

A TAPESTRY OF MEMORIES:
WEAVING MY LIFE'S STORIES

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.

From the rolling hills of Gitogothi village in Kenya's heartland, my story unfolds – a tapestry woven with the vibrant threads of African life, tradition, and the relentless pursuit of dreams. As I put pen to paper, I'm filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the rich experiences that have shaped me, from the wisdom of village elders to the challenges that pushed me beyond the boundaries of my small community.

In these pages, I'll share the journey of a girl who grew up surrounded by the rhythms of village life, who found strength in her roots even as she yearned to spread her wings. You'll read of early mornings in misty fields, of the laughter shared around evening fires, and of the pivotal moments that set me on an unexpected path.

This is my story – honest, unadorned, and deeply personal. It's a tale of bridging worlds, of honoring tradition while embracing change, and of finding one's place in a rapidly evolving Kenya. Whether you're familiar with life in Gitogothi or curious about the experiences of a rural Kenyan woman, I invite you to walk with me through the seasons of my life.

So, settle in with a warm cup of chai, and let's begin. For in every life, no matter how seemingly ordinary, there lies an extraordinary tale waiting to be told...

CHAPTER 1: EARLY YEARS

My name is Immaculate Mwihaki Njeri. I was born on 21st August 2003. I am a 21-year-old lad currently living in Kiambu County, Kenya. My mother's Virginia Njeri Kamau. I am the 2nd born in our family alongside my younger brother, Dennis Kamau and my older sister, Catherine Nyakiringa making a nuclear family of four. I was born in the then Lari district, in Kiambu, at Kijabe Hospital. As the second born, In the bustling household, surrounded by familial warmth, I found my place. I discovered the beauty of companionship and the strength in unity. Each family member contributes a distinct thread to our collective story, and I stand as a testament to the love and support that has nurtured me. From my parents' guidance to the laughter shared with my sister, every moment has shaped who I am today. As I navigate life's winding paths, I carry the values instilled in me: resilience, compassion, and steadfast faith in the journey ahead. With gratitude and determination, I embrace the challenges and joys that await, knowing I am supported by my dear family's unwavering love.

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Early Years: A Harmonious Childhood

My early years were characterized by a harmonious upbringing, rich in the bonds of family, friendships, and a strong sense of community. I grew up in a close-knit village, where life was simple, and the values of unity and togetherness were deeply ingrained. I used to spend most of my times with my grandparents whom we were very close.

Life with Cousins and Childhood Friends:

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

Playtime in the Village Playgrounds

Our village had its share of playgrounds, which were the epicenter of our youthful joy. These open spaces became our canvas for creativity, imagination, and endless games. From playing tag to organizing mini-sports events, these playgrounds were where we learned the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and the exhilaration of friendly competition.

Helping Our Parents:

In our close-knit community, it was common for children to assist their parents with daily chores. I eagerly helped my parents with household tasks, such as fetching water from the communal well, tending to the garden, and caring for our animals. These responsibilities instilled in me a sense of responsibility and taught me the importance of contributing to the well-being of the family.

Taking Care of Younger Brother:

As the older sibling, I was entrusted with caring for my brother. It was a role I embraced wholeheartedly. I watched over him, played with him, and assisted with his needs. This experience not only taught me the value of patience and empathy but also deepened the bonds within our family.

Simple Pleasures of Village Life:

Life in the village was a tapestry of simple pleasures. We enjoyed storytelling sessions under the starry night sky, participated in cultural festivals, and celebrated traditional holidays with fervour. These experiences nurtured an appreciation for our heritage and instilled a sense of belonging to the rich tapestry of our village life.

In conclusion, my early years were a time of innocence, friendships, and the beauty of village life. It was in these moments that I learned the values of unity, responsibility, and the joy of communal living. The friendships I formed, the experiences I shared with cousins and childhood friends, and the lessons learned while helping my mother and caring for my brother have all been instrumental in shaping the person I am today. These early experiences continue to influence my outlook on life, reinforcing the importance of strong connections with family, friends, and community. As I look

back on these cherished memories, I carry with me the lessons of harmony, togetherness, and the profound impact of simplicity and unity in our lives.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES.

Growing up, I have many fond memories of my childhood that have shaped me into the person I am today. I remember the joy of playing with my sister, brother and friends, exploring the world around us, and discovering new things. I remember the excitement of going to school for the first time, meeting new friends, and learning new things. I remember the long walks to school, the laughter and chatter with my classmates, and the sense of accomplishment that came with completing a challenging assignment.

I also remember the challenges that came with growing up, such as the pressure to perform well in school, the struggles of navigating social dynamics, and the occasional conflicts with my siblings. However, these challenges taught me valuable lessons about resilience, perseverance, and the importance of seeking help when needed.

One of my fondest childhood memories is the time I spent with my grandparents. They lived in a small village in the countryside of Gitogothi, Limuru, and I would spend my holidays with them. I spent afternoons playing games with the local children, and the evenings spent listening to my grandparents' stories about their lives and experiences. These experiences taught me the importance of family, community, and tradition.

Another memorable experience from my childhood is the time I spent participating in community service activities. I was part of a local youth group that organized community clean-ups, visited the elderly, and provided support to those in need. These experiences taught me the importance of giving back to the community and the value of service.

Overall, my childhood memories have shaped my values, beliefs, and worldview. They have taught me the importance of family, community, and service, and have instilled in me a sense of gratitude and appreciation for the opportunities that I have

had. As I reflect on my life's journey, I am grateful for the memories that have shaped me into the person I am today.

Introduction to the Catholic 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 Catholic faith.

Early Years of Faith:

I grew up in a household where the values of faith, love, and compassion were a way of life. My elder were devout Catholics, and they imparted their spiritual beliefs to me from a young age. I was surrounded by religious symbols, attended Mass 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 Catholic faith fully. I admired the practices, 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 Catholic community.

Baptism at Age 10

I got baptized at the age of ten. I was baptised in St Charles Lwanga, Kamirithu. 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 catholic faith.

Eucharist at Age 11

As I approached the solemn occasion of Eucharist Day, my anticipation grew as I reflected on my journey of faith. At the age of eleven , I eagerly prepared for this

sacrament, a pivotal moment in my spiritual life. The ceremony was conducted by the esteemed Bishop David Kamau, a figure of reverence within the Diocese of Nairobi, marking a profound commitment to my beliefs.

The path leading to Eucharist Day was transformative. Engaging in catechism classes, I immersed myself in the teachings and principles of the Catholic Church. What began as a journey of curiosity soon blossomed into a profound personal conviction and a wellspring of inner strength .

Through diligent study and introspection, I came to understand that faith is more than mere ritual—it is a conscious choice, a steadfast commitment to a deeper spiritual understanding. Eucharist Day became a milestone where I publicly affirmed my dedication to living out these beliefs daily, embracing the sacrament as a cornerstone of my spiritual identity.

As I received the Eucharist for the first time, I felt a profound sense of connection—not only with my faith community but with something greater than myself. It was a moment of communion, where the symbolic act of receiving the body and blood of Christ reinforced my faith and anchored me in the rich traditions of my religious heritage.

Looking back, Eucharist Day stands as a testament to my ongoing journey of faith—a journey marked by growth, learning, and a deepening relationship with God. It was a day that affirmed my belief in the transformative power of the sacraments and ignited a lifelong commitment to living out my faith with courage and conviction.

Confirmation at Age 12

As I continued to grow in my faith, I looked forward to the sacrament of Confirmation. It was a significant milestone in my spiritual journey. At the age of twelve, I underwent the sacrament of Confirmation, offered to me by the then Bishop of the Diocese of Nairobi, his Lordship David Kamau, which marked a deeper commitment to my faith.

The process leading up to Confirmation was a time of learning and self-discovery. I attended catechism classes, where I delved into the teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church. My faith was no longer just a set of rituals but a personal choice and a source of strength.

Growing Spiritually:

My early experiences with the Catholic 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 school's strong emphasis on the Catholic faith. It was a beautiful union of home and school that nurtured my faith and character, shaping the person I am today.

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

I started school at 4 years of age, at Limuru Town Primary School for eight years. From there I attended Precious Blood Secondary School and finally my tertiary education at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

The First Day of School:

I vividly remember my first day of school in 2006. My heart raced with excitement as I stepped into the colourful world of nursery school at Greenland Academy. The unfamiliar faces and new surroundings made me a little nervous, but my radiant smile quickly made me friends.

I enjoyed going to school because I learnt new things. I always looked forward to tea that was left for me after school. If I didn't get it, I would wail unreasonably, well, I guess I was just being a child. After preschool, I proceeded to Limuru Town Primary School.

Academic Challenges and Triumphs:

My primary school journey had its challenges. However, with unwavering determination and the support of my peers and teachers, I persevered and gradually got used to it. My teachers played a crucial role in my academic growth, offering extra guidance and support when needed.

Extracurricular Adventures:

Beyond the classroom, I embraced the world of extracurricular activities. I joined the school choir, and my melodious voice earned us recognition at local competitions. I also discovered a love for sports and became a member of the school's table tennis. It was on the court that I learned the values of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Community Involvement:

My family instilled the importance of community service in me from a young age. I eagerly participated in various community outreach programs, from tree-planting initiatives to mentoring younger students at local schools. These experiences taught me the power of giving back and the impact that even a small act of kindness can have on others.

Cultural Appreciation:

Growing up in the diverse and culturally rich tapestry of Kenya, I developed a deep appreciation for our country's traditions and heritage. I eagerly participated in cultural festivals and celebrated Kenyan holidays with my classmates and family. Our traditions taught me the importance of unity and the beauty of diversity.

Achievements and Awards

Throughout my primary school years, my dedication to my studies and my involvement in school and community activities did not go unnoticed. I was fortunate to receive several awards for my academic achievements, leadership skills, and contributions to the community. These moments of recognition fuelled my desire to excel even further.

As I look ahead to the future, I am filled with excitement and hope. I completed my primary education with flying colours and earned a spot in a prestigious high school. My dream was to become an IT technician. I wanted to continue making a positive impact on my community through education due to changing technology.

In conclusion, my primary school years have been a beautiful journey 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.

SECONDARY EDUCATION**Introduction:**

As I reflect on my years spent at Precious Blood School in Kiambu, Kenya, the memories come flooding back, each one holding a special place in my heart. Joining this prestigious institution in 2017 marked the beginning of an incredible journey of growth, learning, and self-discovery.

A New Chapter:

The year 2017 was a year of new beginnings. It was the year I left the familiar halls of primary school behind and embarked on a new adventure at Precious Blood School. I remember the mix of excitement and nervousness as my family dropped me off at the school gate, where I stood on the threshold of my teenage years and the world of secondary education. I was so excited after finally leaving home not knowing what the future held for me in this beautiful school.

Dedication to Academic Excellence:

Our principal was not merely an administrative figure but a source of inspiration. She set high standards for us and believed that every student had the potential to achieve academic greatness. Her dedication to academic excellence was unwavering, and she expected nothing less from us. Under her leadership, the school earned a reputation for producing well-performing students in national examinations.

By setting the bar high and pushing us to excel, Mrs. Kamau instilled in us a strong work ethic and a passion for learning. Her strict demeanour was balanced by her genuine concern for our well-being, and she frequently emphasized the importance of holistic development, encouraging us to engage in extracurricular activities alongside our studies.

Mrs Kamau belief in the potential of each student was contagious. She often reminded us that education was the key to a brighter future, and guided us with the vision that we could achieve anything we set our minds to. Her dedication to our academic growth was a driving force in our journey through secondary school, and it was under her leadership that we achieved remarkable academic milestones.

As we navigated the challenges of secondary education, their unwavering support and high expectations pushed us to reach new heights. Her legacy as a dedicated principal will forever be etched in the history of Precious Blood School, and her influence on our academic journey was profound.

Academic Challenges and Triumphs:

Secondary school was a whole new world, and I quickly realized that the academic challenges were a step up from primary school. Subjects became more specialized, and the workload increased. In those early years, I faced my fair share of academic hurdles. Mathematics continued to be a challenging subject, but I was determined to conquer it. With the guidance of my teachers and the support of my fellow students, I made steady progress.

Extracurricular Activities

Precious Blood School wasn't just about academics; it was a place where I had the opportunity to explore my interests beyond the classroom. I joined the debate club, where I honed my public speaking skills and learned the art of persuasive argumentation. This club not only boosted my confidence but also instilled in me a passion for critical thinking.

Sports and Leadership:

As I entered my Form 2, 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 prefect leader, which gave me my first taste of leadership. It was an honour to me to contribute to the school's discipline and order.

Community Involvement:

The school encouraged students to be active contributors to the community. I was involved in several outreach programs, including visits to local orphanages, tree-planting initiatives, and Mater-run 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:

Central 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 had 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 Catholic Faith:

Precious Blood 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 Catholic faith, and CU, and it played a central role in shaping our lives.

Daily Mass and Religious Education:

Every day 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 Catholic faith.

Nurturing Spiritual Values:

The strict adherence to the Catholic faith at Precious Blood 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 Catholic 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 Catholic faith, and the school's emphasis on character development made Precious Blood 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 Precious Blood 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.

The Future Ahead:

As I concluded my time at Precious Blood Kagwe School, I looked forward to the next chapter of my life. The knowledge, experiences, and values I gained during my secondary education had prepared me for the future. My dream was to continue my academic journey, to pursue higher education, and to make a meaningful contribution to my community and society at large.

In conclusion, my years at Precious Blood Kagwe school were a transformative period of self-discovery and personal growth. The challenges I faced, the friendships I cultivated, and the experiences I embraced have prepared me to embrace the future

with open arms. I am grateful for the support of my teachers, the guidance of my parents, and the unwavering belief in myself. The memories of my secondary school years will forever hold a special place in my heart as I carry their lessons and values into the exciting journey that lies ahead.

UNIVERSITY JOURNEY.

Continuing the Journey: Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

My transition from secondary school to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in 2021 marked the beginning of a new chapter in my education and personal growth. Pursuing an undergraduate degree in Business Information Technology at this prestigious institution was a dream come true. Although it was marked by the global pandemic of COVID 19, it has been a transformative experience that has shaped my aspirations and character.

Academic Pursuits:

My academic journey in 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 mind-set.

Extracurricular Activities:

Beyond academics, I immersed myself in a range of extracurricular activities at the university. I joined the university's KIKUSA club, which provided a platform for the Kiambu students to interact.

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 the Catholic 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 Catholic faith. The campus had a vibrant Catholic student community, and I eagerly became a part of it. Attending Catholic Masses on campus 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 Catholic Groups:

I joined the Catholic students' association 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 exclusivity and acceptance made it possible to seamlessly integrate my spiritual and academic pursuits.

Community Service and Outreach:

My involvement in the Catholic community also led to opportunities for community service. The university's Catholic 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.

In conclusion, my journey through Dedan Kimathi University of Technology has been an enriching and holistic experience. The academic growth I achieved in pursuing a degree in Business Information Technology was complemented by my dedication to the Catholic faith and community service.

As I approach the conclusion of my university education, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities to nurture my faith, connect with a community of like-minded individuals, and engage in meaningful acts of service. The values instilled in me during my educational journey continue to guide me as I transition into the next phase of my life, filled with the aspiration to make a positive impact on the world, both professionally and through acts of kindness and service.

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.

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 lecturers, 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.

