

**PAINTING THE STORIES OF MY
LIFE
ON A CANVAS OF MEMORIES.**

MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Introduction.

Life is a fascinating journey filled with twists, turns, and unforgettable moments. As I look back on my own path, I am reminded of the diverse experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today. This autobiography is a glimpse into my life, a collection of moments and mosaics that have left an indelible mark on me and those around me.

CHAPTER 1: EARLY YEARS

My name is Glenda Waithira Maina. I was born on 23rd June 2003. I am 21 years old living in Nakuru County, Kenya. I am the last born daughter to my parents alongside my other 3 siblings, making a nuclear family of 6.

I was born in Kiambu County . As the last born, I found my place within the bustling household, surrounded by the warmth of familial bonds. I discovered the beauty of companionship and the strength found in unity. Though each member of my family contributes their own distinct thread to the fabric of our collective story, I stand here as a testament to the love and support that has nurtured me throughout the years.

From the guidance of my parents to the laughter shared with my older siblings, every moment has shaped me into the person I am today. As I navigate the winding paths of life, I carry with me the values instilled by my upbringing: resilience, compassion, and a steadfast faith in the journey ahead. With gratitude in my heart and determination in my step, I embrace the challenges and joys that await, knowing that I am surrounded by the unwavering love of my dear family.

Early Years: A Harmonious Childhood

My early years were marked by a nurturing upbringing, rich in family bonds, friendships, and a strong sense of community. I grew up in a close-knit village where life was uncomplicated, and the values of unity and togetherness were deeply embedded. I spent much of my time with my grandparents, with whom I shared a very close relationship.

Life with Cousins and Childhood Friends

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

Playtime in the neighborhood Playgrounds

Our village boasted several playgrounds, which served as the epicenter of our youthful delight. These open spaces became our canvas for creativity, imagination, and endless games. From playing tag to these playgrounds were where we learned the values of teamwork, and the thrill of friendly competition.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

My childhood memories are a treasure trove of delightful experiences and heartfelt moments that shaped who I am today. Growing up as the last born in a close-knit family, I was enveloped in the warmth and affection of my parents, siblings, and extended family.

A Harmonious Upbringing:

My early years were marked by a nurturing environment filled with love and laughter. I was surrounded by family bonds, friendships, and a strong sense of community. Growing up in a close-knit village, life was simple, and the values of unity and togetherness were deeply ingrained in me. I spent countless hours with my grandparents, whose wisdom and stories enriched my young mind. Their presence was a constant source of comfort and joy, and our close relationship remains one of my most cherished memories.

Adventures with Siblings, Cousins, and Friends:

Living near my cousins and childhood friends was a true blessing. We shared a unique camaraderie that added a special dimension to my upbringing. Together with my siblings, we explored every corner of the village, from playing games in open fields to embarking on countless adventures. Our days were filled with the sound of laughter and the thrill of discovery. Whether it was building forts, pretending to be explorers, or simply enjoying each other's company, our bonds were forged in the carefree joy of youth and have lasted a lifetime.

Holiday Visits to Grandparents:

Holidays were especially memorable when we visited my grandparents' home. These visits were filled with joy and excitement. I loved helping them with various duties, whether it was tending to the garden, feeding the animals, or simply assisting with household chores. These moments taught me the value of hard work and the importance of family traditions. The stories my grandparents shared and the wisdom they imparted during these times remain deeply ingrained in my heart.

Siblings' Homecoming:

During the holidays, when my siblings returned from boarding school, our home was filled with even more joy and activity. I cherished these times, as we all came together to create new memories and strengthen our familial bonds. Whether we were playing games, sharing stories, or simply enjoying each other's company, these moments were precious and have left an indelible mark on my heart.

Neighborhood Playgrounds:

The neighborhood playgrounds were the epicenter of our youthful joy. These open spaces became our canvas for creativity, imagination, and endless games. From playing tag and hide-and-seek to these playgrounds were where we learned the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and the exhilaration of friendly competition.

Introduction to the Christian Faith:

My journey through education and faith was deeply influenced by my upbringing. Even before I stepped into Primary and High School, my parents played a significant role in introducing me to the Christian faith through the Africa Inland Church.

Early Years of Faith:

I grew up in a household where the values of faith, love, and compassion were a way of life. My parents were devout Christians, and they imparted their spiritual beliefs to me from a young age. I was surrounded by religious symbols, attended church regularly with my family, and learned the stories of the Bible at bedtime.

Eager to Get Baptized:

As a child, I was eager to embrace the Christian faith fully. I admired the rituals, the beauty of the church, and the sense of community that came with it. The idea of baptism, in particular, fascinated me. I couldn't wait to take this important step and officially become a part of the Christian community.

Bible Teachings and Baptism:

My dream of getting baptized became a reality after going through Bible teachings and preparation classes. My parents and church leaders played a crucial role in guiding me through this process. The day of my baptism was a memorable one. I stood in front of my family, godparents, and members of the congregation. As the holy water touched my forehead, I felt a profound sense of belonging to the Christian faith. After the ceremony, I received a baptism certificate, which I cherish as a symbol of my commitment to my faith.

Growing Spiritually:

My early experiences with the Christian faith laid the foundation for my spiritual growth. The values of faith, love, and compassion that my parents instilled in me were reinforced by my church's strong emphasis on Bible teachings. It was a beautiful union of home and church that nurtured my faith and character, shaping the person I am today.

Active Church Life:

Attending Sunday services, Sunday school, and participating in various church groups enriched my spiritual journey. These activities provided a sense of community and belonging, and they played a significant role in my spiritual development. I learned about the teachings of Jesus, the importance of living a moral life, and the power of prayer.

In Conclusion:

My journey through Springs Junior Academy ,Gatero Girls High School, and my early years of faith have been intertwined in a tapestry of growth, learning, and self-discovery. The values instilled in me by my parents, the lessons learned through the Christian faith, and the experiences at church have prepared me to face the future with a strong moral compass and a deep sense of purpose.

As I look forward to the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the profound influence of faith, family, and education, all of which have shaped my character and continue to guide me on my path in life.

CHAPTER TWO : EDUCATION AND GROWTH

Early Years:

I started school at the tender age of 4, enrolling in Springs Junior Academy, where I stayed until I completed class 8. My first day in school was a bit hectic. I was amidst many new faces and people I did not know. During breaks, I would go to my brother's classroom with my cousin since I was used to them. Initially, the teachers separated my cousin and me into different classes, believing we wouldn't learn well together. However, we soon made friends in our respective classes and enjoyed playing and learning together.

Springs Junior Academy provided a nurturing environment where my love for learning began to flourish. The teachers were kind and patient, and they instilled in us a sense of curiosity and a passion for knowledge. The school's emphasis on academic excellence, coupled with a range of extracurricular activities, helped to shape my holistic development.

Primary School Memories:

In primary school, I joined several co-curricular activities, including folk songs, dancing, and singing games. We advanced through various stages, from district to final stages, and won trophies for our school. I proudly represented my school in these activities. My academic achievements were also notable, earning me presents for my performance. Our school had morning devotions before classes began, which helped strengthen my faith and commitment to Christian work.

These early experiences taught me the importance of perseverance and teamwork. Preparing for competitions required dedication and practice, and I learned the value of hard work and collaboration. The joy of performing on stage and the pride of winning trophies for the school were unforgettable moments that boosted my confidence and sense of accomplishment.

Towards the end of my primary school journey, our school manager decided that all class 8 students should board. Initially, it was challenging for me to adapt to boarding school life, but I soon got used to it. This experience taught me valuable lessons and helped me grow in many ways. Boarding school life instilled in me a sense of independence and responsibility. I learned to manage my time effectively, balancing studies, extracurricular activities, and personal chores. The sense of community and camaraderie among the boarders was also a source of support and friendship.

HIGH SCHOOL YEARS:

In 2017, I joined Gatero Girls High School for my further studies. I was excited to meet my principal, Mrs. Mundia, who was a family friend. She was welcoming and made my transition smooth. The school had a reputation for academic excellence and a strong emphasis on character development, and I was eager to become a part of this community.

I also joined the Christian Union, attending Sunday services to nurture my faith and spiritual growth. The Christian Union provided a supportive environment where I could explore my faith and build strong relationships with like-minded peers. Through Bible studies, prayer meetings, and community service projects, I deepened my understanding of Christian values and principles.

My devotion to education paid off as I received several achievements and rewards. I made good friends who helped me in both academic and extracurricular activities. We participated in various congresses, where we competed with other schools in different subjects. Those who scored high marks were awarded, encouraging me to work even harder.

The school offered a wide range of extracurricular activities, allowing me to explore my interests and talents. One memorable event was the computer project congress, where we presented our project to judges and won. This experience sparked my interest in technology and innovation, and it reinforced the importance of teamwork and creativity.

Educational Trips:

Our educational trips were significant highlights of my high school years. We went to Maasai Mara for four days for a biology subject trip, learning about wildlife and their species. We had a thrilling drive, observing different animals in their natural habitats. This trip was an eye-opening experience that brought our biology lessons to life and fostered a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

Another notable trip was our geography trip to Nanyuki's Ol Pejeta Conservancy. We engaged in activities like cleaning waste materials around a lake, went on a drive to see animals, and experienced the chilly night temperatures of -2 degrees Celsius. These trips enriched my learning experience and broadened my understanding of the subjects. The hands-on experiences and real-world applications of our classroom lessons made learning more engaging and meaningful.

Extracurricular Activities:

In addition to academics, I participated in dorm sports competitions, which included running, relay races, football, and other games. My dorm won three times, and each member received rewards. These annual events were a great source of camaraderie and fun. Participating in sports taught me the importance of physical fitness, discipline, and teamwork. The sense of accomplishment and pride in representing my dorm and winning competitions was exhilarating.

Sports and Leadership

As I entered my sophomore year, I discovered my love for sports. I joined the school's table tennis team and took part in various inter-school competitions. Tennis became my outlet, a way to release the stress that sometimes accompanied the demands of academics. Additionally, I was elected as a Computer Studies subject leader, which gave me my first taste of leadership. It was an honour to represent my classmates and contribute to the school's discipline and order.

Community Involvement

Gatero Girls High School encouraged students to be active contributors to the community. The school was involved in several outreach programs, including visits to local orphanages, tree-planting initiatives, and hygiene campaigns. These activities instilled in me a sense of responsibility and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world around me.

Cultural Appreciation

The North Rift is a region rich in culture, and I had the privilege of experiencing and participating in various cultural festivals and events. The school's cultural club provided a platform for students to celebrate and showcase our heritage. This exposure deepened my understanding of the diversity and traditions that make our nation unique.

Friendships and Bonds

One of the most beautiful aspects of my secondary school journey was the friendships I formed. I met students from diverse backgrounds, each with their own stories and dreams. These

friendships grew stronger with each passing day, and together, we faced the ups and downs of our high school years.

Achievements and Awards

Throughout my high school years, I was fortunate to receive recognition for my academic achievements, leadership skills, and contributions to the school community. These moments of acknowledgment served as a reminder that hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed.

Challenges and Growth

Like any educational journey, mine was not without its share of challenges. The pressures of examinations, the balance between academics and extracurricular activities, and the emotional ups and downs of adolescence all tested my resilience. But it was through these challenges that I learned the importance of perseverance and self-belief.

Embracing the Christian Faith

Gatero Girls High School was not only a place of academic excellence but also a centre of spiritual growth. Our school had a deep-rooted commitment to the Christian faith, and the Christian Union (CU) played a central role in shaping our lives.

Daily Mass and Religious Education

Every Friday morning, the school day commenced with a solemn Mass. Students from different religious backgrounds were encouraged to attend, and for many of us, it was a tranquil start to the day, offering a moment of reflection and prayer. It was in the chapel that we learned valuable lessons about faith, love, and compassion.

Our teachers were not only educators but also spiritual guides. Religious education was an integral part of the curriculum, and we were encouraged to explore our beliefs and engage in thoughtful discussions. The values of kindness, empathy, and community service were instilled in us, aligning with the core teachings of the Christian faith.

Nurturing Spiritual Values

The strict adherence to the Christian faith at Gatero Girls High School went beyond rituals and ceremonies; it was about nurturing the values that the faith represented. We were taught to embrace humility, forgiveness, and a sense of responsibility to those less fortunate. Our faith was a cornerstone of our character development.

The school's emphasis on faith-based values created a sense of unity among students and strengthened our commitment to community service. We engaged in various charity projects, from visiting local orphanages to organizing food drives for the less privileged. These experiences instilled in us a profound sense of duty to society and a belief in making the world a better place.

Religious Festivals and Celebrations

Throughout the school year, we celebrated important Christian festivals and events. Christmas and Easter were particularly significant, and they were celebrated with enthusiasm and devotion.

These celebrations allowed us to come together as a school community, irrespective of our individual faiths, and share in the spirit of joy and togetherness.

Chaplain's Role

Our school chaplain played a crucial role in nurturing our spiritual growth. He offered guidance, counsel, and unwavering support to students, fostering an environment of trust and spiritual development. Whether it was during times of personal challenges or when seeking spiritual guidance, the chaplain was a source of comfort and wisdom.

Concluding Thoughts

The combination of rigorous academics, strict adherence to the Christian faith, and the school's emphasis on character development made Gatero Girls High School a unique and enriching experience. It was a place where our intellectual and spiritual journeys were nurtured in tandem, creating well-rounded individuals ready to face the challenges of the world with a strong moral compass.

My time at Gatero Girls High School not only prepared me academically but also instilled in me the values of faith, kindness, and service to others. The lessons learned during my secondary school years, both inside and outside the classroom, have left an indelible mark on my character and continue to guide me on my path in life.

Challenges and Resilience:

In 2020, when I was in form 4, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our education for many months. Despite the confusion and uncertainty, I remained hopeful. I continued studying with my cousin, discussing and keeping up with our studies. Although it was challenging to stop learning due to the pandemic, I persevered, and with God's help, we eventually returned to school. The disruption delayed my exams to 2021, but I faced this challenge with determination and resilience.

The pandemic taught me the importance of adaptability and resilience. The support of my family, friends, and teachers helped me stay motivated and focused during those difficult times. The experience of overcoming such a significant challenge strengthened my belief in my ability to face adversity and emerge stronger.

The Future Ahead:

As I look ahead, I am filled with excitement and hope. I aim to join university to further my education. My dream is to continue my academic journey, pursue higher education, and make a meaningful contribution to my community and society at large. The experiences and lessons from my primary and high school years have prepared me well for the future, and I am eager to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

I aspire to become a well-rounded individual who not only excels academically but also contributes positively to society. The values of faith, perseverance, and community service instilled in me during my formative years will guide me as I pursue my goals and dreams.

In conclusion, my educational journey has been a beautiful tapestry of growth, learning, and self-discovery. The challenges I faced, the friendships I made, and the lessons I learned have shaped me into the person I am today. I am grateful for the support of my family, the guidance of my

teachers, and the love of my community. As I step into the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the values and experiences that will continue to inspire and guide me on my path to success.

UNIVERSITY JOURNEY.

Continuing the Journey: Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

My transition from secondary school to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in October 2021 marked the beginning of a new chapter in my education and personal growth. Completing my KCSE in April of the same year, I was eager to pursue an undergraduate degree in Business Information Technology at this prestigious institution. Although my university experience has been marked by the global pandemic of COVID-19, it has been a transformative journey that has shaped my aspirations and character.

Academic Pursuits

My academic journey at university has been an exciting and intellectually stimulating one. Business Information Technology is a dynamic field that combines business management principles with cutting-edge technology. The comprehensive curriculum introduced me to a wide range of subjects, from software development and database management to business analysis and project management.

Throughout my university years, I dedicated myself to academic excellence, consistently pushing my boundaries and striving for top performance. This pursuit of knowledge has been complemented by the guidance and mentorship of my professors, who share their expertise and provide insights into the ever-evolving field of business and technology.

Research and Innovation

In the world of Business Information Technology, research and innovation are paramount. My involvement in research projects and innovative initiatives allowed me to delve deeper into this dynamic field. I had the opportunity to collaborate with fellow students and faculty members on

projects that addressed real-world challenges and explored innovative solutions. This hands-on experience has equipped me with problem-solving skills and a creative mindset.

Extracurricular Activities

Beyond academics, I immersed myself in a range of extracurricular activities at the university. I joined the university's DSAIC club, which provided a platform for like-minded students to exchange ideas and develop technical skills. The club not only expanded my network but also enhanced my practical knowledge of IT.

Personal Growth

University life brought not only academic growth but also personal development. It was a period of self-discovery, where I learned to manage my time effectively, adapt to new challenges, and maintain a work-life balance. My interactions with diverse groups of students and exposure to different perspectives broadened my horizons and enriched my cultural awareness.

Pursuing Faith and Community Service in University

My university journey at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology not only expanded my academic horizons but also deepened my commitment to my Christian faith and community service. This period of my life was marked by a sense of spiritual growth and a strong desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Deepening My Faith

In university, I sought opportunities to further explore and strengthen my Christian faith. The campus had a vibrant Christian student community, and I eagerly became a part of it. Attending Christian Union (CU) meetings and participating in spiritual events allowed me to connect with like-minded peers who shared a common belief and a commitment to their faith. It was through these interactions that I discovered a sense of belonging and camaraderie.

Involvement in Christian Groups

I joined the Christian Union at the university, which provided a platform for spiritual growth and community service. As a member, I actively participated in organizing prayer sessions, retreats, and discussions that allowed us to explore our faith more deeply. These experiences not only nurtured my own spiritual development but also allowed me to share my faith with others.

Joy in Giving Back

Participating in community service was a source of immense joy and fulfillment. We organized food drives, visited orphanages, and contributed to local development projects. These experiences reminded me of the importance of empathy and kindness and reinforced my commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Balancing Faith and Academics

Balancing my faith, academics, and community service was a rewarding challenge. It taught me valuable lessons in time management, organization, and the importance of prioritizing my commitments. The university's environment of inclusivity and acceptance made it possible to seamlessly integrate my spiritual and academic pursuits.

Community Service and Outreach

My involvement in the Christian Union also led to opportunities for community service. The university's Christian group organized outreach programs to support local orphanages, schools, and the less fortunate in the community. It was an extension of the values I had learned in primary school and high school, and it was a privilege to continue serving those in need.

Challenges and Triumphs

The university journey was not without its challenges. Balancing academic responsibilities with extracurricular activities and personal life sometimes felt like a juggling act. However, these challenges served as opportunities for growth and resilience. Overcoming obstacles and setbacks has made me a more determined and resilient individual.

Future Aspirations

As I near the completion of my degree in Business Information Technology, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for what the future holds. My academic journey has equipped me with the knowledge and skills to pursue a career that bridges the gap between technology and business. I aspire to work in a dynamic environment where I can leverage technology to drive innovation and solve complex business challenges.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my autobiography is a reflection of my educational journey from primary school to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. Each phase of my life has contributed to my growth, learning, and self-discovery. I am grateful for the unwavering support of my family, the guidance of my teachers, and the enriching experiences at each educational institution.

My university years have been a pivotal period in my life, where I combined academic excellence with personal development and a vision for the future. The skills I have acquired, the friendships I have made, and the experiences I have cherished will continue to shape my journey as I step into the world beyond academia.

As I approach the final year of my university education, I am eager to embark on new challenges and seize opportunities that align with my passion for Business and Information Technology. The exciting journey continues, and I carry with me the values, knowledge, and experiences that have prepared me for the next chapter that awaits.

