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Mwangi Wahome

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Autobiography by Stephen Mwangi Wahome

Uncharted Paths: My Journey Beyond the Horizon

A Tale of Adventure, Growth, and Self-Discovery

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# DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the Almighty God who has been my source of Strength, Grace and Wisdom throughout the period of my course, through whose Grace and Favor I have been able to run my course and scale through the hurdles of my academic pursuit.

I dedicate this autobiography to my beloved parents Mr. Paul Wahome Wachira and Teresa Wangari Weru. I would also like to dedicate this piece of writing to my loved ones and especially my siblings John Weru Wahome, Joseph Wachira Wahome and Peter Muriuki Wahome. Lastly is my beloved grandmother Jane Mumbi Weru. The support that the above mentioned have offered me cannot be overemphasized. Their passion and tireless efforts, in crafting me to the very product I am, is something that cannot go unnoticed. Receive my regards.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge my university lectures for their effort in molding my life. Their efforts especially in ensuring efficient communication skills is something that is dear to me.

# PREFACE

**Purpose Statement**

The purpose of documenting this writing is to illustrate my life from childhood to the present moment. Throughout this journey, I have achieved numerous milestones that I hold dear. I believe that my story is worth sharing not only as a personal reflection but also as a source of inspiration for others.

This autobiography is written to fulfill a requirement for my Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. Through this writing, I aim to highlight the various milestones I have achieved, the failures I have encountered, and, most importantly, how I have faced and overcome these challenges, emerging stronger each time.

Beyond fulfilling the degree requirement, this autobiography sheds light on my personal life, showcasing the highs and lows, and how I have navigated each circumstance. I hope that my story will provide hope to those who feel desolate, joy to the saddened, and offer a glimpse into my life journey.

**What to Expect in This Writing**

In this piece, I will illustrate my key life achievements, upbringing, academic journey, and general life experiences. The academic section is particularly significant, as it details how I navigated various challenges, collected accolades along the way, and emerged victorious even in seemingly hopeless situations. This narrative aims to be an eye-opener for many and a moment of inspiration.

Additionally, I will delve into my upbringing, which was humble yet determined. Through this story, I intend to show that there is always light at the end of the tunnel and that every cloud has a silver lining.

**Main Themes of This Writing**

* Upbringing and Early Life
* Education Journey
* Serving as a Leader in High School
* Emerging Top in My Academics Despite Unwavering Challenges
* Securing a Scholarship with the Wings to Fly Program
* Pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science
* Collecting Accolades and Awards for Various Achievements

# EARLY LIFE AND CHILDHOOD

## INTRODUCTION

On the Monday of March 3, 2003 came the cry of little Stephen Mwangi Wahome. Born of two parents Mr. Paul Wachira Wahome and Teresa Wangari Weru, I was an apple of my parents. I was born in a family of four being the third born. I was born in the heart of Nyeri County, Kenya in a village known as Ngukura located in Kabaru ward, Kieni East Constituency. Needless to say, at that time there were no present-day counties and neither were there any wards. Just for the record the Kenyan Constitution later **established wards** under Article 89 of the Constitution. The **Wards** within the **county established** under Article 89 of the. Constitution in the year 2012.

I was born in a low- income family but this was not to deter my ambition. Even since childhood I have always ambitious about achieving great things – often inquisitive or buried in my books and even those which I dint know how to comprehend in search of knowledge.

## EARLY MEMORIES

My early life was full of fun or so I thought. Having been born in a family of 4 all of which were all boys life was more demanding than one would have thought. Not to say having a sister in my family would have saved or worsened the situation. However, my point is – I had to earn basic chores such as cooking, cleaning and general house chores at an early age. I must confess that this was an eye opener helping me chart a way for myself as a self-reliant responsible person. This was not easy however. Learning requires zeal and zest to come to light. However, I cannot assume that zeal and zest are enough to assure one of success. Misfortunes never come signly. However, failure is evident in any journey. I remember one particular day when I prepared some Ugali that was not well-cooked. You can imagine the embarrassment of seeing all members of the house dissatisfied with the results but they cannot tell – maybe for fearing to discourage you. However, mothers being as bold yet reassuring as they can, my mother did not hesitate to show me how to properly cook the meal. This simple act left a mark in my life, allowing me to correct my mistake and reassure myself.

Besides house chores, life outside the house has also shaped my life. I remember playing games with my brothers and friends. We would play hide and seek, racing competitions, modeling using clay, knitting… name them. Life while playing allowed me to have a new phase of life. As the old adage goes ‘All work without play makes Jack a dull boy’. And the same was true for me. Play time always generate a surge of joy, happiness as we laughed together, chanted together to hear whose voice would result to the highest echo, pushed each other, shoved each other and even made those interesting yet dangerous games such as swimming in the river, sliding in the mud, sliding down a hill – especially on the rainy seasons.

Although I was still at a tender age, participating in the childhood games allowed me to realize my talents such as singing and drawing. Besides that, I was able to appreciate the importance of appreciating people’s success. Through the racing competitions we would all be happy for the person who won – chanting his name the whole week, talking about him as we went home from the race and even dreaming of them, This was sheer love for one another I must confess that with that came genuine consideration for one another.

## SIGNIFICANT CHILDHOOD MOMENTS

My early life was not free of highs and lows. However, there are certain moments that are close to my heart.

* My First Day at School  
    
  I vividly remember that memorable day as if it were yesterday. Having developed the thirst for education at an early age, I was often caught up burring my head in a book- some of which were way beyond my scope. As such my entry into school was more of a joy to me. On that D-day, I was dressed in some navy-blue pair of shorts, a white shirt, an oversize sweater and some black leather shoes. You would have looked at me and wondered where the joy was for. I was yearning to enter into that classroom, learn more and more and more receive awards and get some job as a doctor -yes, a medical doctor. I cannot tell why I was envying being a medical doctor but to me that way I would leave an indelible mark on all the patients I would serve. For me the sky was the limit. Although, I later have not achieved being a medical doctor, I still have the passion for human health often keen about lifestyle issues and different anatomic human structures. It may seem like my dreams of being a doctor are shattered but the candle is still burning illuminating light steadily.
* Award winning Ceremony  
    
  My life as a pupil in school back in my childhood moments was decorated with a lot of accolades. Often, I would emerge top of the class. And this is not a small win. Rising to the occasion and leading in a class of 40 – a class that was full of tall, bold students (I was timid and silent) was not a walk in the park. I also recall with at most precision, how my brother and I would walk a 5-kilometer route to our school all in the quest for education. I recount the many times we agonizingly treaded the long dusty road in those dark chilly morning so that we would be in school by 6 pm. Having been born on the slopes of Mount Kenya, I experience the cold especially in the wee hours firsthand.  
  I remember with nostalgia that my efforts bore fruits. In one particular instance, I was awarded a wrist watch for topping the class. Before then, I had not owned a watch. This token – though small – was a life changing moment for me. The token ignited my ambition allowing me to receive more awards.  
  I recount on one moment during my early school days when I was honed a total of 5 medals each for leading in each of the five subjects at lower primary. According to the school, all students who were awarded these medals were supposed to take the home, and return them to the school during the opening day. I was over the moon. I remember receiving showers of congratulatory messages for friends and family. This heart-lifting moment boosted my self-esteem igniting me with the desire to achieve more in my academics.
* A Visit to Maasai Mara Game Reserve  
    
  One of the most memorable experiences of my childhood was a visit to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve. This visit was not just a simple trip, but a life-changing adventure that opened my eyes to the beauty and diversity of wildlife in Kenya. The vast savannah, dotted with acacia trees and teeming with animals, was like stepping into a different world.

We saw the Big Five—lions, elephants, buffalos, leopards, and rhinos—in their natural habitat. Watching a pride of lions lounging in the sun and a herd of elephants making their way across the plains were sights that left a lasting impression on me. The highlight was witnessing the Great Migration, where thousands of wildebeests and zebras crossed the Mara River. The raw spectacle of nature in action was both awe-inspiring and humbling.

This trip to Maasai Mara instilled in me a deep appreciation for nature and a sense of responsibility to protect our environment. It also reinforced my curiosity and passion for learning, as I eagerly absorbed information about the animals and their ecosystems from our guide. This experience added a new dimension to my understanding of the world and ignited a lifelong interest in wildlife conservation.

# EDUCATION

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

I joined school in the year 2007. I first enrolled at Humble Shephard Junior School, a school that shared a fence with our farm. Humble Shephard Junior School is located in Kabaru ward, Kieni East constituency, Nyer County. This is the place I owe my gratitude for molding my academics at that early and tender age. While at the school, I did not fall short on ups and downs. Many a time, I would lead the class given my bright nature. This propelled me to achieving more. Later I transferred to SnowView Complex. SnowView Complex is located in Kabaru ward, Kieni East constituency, Nyer County. In the later competition was evident. It was while attending this school when my brother and I would work for 5 kilometers. Having come from local school which hardly had 30 pupils and now in a school with close to 500 pupils and where the number of students in my new class – 33 was more than that of my former school, I felt a bit shaken. “These people must be super geniuses. Will I make it? And how are they able to communicate in English such flawlessly?”, I wondered. Fortunately, I was not ready to let the fear get the best pat of me. “I will pass and defeat them “, I reassured myself. And truth be told this self will drove me to be inquisitive, learning more and trying to grasp more. Even after joining the school at the third term, at the end of the year I was able to come second in the class. At least I could pat myself on the back and reassure myself of a good job well done. Needless to say this was the beginning of new doors and scaling the heights.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

On the Wednesday of 11TH January 2017, I set my foot in [Kagumo High School](https://kagumo-high.vercel.app/). Kagumo High Kagumo High School is a boys' national high school situated between Kirichu and Kiganjo townships along the Nyeri-Nanyuki road in Kenya. Established in 1933 as a primary institution in Gatitu, its initial aim was to train artisans for Native African training depots. Accompanied by my father, who was carrying my big blue box as I carried my bag on my shoulders, I entered the gates of Kagumo High School. I was met by a sea of eyes. Some of the people I met on that day were already enrolled in the school while others were newbies just like I was. Fear and uncertainty was clearly written on my face. “How is it like? Are students bullied here? And how hard are the subjects here?”, I wondered. Fortunately, my fear was short lived. Within the next few days, with the help of a school guide – often called school parent, I had been incorporated into the school curriculum.   
As fate would have it, I continued to excel in my studies. My right from a village in the slopes of Mount Kenya was now leading in his class. Surely the sky was the limit. Besides excelling in my academics, I also excelled in my social life. While at Kagumo High school, I was an active member of the Young Catholic Students. Young Catholic Students / Young Students Movement (YCS/YSM) is a student movement where students come together in small groups to share their interests, problems, experiences and anxieties to find a solution of their own through the YCS methodology of SEE, JUDGE and ACT. YCS has its roots in YCW (Young Christian Workers) which was founded by Cardinal Joseph Cardijn in 1920 in Belgium after the First World War. The movement (YCS/YSM) attempts conscientize the young minds with a vision to evolve a new society where people will live in harmony, realize the total freedom for the complete growth of the individual, and above all where each and every person is respected in dignity, hence valuing peace, love, truth, justice and equality.

Additionally, while at Kagumo High School it took up leadership opportunities. This has been one of the key moments in my life. As a student leader serving as a class prefect, I was able to serve my fellow students, allowing me to view students from a different angle, understanding their problems and being empathetic in the best way I would.

Through the leadership position, I must confess that I appreciated the art of responsibility, time keeping and communication. Serving in such a docket requires you to submit some assignment here to your teachers, communicate with the students you serve and even perform in your academics. Yes, you cannot lead people and fail to remember your key goal is academics. As such, I learnt how to strike a balance between all the responsibilities on my shoulders, carefully ensuring that each role was achieved with utmost precision and at the right time.

## CAMPUS

Having completed my 14 years in primary and secondary school – 10 in primary school and 4 in secondary school, my academic journey took me to [Dedan Kimathi University of Technology](https://www.dkut.ac.ke/). Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (or DeKUT) is a [public](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_university),[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dedan_Kimathi_University_of_Technology#cite_note-1) [coeducational](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeducation) technological [university](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University) in [Nyeri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyeri), [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya). It is one of 22 public universities in Kenya, having been a constituent college of [Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jomo_Kenyatta_University_of_Agriculture_and_Technology) since the year 2007 until it was chartered to become a fully fledged public university on 14 December 2012.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dedan_Kimathi_University_of_Technology#cite_note-2)

It was the first university in Kenya to be chartered under the new universities act of 2012[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dedan_Kimathi_University_of_Technology#cite_note-3) and the eighth public university to be established in the country.

I enrolled at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology on the Monday of 4th October 2021. “What course was I to take? “, you may ask. I enrolled at the university to pursue a Bachelors degree in Computer Science. I must confess that this was at first challenging. Having come from that village in the heart of Nyeri County, unaware of what a computer was, to doing Agriculture as the technical subject in High school, I was indeed oblivious of what Computer science held in store for me. However, I was not ready to allow this feeling or nothingness – or can we call it imposter syndrome, to overcome me. Throughout I have believed that the past is beyond me but fortunately I have the future in my hands. Consequently, I yearn to break all education barriers, thrive in software development- which is an area that interest me most and make an impact in the community through my skills in tech.

# CAREERS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Every cloud has a silver Lining. This is an adage that has become a cliché and maybe you are already wondering what lining was beneath my clouds of fear, hunger and tough life. While this is true, the importance of the adage cannot be well understood unless supported with life examples. This way I believe that I can impact a life or two, showing that it is possible to achieve greatly and even go beyond your horizon even in the face of turmoil.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

One of my key achievements that lies close to my heart is my performance at primary school. Remember those days walking along that 5-kilometer road in a chilly morning and in the slopes of Mount Kenya? Well. That was tough. I recall vividly that my brother and I did not have books to use. As such we relied on the school library and a few well-wishers who would offer to lend us the books for subsequent years after which we would return them. My parents did not have the money to finance purchase of books. But I do not blame them. I must confess my heart-felt gratitude for them. Despite their financial constraints, they (my parents) ensured that we did not lack the books or rather we had as much as they would gather. By pulling strings from friends and family, they would borrow the books on our behalf and even sometimes bought them on a hire purchase plan.

This would not deter me from achieving my academic goals. At the end of my primary school, I sat for my KCSE examinations. The Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) was a certificate awarded to students after completing the approved eight-year course in [primary education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_education) in [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya). The [examination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test_(assessment)) was supervised by the [Kenya National Examination Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya_National_Examination_Council) (KNEC), an examining body in Kenya under the [Ministry of Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Education_(Kenya)). The same body also conducted and regulated the [Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya_Certificate_of_Secondary_Education) (KCSE), a [certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_certificate) awarded to students after completing [secondary education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_education). KCPE and KCSE were both started in 1985 when the 8-4-4 system of education was introduced in Kenya. The last KCPE examination, under this system was done on November 1, 2023 at 11am. These exams were replaced by [KPSEA (Kenya Primary School Education Assessment)](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=KPSEA_(Kenya_Primary_School_Education_Assessment)&action=edit&redlink=1). In the KCSE examinations I scored 412 marks out of 500. This was a great day of my life. Eventually I had managed to clinch the coveted 400 mark emerging the second best in my school and 5 in my constituency. Indeed, I had dared to dream and I was aiming beyond the horizon.

## SECURING A SCHOLARSHIP

I recall vividly as I walked into that room full of smartly dressed bank officials – I later came to learn that they are called CSSB committee. I was met by a sea of eyes eager to listen to my story, I story I dreaded talking of. “Will I be accepted in this program?”, my heart pounded. I had just concluded my primary school education, received my results and I was now waiting to join Kagumo High School. The way I would join the school only God knew how. Having received news from the radio of the ongoing application for the Wings to Fly Program, my parents did not hesitate to make the application. Atleast there was a glimmer of hope. The Wings to Fly scholarship program, an initiative of the Equity Group and Mastercard Foundation (MCF), was established to support secondary education for top performing children from financially challenged backgrounds. With support from other partners, the program offers access to leadership training to previously marginalized children in all counties.

The program offers comprehensive support for the scholars through provision of tuition fees, accommodation, books, uniform, shopping, pocket money and transport to and from school during their 4 years of secondary education. It has so far supported 60,009 bright but economically challenged scholars. MCF has so far committed to support 10,000 scholars through two phases of funding with the last intake joining the program in 2021

As I later came to learn, the application process was intense. Applicants are subjected to a vetting process meant to verify the validity of their financial status as indicated on the application form. The qualifying candidates are then called for an interview accompanied by their parents / guardian. In this very interview the pressure is as well high. Both parent and child are interrogated about their financial status and why they think they should be considered in the scholarship program. Once the interview is over the interviewers allow the interviewees to go back to their homes, and wait for golden call. Needless to say, my father and I walked out of that interviewing office, shaken – just like anyone else - oblivious of what lay ahead of us.

When that call was eventually made informing me that I had secured a chance for the scholarship I breathed I sigh of relief. At least my dreams of becoming a doctor would come to reality – or so I thought. I had secured a scholarship under the [Wings to Fly Program](https://equitygroupfoundation.com/wings-to-fly/) which had partnered with bodies such as [MasterCard Foundation](https://mastercardfdn.org/), [UKAID](https://www.ukaiddirect.org/), [USAID](https://www.usaid.gov/), and [KfW](https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Entwicklungsbank/). The scholarship would last for 4 years covering my high school studies. Additionally, all candidates stood a chance of an internship program at the end of the scholarship in case they scored A or A- grade in their KCSE examinations. Isn’t this good news? The said candidates would work in the bank – Equity Bank in any nearest branch to their home. The internship program would last for six months with a guarantee of a pay slip of 24000 at the end of each month. This way good news. I was more than ready to join high school, pass those exams and work in the bank. Needless to say, this news generated a new surge of strength, determination and ambition which always pushed me throughout my high school life especially in my low times.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

Life at Kagumo High School was not a walk in the park. As Oprah Winfrey famously said, "Where there is no struggle, there is no strength." This period of my life was characterized by challenges that tested my limits and, ultimately, strengthened my resolve. Coming from a remote village, often butchering English words and the overall feeling of impostor syndrome complex always added another layer of complexity. Impostor syndrome, also known as impostor phenomenon or impostorism, is a psychological experience of intellectual and professional fraudulence.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impostor_syndrome#cite_note-:2-1) One source defines it as "the subjective experience of perceived self-doubt in one's abilities and accomplishments compared with others, despite evidence to suggest the contrary"

Fortunately, my zeal and zest for success did not allow me to shy away. Driven by the motivation of securing an internship position at Equity Bank, for having scored an A grade, I became woke to the idea of self-realization. Throughout my high school life, the thought of working at the bank was always etched in my mind, reminding me not only of the far I had come but also the dreams and ambitions I had and with it the lives I would impact if I become successful. As Pele would repeatedly say Success is no accident, it is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all love for what you are doing or learning to do.

At the end of the 4 years at Kagumo High School, I sat for my KCSE examinations. The Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) is an academic certificate awarded to candidates upon completion of [secondary education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_education) in [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya_Certificate_of_Secondary_Education#cite_note-1). The first KCSE exam was held in 1989 at the same time as the last Kenya Advanced Certificate of Education (KACE), which it replaced as the entrance requirement for Kenyan universities.

I managed to score an A- grade in the KCSE examinations. This was a defining moment in my life. Being featured on the school wall of fame, as well as in [The Standard Newspaper](https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/) belated me even more. Never had I ever – even in my wildest dreams – dreamt of having my name on the cover page of this esteemed newspaper. The far I had experienced is applause from family and friends and even this did not go past our small community. This recognition was a monumental achievement, propelling me to aim higher and reinforcing my belief in the power of hard work and perseverance.

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Before joining high school, I was a timid, introverted boy who hardly spoke ever on the books. However, this was bound to change at Kagumo High School. Upon joining the school, I met people from walks of life. Being a national school, Kagumo High School accommodates an estimated 2000 students who all come from all the tribes in Kenya. It is shortsighted to think that there is a single community not represented in the institution. This was an eye opener to me.

While at Kagumo High School, I participated in the YCS club. Through my service at the club, I was glad to serve as a Mass Organizer as well as a Treasurer. The two dockets were both unique, each providing its fair share of problems. Managing the funds belonging to close to 1000 Catholic students and ensuring safe and reliable information on each is not a small job. Equally challenging was the Mass organizer role. While serving in this docket, I was responsible of ensuring smooth operations between the clergy and the congregation, and timely communication of mass. Additionally, being a leader in this docket – one of the highest- I was supposed to maintain utmost integrity, responsibility and excellent communication skills. And remember your presence in the public domain calls for utmost values.

“Being a role model is the most powerful way of educating” – John Wooden

Besides, serving in the YCS, I was also glad to serve as a class prefect. This was a moment that allowed me to really sharpen my communication skills. – Dealing with fellow teens cannot be an easy ride. This position gave me a chance to embrace diversity, enhance listening skills and being empathetic as I make decisions.

# PERSONAL LIFE

## RELATIONSHIPS

At the moment, I am a student. This places me at ideal position, not to venture into any marital status, but to scrutinize my self while charting the way forward for plans such as marriage. As such I embrace self-awareness as well as self-discovery. In my view, it would be ill-advised to venture into a relationship without proper scrutiny. As the old adage goes - As you make your bed so must you lie.

I am currently single fully focused on expanding my academic and career horizon before venturing into a relationship. This is not to say that I am a loner. No. I have a number of friends in my circle who have greatly shaped my life.

## FAMILY LIFE

I was born in a family of 4. My father is Mr. Paul Wahome Wachira while my mother is Mrs. Teresa Wangari Wahome. The two have been a pillar of inspiration to me. It is through them and their endless, tireless efforts that I have achieved different milestones in my life.

I have three brothers – John Weru Wahome, Joseph Wachira Wahome and Peter Muriuki Wahome. Since childhood these have been my first friends ever loving and inspiring in my life. Life can be hard but simple acts of patience, love and encouragement can often change the view of life. It has been through these qualities that I draw inspiration to forge forward in life. Siblings often lack encouragement words. But it would be short-sighted to think that they do not copy each other’s attractive values.

## PERSONAL MILESTONES

Throughout my life, I have achieved a number of things. Although I have not accomplished everything I set out to, each milestone has been a stepping stone towards my ultimate goals.

### Success in Primary School

One of my earliest significant achievements was excelling in primary school. Despite the numerous challenges, including a lack of resources, I managed to score 412 marks out of 500 in the KCPE examinations. This accomplishment was a testament to my determination and hard work, and it marked the beginning of my academic journey.

### Success in High School

Continuing my academic journey, I joined Kagumo High School, where I faced even greater challenges. Yet, I persevered and graduated with an A- grade in the KCSE examinations. This achievement not only earned me a place on the school wall of fame but also recognition in The Standard Newspaper, a moment I had never imagined possible. This recognition propelled me to aim higher and reinforced my belief in the power of hard work and perseverance.

### Scholarship award

Securing a scholarship under the Wings to Fly Program was another significant milestone. This scholarship, which covered my high school education, was a lifeline that enabled me to continue my studies despite financial challenges. It also provided me with an opportunity to work as an intern at Equity Bank, further enhancing my career prospects.

### Computer Science student

Among the personal milestones I have achieved, being recognized as a leading student in the computer science program stands out. I am a software developer who leverages web technologies, including React, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, to ensure intuitive software solutions. My proficiency in these technologies allows me to create user-friendly applications that address real-world problems and improve user experiences. This recognition is a testament to my passion for technology and my commitment to continuous learning and innovation.

# CHALLENGES AND STRUGGLES

As the famous philosopher Socrates once said “An unexamined life is not worth living”. Consequently, one has to bear to the fact that problems and challenges are part and parcel of life. Otherwise, Life would lack any meaning, if everything was so easy to get. All that matters is rising to the occasion boldly and determined and navigating the hurdles that life presents.

In the light of Socrates view of life, I must confess that my life so far has not been short of challenges. Right from those cold chilly mornings, to self-hate, self-doubt, disappointments… The list can be long. Fortunately, I have been able to rise above the tide and walk out of the turmoil successful. This is not to imply that I have emerged unscathed in all the life challenges I have encountered. No. The many challenges, I have faced have left scars – scars which fondly remind me of the challenges I have encountered while still reassuring me of the victorious battles I have won.

## Self-Doubt

I was a timid boy. This coupled with my introverted nature has placed me at a quite uncomfortable position on many occasions. In multiple occasions, my silence has been a weapon – often making me feel defeated especially in the eyes of others. Being unable to communicate your mind, both timely and relevantly without fear of any extrinsic ridicule or critic can daunting. Unfortunately, this is a serious issue whose remedy cannot be achieved overnight. I fondly remember remaining silent especially in my early childhood moments – silent but hurting in the heart - even in the face of oppression from friends. These moments did not settle with me well but unfortunately, never did I speak up.

In the course of my learning process, I gathered courage - often hard but slowly I was able to be articulate ensuring that I stood my ground firmly while still maintaining ideal relationships with others. Taking leadership roles in high school was redefining moment in my life. Now that the back stopped with me – I had to make informed decisions- I slowly learnt how to communicate my ideas effectively. As a result, I nurtured my communication skills to the very best.

## Failure

I look forward with admiration at the many times I excelled both academically, in music, in games and even in leadership roles. But this success was not short of shortcomings. In one particular instance, I recall being at position 8 in our class. Not to say that this is a bad position. No. However, being that I topped the class, coming to position 8 came as a disappointment not only to me but for my teachers and parents alike. Besides overall position, many a time, I would fail in this subject or that. This came with an intimidating burden of self-realization as I tried to redeem myself.

Apart from academic failure in High School and primary school, I have also failed in some instances especially in Software development. Ever tried to debug a defiant bug? Well, this comes with a lot of frustrations especially when the deadline for submission of the work draws closer and closer.

Finally, I have failed in relationships. Maintaining a healthy relationship is skill we all ought to develop. I have often fallen short of friends both at school and in life. Although many would affirm that the solution is – letting go, life is more than this. Burning bridges is the last thing you would wish to do in life.

"Sometimes the hardest part isn't letting go but learning to start over." – Nicole Sobon

**So how do I navigate failure?**

Over the years I have embraced the value of resilience. Quitting is the last thing that I would do. In all the challenges, I have always reassured myself, with the inner voice telling me to keep on.

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. - [**Albert Einstein**](https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/albert-einstein-quotes)

This reassurance has always helped me to come out stronger with every victory acting as a stepping stone for greater success.

# REFLECTION AND LIFE LESSONS

Reflecting on my journey thus far, I realize that life is a continuous cycle of challenges and triumphs. Each experience has imparted invaluable lessons that have shaped my character and perspective.

## Embrace Challenges

Life’s challenges are not obstacles but opportunities for growth. As Winston Churchill wisely said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." Embracing difficulties with resilience allows us to learn and evolve, pushing us beyond our comfort zones and leading to personal development.

## Value Relationships

Maintaining healthy relationships is crucial. Breaking or burning bridges often results in regret and missed opportunities. As the saying goes, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." Cultivating and nurturing relationships, rather than severing them, enriches our lives and creates a supportive network.

## Continuous Learning

Learning is a lifelong journey. As Albert Einstein famously said, "Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death." Whether through formal education or personal experiences, the pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement is essential for personal and professional growth.

## Resilience in Failure

Failure is a stepping stone to success. As Thomas Edison put it, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Each failure teaches us resilience, perseverance, and the importance of learning from our mistakes to achieve our goals.

It took Thomas Edison 1,000 attempts before he invented the light bulb. Without failure, some of the world's greatest inventions, discoveries, and products would not benefit society today.

## Self-Reflection

Regular self-reflection helps us understand our progress and areas for improvement. As Socrates once said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." Taking time to assess our actions, decisions, and outcomes enables us to grow and make more informed choices in the future.

In summary, my journey has been a testament to the power of embracing challenges, valuing relationships, continuous learning, resilience, and self-reflection. These lessons have guided me through various phases of my life and will continue to influence my path forward.

# **Recent Years and Future Goals**:

## Current life situation and aspirations for the future.

## Recent Years

In recent years, my journey has been marked by both personal and professional growth. Completing my degree in Computer Science has been a significant milestone, equipping me with the skills to navigate the complex world of technology. As a software developer, I have immersed myself in web technologies like React, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, creating intuitive solutions that address real-world challenges.

Throughout these years, I have also faced and navigated various life challenges. Each obstacle has provided a unique learning opportunity, reinforcing my resilience and adaptability. Balancing professional ambitions with personal growth has been both demanding and rewarding, shaping my character and broadening my perspective.

## Future Goals

Looking ahead, I am driven by a set of clear aspirations:

* Career Advancement:  
  I aim to continue growing as a software developer, deepening my expertise in emerging technologies and contributing to innovative projects. I aspire to take on more leadership roles, guiding teams and shaping impactful solutions.
* Continued Learning:  
  My commitment to lifelong learning remains steadfast. I plan to pursue further education and certifications to stay at the forefront of technological advancements and enhance my skill set.
* Personal Development:  
  I am dedicated to improving my interpersonal relationships and communication skills. Building and maintaining strong connections is vital to both personal fulfillment and professional success.
* Community Impact:  
  I wish to leverage my skills to make a positive impact on my community. Whether through mentoring aspiring developers, participating in community-driven tech initiatives, or supporting local causes, I am eager to give back and contribute to societal well-being.
* Work-Life Balance:  
  Striving for a harmonious balance between professional commitments and personal life is essential. I intend to cultivate a well-rounded lifestyle that promotes health, happiness, and personal satisfaction.

In essence, my journey is driven by a commitment to growth, learning, and making meaningful contributions. By setting ambitious goals and remaining adaptable, I am excited about the future and the opportunities it holds for continued development and success.

# CONCLUSION

As I reflect on my journey from my early life to the present, I am struck by the intricate tapestry of experiences that have shaped who I am today. Each chapter, from the challenges of my childhood to the triumphs of my academic and professional life, has contributed to my growth and understanding. This reflection underscores the profound truth that life is a continuous journey of learning and adaptation.

## Embracing Life’s Lessons

The lessons I’ve learned along the way have been invaluable. The difficulties I faced in my early years taught me resilience and the importance of perseverance. The struggles during my primary and secondary education, despite limited resources, demonstrated the power of determination and the impact of support from family and community. Achieving top grades and securing a scholarship were not just milestones but affirmations of the belief that hard work and tenacity can overcome even the most daunting obstacles.

In my recent years, as I ventured into the field of computer science, I discovered the significance of leveraging technology to solve real-world problems. My journey as a software developer has been both challenging and rewarding, revealing the dynamic nature of the tech industry and the importance of continuous learning and adaptation.

## Looking Ahead

As I gaze towards the future, I am filled with both excitement and resolve. My career aspirations are driven by a desire to advance as a software developer, to innovate, and to contribute meaningfully to the tech community. I am committed to ongoing personal and professional development, understanding that the journey of learning is never complete.

I am also dedicated to nurturing and strengthening my relationships, recognizing that personal connections are fundamental to a fulfilling life. Building a supportive network and maintaining open and honest communication are priorities as I navigate both personal and professional landscapes.

Furthermore, my commitment to community impact remains steadfast. I am eager to use my skills and experiences to mentor others, support local initiatives, and contribute to societal progress. Balancing these aspirations with personal well-being and work-life harmony will be essential in achieving a well-rounded and satisfying life.

## Final Reflection

In the words of John F. Kennedy, “The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive and unrealistic.” My journey has been about confronting myths and embracing truths—understanding that success is not merely a destination but a series of moments of growth, learning, and contribution.

In conclusion, my life’s narrative is one of continual evolution. It is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, the importance of embracing challenges, and the value of striving for excellence while remaining grounded. As I move forward, I carry with me the lessons of the past, the ambitions of the present, and the hopes for the future, ready to face whatever comes next with optimism and determination.

"Threads of My Life: Weaving Dreams into Reality"