failures are inevitable but essential for personal growth. Whether it was failing a math test or experiencing heartbreak, each challenge

taught me resilience and the importance of perseverance. These experiences laid the foundation for my adult life, teaching me that adversity can be a catalyst for positive change.

In conclusion, my teenage years were a time of profound personal growth and discovery. Through friendships, formative experiences, and lessons learned, I gained a deeper understanding of myself and the world around me. These experiences continue to shape who I am today, reminding me of the resilience and strength found within the journey of adolescence.

Certainly! Here's an extended narrative that includes the additional details about your friendships and cultural exchanges during your higher education journey:

Higher Education

Choosing a Career Path

My journey at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology began in January 2020, a pivotal moment as I embarked on a path towards a career in Information Technology (IT). Since high school, my fascination with technology's potential to innovate and solve real-world problems had grown steadily. Pursuing a Bachelor of Science in IT felt like the natural progression to delve deeper into this dynamic field and make a meaningful impact.

University Life

Nestled amidst the serene surroundings of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, my university life was a kaleidoscope of academic challenges, personal growth, and enriching experiences. The campus buzzed with energy, filled with like-minded individuals passionate about technology and its applications. Beyond academics, I embraced extracurricular activities

and forged lasting friendships that enriched my collegiate experience.

Significant Academic Projects and Research

Throughout my academic journey, I undertook a series of significant projects that expanded my technical prowess and deepened my understanding of IT applications. From developing practical applications like the Ice Cream Parlor App and the Windows Port scan App to more complex ventures such as designing and launching an E-commerce website, each project presented unique challenges and learning opportunities. One particularly engaging endeavor was my current work on a Machine Learning project aimed at predicting tomato leaf diseases—a project that not only sharpened my analytical skills but also highlighted IT's potential in agricultural innovation.

Internship and Practical Experiences

Complementing my coursework were valuable internship experiences that bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications. Serving as an internal attachment as a lab assistant provided firsthand insights into setting up and maintaining IT infrastructure. These practical experiences not only reinforced classroom learning but also exposed me to the intricacies of IT operations and problem-solving within the industry.

Cultural Exchange and Friendships

Beyond academic pursuits and professional growth, my university years were enriched by profound cultural exchanges and enduring friendships. Among my closest friends were Mark, Jethro, and Frank—individuals with whom I shared not only academic challenges but also personal triumphs and aspirations. Our friendship extended beyond campus walls; it was a bond built on mutual respect and support.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of meeting Michael and Solomon from Western Kenya, whose friendship blossomed into a lasting connection. Our interactions were marked by a rich exchange of cultural perspectives. I eagerly shared insights into my Kikuyu culture, traditions, and values,

while they reciprocated with stories of their heritage and upbringing in Western Kenya. These dialogues fostered a deeper appreciation for diversity and broadened my worldview, highlighting the importance of cultural understanding in a globalized world.

Our discussions ranged from politics and economics to music and sports, each conversation offering a glimpse into our respective backgrounds and shaping our perspectives. Whether debating the impact of technology on traditional practices or celebrating cultural festivals together, these interactions were a testament to the transformative power of shared knowledge and mutual respect.

Achievement

As I approach the culmination of my academic journey, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in IT signifies not only academic achievement but also personal growth and professional readiness. The challenges overcome, friendships forged, and knowledge gained have laid a robust foundation for my future endeavors in the dynamic field of Information Technology.

Early Career Development

My journey into the professional world began before I even entered university, with my first job at Narumoru Victory Academy. Working as an English, Kiswahili, and Computer teacher, I gained valuable insights into the education sector and developed foundational skills that would shape my future career path.

First Job and Early Career Steps

Before enrolling at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, I spent a significant part of my early career at Narumoru Victory Academy. As a teacher of English, Kiswahili, and Computer studies, I immersed myself in the dynamic environment of education. This role was instrumental in shaping my understanding of teaching methodologies, classroom management, and the

importance of integrating technology into education.

Professional Milestones and Achievements

During my tenure at Narumoru Victory Academy, I achieved several milestones that underscored my dedication and commitment to education. I successfully implemented innovative teaching strategies, including the use of technology to enhance learning outcomes. This approach not only engaged students but also prepared them for a technology-driven world.

My ability to connect with students and create a conducive learning environment was recognized by colleagues and school management. I received positive feedback for my contributions to student development and academic achievement.

Challenges and How I Overcame Them

Navigating the challenges of teaching required resilience and adaptability. I encountered diverse learning needs among students, which challenged me to personalize my teaching approach and cater to individual strengths and weaknesses. Balancing teaching responsibilities with administrative tasks and extracurricular activities taught me valuable time management and organizational skills.

To overcome these challenges, I actively sought professional development opportunities, collaborated with experienced educators, and embraced feedback as opportunities for growth. Through teamwork and perseverance, I was able to create meaningful learning experiences for my students and contribute positively to the school community.

Key Skills and Knowledge Acquired

My experience at Narumoru Victory Academy equipped me with foundational skills that have been instrumental throughout my academic and professional journey. Beyond subject-specific knowledge in English, Kiswahili, and Computer studies, I developed strong interpersonal skills,

including communication, empathy, and leadership.

I learned the importance of teamwork, adaptability, and resilience in a fast-paced educational environment. These skills have continued to serve me well as I transitioned from teaching to pursuing higher education at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

As I reflect on my early career development, I recognize the profound impact of my experiences at Narumoru Victory Academy. The lessons learned and skills acquired have laid a solid foundation for my subsequent academic pursuits and prepared me for the challenges and opportunities ahead in the field of Information Technology.

Personal Interests and Hobbies

Outside of my professional endeavors, I am passionate about various hobbies and interests that enrich my life and provide moments of relaxation and fulfillment. One of my greatest passions is gaming, particularly mobile games like efootball and PUBG. Gaming allows me to immerse myself in different virtual worlds, compete with friends, and unwind after a busy day.

Another significant interest of mine is nature exploration. I am a nature enthusiast who finds solace and inspiration in the great outdoors. Whether hiking through lush forests, discovering hidden waterfalls, or simply admiring breathtaking landscapes, I cherish the serene moments that nature offers. These experiences rejuvenate my spirit and remind me of the beauty and tranquility that exist in the world.

Community Involvement and Volunteering

Community involvement is a cornerstone of my life. I am actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life in Murungaru village. One of my notable contributions includes participating in community road building projects, which play a crucial role in enhancing accessibility and infrastructure within the village. These projects not only strengthen community bonds but also empower residents to create positive change in their environment.

Additionally, my involvement in the Church of Christ Naromoru is a central part of my community engagement. I am dedicated to supporting church activities that serve the local community, including outreach programs, youth development initiatives, and educational projects. A significant achievement within this context was contributing to the construction of the church building where we gather for worship and fellowship. This project symbolizes our collective commitment to spiritual growth and community unity.

Personal Projects and Achievements

Beyond my professional and community endeavors, I actively pursue personal projects that align with my interests and values. Whether it's organizing gaming tournaments for local enthusiasts, leading nature expeditions to showcase hidden gems in the countryside, or spearheading community-driven initiatives, I strive to make a positive impact through my actions.

One of my proudest achievements is the collaborative effort with Daniel, my friend and brother in Christ, in various community and church activities. Together, we have made meaningful contributions to our village and church community, fostering a spirit of unity and service among residents.

In short, my life outside of work is characterized by a diverse range of interests, from gaming and nature exploration to community involvement and volunteering. These passions not only enrich my personal experiences but also underscore my commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Whether through recreational pursuits, community service, or personal projects, I find fulfillment in contributing to a more vibrant and connected community.

Challenges and Resilience

Throughout my journey, I have encountered significant obstacles and setbacks that tested my resilience and faith. These experiences have shaped my understanding of perseverance and the unwavering belief that God's timing is perfect.

Major Obstacles and Setbacks

One of the greatest challenges I faced was the recurring struggle to raise school fees during my formative years. There were times when my parents faced immense difficulties in meeting educational expenses, forcing me to stay out of school for nearly two years before joining university. This period of uncertainty and financial hardship was particularly daunting as I watched my peers progress academically while I remained on the sidelines.

Strategies for Coping and Overcoming Difficulties

In times of adversity, my faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior has been my anchor. I have consistently placed my hopes and trust in God, believing that He would provide and use those around me to support and uplift me. Prayer and relying on the strength of my community and loved ones became essential coping mechanisms during these challenging times.

Stories of Resilience and Strength

One poignant story that stands out is the time I had to stay out of high school for an entire month to help raise funds for my school fees. Throughout my journey from Form 2 to Form 4, I learned to navigate the educational system without paying a cent, a testament to God's providence and the support of compassionate individuals who extended a helping hand when I needed it most.

Another significant hurdle was the two-year hiatus I endured before joining university. During this period, I hustled tirelessly, trusting in God's plan and provision. It was a time of profound personal growth and spiritual maturation as I learned to persevere with unwavering faith that God would open doors at the right time.

These experiences have taught me invaluable lessons in resilience, patience, and the importance of trusting in God's timing. Each obstacle I encountered became an opportunity to strengthen my faith and reliance on divine guidance. Through it all, I have emerged stronger, more determined, and deeply grateful for the blessings and lessons learned along the way.

Reflections on Personal Values and Beliefs

Core Values and Principles

At the core of my life are fundamental values that guide my actions and decisions with unwavering clarity. Patience, hard work, and the pursuit of genuine gain without compromise form the bedrock of my approach to life. These principles reflect my commitment to integrity and diligence in all endeavors. Self-control and purity in thought and action are cornerstones of my personal ethics, ensuring that I uphold moral standards and strive for spiritual purity. Above all, my faith in God as my rock and anchor provides me with strength and guidance through every challenge and triumph, anchoring my values in a foundation of unwavering belief.

Influences that Shaped My Beliefs

Central to the shaping of my beliefs and values is John Mwangi Gakau, a teacher of the word and a wise mentor at the Kenya Church of Christ Naromoru. His teachings, deeply rooted in both spiritual truths and profound psychological insights, have profoundly enriched my understanding of God and human behavior. I deeply admire John's genuine approach to teaching, where he imparts knowledge generously and without reservation, inspiring a thirst for wisdom and truth within his students. He is not only a mentor but also a role model whose dedication to truth and wisdom compels me to aspire to impact lives through teaching, as he does.

John Mwangi Gakau's influence extends beyond academic instruction; he played a pivotal role in my spiritual journey by baptizing me, marking a significant milestone in my commitment to faith. Since that transformative moment, he has continued to nurture my spiritual growth, guiding me from foundational teachings to deeper spiritual insights. His mentorship has been instrumental in shaping my character and reinforcing my dedication to living by the values that define me.

How My Values Guide My Actions and Decisions

My values serve as a moral compass that directs my actions and decisions across personal, professional, and community endeavors. They compel me to prioritize honesty, integrity, and respect for all life, particularly human life, in all my interactions. I actively promote self-control and advocate for young people to embrace moral courage, encouraging them to reject compromises that undermine their principles and values.

These values have not only shaped my identity but also provided steadfast guidance through challenges and adversity. They serve as a reminder that remaining steadfast in faith ensures resilience and unwavering commitment, even in the face of life's most daunting trials.

In conclusion, my journey is defined by an unwavering commitment to living out my core values—patience, hard work, integrity, self-control, and faith in God. The teachings of Jesus Christ as taught by John Mwangi Gakau continue to inspire me to pursue wisdom and truth, and I aspire to emulate his genuine dedication to teaching and mentoring others. As I navigate life's complexities, I am grateful for the solid foundation of values that has shaped me into the person I am today.

Cultural Identity and Heritage

As a member of the Kikuyu community, my cultural identity is deeply intertwined with the rich heritage and traditions passed down through generations. My connection to my cultural roots serves as a source of pride and a guiding influence in my life.

Connection to My Cultural Roots

Growing up in a Kikuyu family, I was immersed in the traditions, language, and values that define our community. From an early age, I learned the importance of respect for elders, communal harmony, and the significance of rituals and ceremonies that mark important milestones in life. These cultural practices have shaped my worldview and instilled a strong sense of belonging to the Kikuyu heritage.

Traditions and Practices I Uphold

I uphold several key traditions and practices that are integral to Kikuyu culture. One such tradition is the practice of “Ituika,” which emphasizes communal unity and collective responsibility within the family and community. I also value the significance of rites of passage such as “Ruracio” (dowry payment ceremony) and “Ngurario” (marriage ceremony), which celebrate the union of families and uphold cultural norms and values.

Language plays a crucial role in preserving our cultural identity, and I am committed to speaking Kikuyu fluently and teaching it to future generations. Through storytelling, proverbs, and folk tales, I pass down ancestral wisdom and moral lessons that have guided our community for centuries.

Contributions to Preserving and Promoting My Culture

I am passionate about preserving and promoting Kikuyu culture through active participation in community events and initiatives. One of my contributions has been organizing cultural festivals and workshops that showcase Kikuyu traditions, music, dance, and cuisine. These events not only celebrate our heritage but also educate and inspire younger generations to embrace and take pride in their cultural identity.

Moreover, I actively support efforts to document and archive oral histories, traditional practices, and artifacts that are integral to Kikuyu culture. By preserving these aspects of our heritage, we ensure that future generations have access to their cultural roots and can continue to uphold and evolve our traditions in a contemporary context.

In all aspects of my life, whether in personal interactions or professional endeavors, I strive to embody the values of unity, respect, and resilience that define the Kikuyu community. By honoring and promoting our cultural heritage, I contribute to the vibrant tapestry of diversity that enriches our society.

Future Aspirations and Goals

Short-term Goals

In the immediate future, my goal is to establish myself as a professional networking administrator. I aim to enhance my skills and expertise in managing and optimizing network systems, ensuring seamless connectivity and security for organizations. I plan to pursue certifications and participate in relevant training programs to stay updated with the latest advancements in networking technologies.

Long-term Vision and Ambitions

Looking ahead, my long-term vision encompasses working remotely for prominent global tech companies such as Google, Amazon, Microsoft, or even exploring opportunities in countries like Canada, USA, China, or Japan. I aspire to leverage my skills in networking administration to contribute to cutting-edge projects and innovations in the tech industry. My ultimate ambition is to excel in a role where I can make a significant impact on global connectivity and technological advancements.

Personal and Professional Aspirations

On a personal level, I envision building a successful and nurturing family where faith in God serves as the central pillar of our lives. I am committed to fostering a loving and supportive environment where each family member can thrive and pursue their dreams.

Professionally, I am inspired by visionaries like Elon Musk, whose resilience and entrepreneurial spirit have revolutionized multiple industries. I admire his ability to lead companies like Tesla and SpaceX, pioneering advancements in electric vehicles, space exploration, and renewable energy. I aspire to emulate his drive and determination, aiming to ignite that same passion and innovation in my own career journey.

My future aspirations encompass both personal fulfillment and professional achievement. By focusing on continuous learning, pursuing career opportunities with global impact, and maintaining a strong foundation in faith and family, I am determined to realize my dreams and contribute positively to the world around me.

Lessons Learned and Wisdom Gained

Reflecting on my life experiences, I have gleaned profound lessons that have shaped my perspective and enriched my journey. These key takeaways serve as guiding principles that inform my decisions and interactions, both personally and professionally.

One of the most significant lessons I've learned is the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. Throughout various challenges and setbacks, I have discovered the power of perseverance and the resilience to bounce back stronger. Each obstacle has taught me valuable lessons about patience, determination, and the unwavering belief that hardships are temporary and can be overcome with perseverance and faith.

Another crucial takeaway has been the value of embracing diversity and learning from different perspectives. Interacting with people from diverse backgrounds has broadened my understanding of the world and enriched my cultural awareness. It has taught me the importance of empathy, respect, and open-mindedness in fostering meaningful relationships and collaborations.

Furthermore, I have learned the significance of continuous learning and personal growth. Whether through formal education, professional development, or life experiences, I actively seek opportunities to expand my knowledge and skills. Embracing a growth mindset has empowered me to adapt to change, innovate, and pursue new avenues for personal and professional advancement.

Advice for Others

Based on my journey, I offer the following advice to others navigating their own paths:

1. **Embrace Challenges as Opportunities:** View challenges as opportunities for growth and learning. Every setback is a chance to discover your resilience and strengthen your character.
2. **Stay True to Your Values:** Uphold integrity, honesty, and empathy in all your endeavors. Your values serve as a moral compass that guides your decisions and actions.
3. **Cultivate Relationships:** Invest in meaningful relationships with family, friends, and mentors who support and inspire you. Surround yourself with positive influences that encourage personal and professional development.
4. **Never Stop Learning:** Commit to lifelong learning and continuous improvement. Stay curious, seek new knowledge, and embrace opportunities to expand your skills and perspectives.
5. **Trust in Divine Timing:** Have faith in God's plan for your life. Trust that challenges and successes alike are part of a larger journey toward personal fulfillment and purpose.

Personal Mantras and Philosophies

Central to my approach to life are personal mantras and philosophies that guide my daily actions and decisions:

"With God, all things are possible": This mantra reminds me of the power of faith and resilience in overcoming obstacles and achieving my goals. It instills in me a sense of hope and trust in divine guidance.

"Strive for excellence, not perfection": I believe in setting high standards for myself while recognizing that perfection is elusive. By focusing on continuous improvement and excellence in everything I do, I embrace growth and innovation.

"Leave a positive impact": I aspire to leave a positive impact on everyone I encounter, whether through kindness, encouragement, or meaningful contributions to my community and society.

"Embrace challenges as opportunities": Challenges are inevitable in life, but they also present opportunities for growth, learning, and personal development. I approach challenges with a mindset of resilience and determination.

To wrap it up, my journey has been shaped by valuable lessons, resilient perseverance, and a commitment to personal growth and integrity. Through these insights, I strive to inspire others to embrace challenges, cultivate meaningful relationships, and pursue excellence in all aspects of life. By living according to my personal mantras and philosophies, I aim to make a positive difference in the world and leave a lasting legacy of faith, resilience, and compassion.

Summary of My Journey

Reflecting on my life's journey, from humble beginnings in Murungaru village to pursuing higher education at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, I see a tapestry woven with diverse experiences, challenges, and achievements. Each chapter of my life has contributed to shaping the person I am today—a resilient individual driven by faith, perseverance, and a passion for technology. My journey is not just a series of events but a testament to the values instilled by my family, the lessons learned through education, and the transformative power of personal growth.

Reflections on Growth and Change

Throughout my journey, I have witnessed profound growth and transformative change. From overcoming financial hurdles to excelling academically and professionally, each challenge has strengthened my resolve and deepened my commitment to continuous learning. My experiences as a teacher at Narumoru Victory Academy taught me invaluable lessons in patience, leadership, and the importance of education in shaping young minds. University life broadened my horizons, fostering friendships and cultural exchanges that enriched my perspective. These experiences have equipped me with the skills and resilience necessary to navigate the complexities of life and career.

Final Thoughts and Messages

As I embark on the next phase of my life, I carry with me the lessons learned and the values that guide my actions. I am grateful for the unwavering support of my family, mentors, and friends

who have believed in me and encouraged me to pursue my dreams. Their love and guidance have been instrumental in my journey of growth and self-discovery.

To those embarking on their own journeys, I offer these words of encouragement: embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, remain steadfast in your principles, and never underestimate the power of perseverance. Trust in God's timing and lean on the support of those around you. Remember that every setback is a stepping stone to success, and every experience—both joyful and challenging—shapes your character and resilience.

In conclusion, my journey is a testament to the transformative power of perseverance, faith, and determination. I am eager to embark on new adventures, contributing positively to the IT industry and making a meaningful impact in my community and beyond. With gratitude for the past and hope for the future, I look forward to embracing the opportunities that lie ahead.
