



I was born in 23 December 1976 and raised up in a Mennonite family of Naomi and Nathan Waiga Hagai, my lovely deceased grandpa and grandma. I came to know that they were traumatized when I was eleven years old. My mother expressed great love to me as she shared stories of my childhood life. She colored that I had a big smile. The caregivers enjoyed to take care of me. They really liked the way I was smiling when they looked at my eyes. My mother always got crashed with them because they were taking all of their time claimed to providing care on me. They spent much time on me to feeding, bathing, changing clothes, playing, and made me sleeping. Then I have grown up and started to attend kindergarten school at the age of three. I loved the interactions at school. I was playing too much with my peer pupils. I can still recall those good moments.

On January of 1984 I started primary school. My uncle took me to school at the first day. I began to have joy with my pupils. My first teacher, Zitta, was so calmed to us. The class was about 35 pupils. I learned how to write and to count numbers. We learned in Kiswahili, our national language. During the break time, we gathered together in the playground for funny. I studied primary school for seven years. I started to learn English, as a subject, at standard five. I did not like that subject all. My teacher and other fellow students encouraged me to learn English. In standard seven, I passed well the final exams. I was so proud of my teacher Zitta and classmates. They made efforts to make sure I learned and passed my finals. I finished standard seven when I was fourteen years old.

I had the opportunity to learn in deep about the Mennonite traditions and practices from my early age. I got to be aware that many Mennonites in Tanzania are traumatized for many decades. They experienced tribalism conflicts within the church. My grandfather was a victim of those conflicts, he was completely traumatized. We were from different tribe far away and lived in the midst of another tribe. Based on racial related issues, my grandfather was excluded and separated from the church community. As a church leader, he lost his leadership position as well as all leadership privileges and rights. He was chased away from the church house without given a notice! He remained calm and accepted circumstances. He did not react to any leaders, but he was traumatized from those sequences and terrible events. For many years he decided not to pass on us the syndrome of his Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) because we were still young.

When I was 11 years old, the story became alive to me. After the evening meal we all gathered for a devotion, as usual. That night my grandfather started to share his life experience as a Christian. He testified to us his entire Christian life. Boldly, he mentioned his ups and downs on his faith journey. At the end of his story I came to realize that the church did not like us because we came from the minority tribe. I stated to hate the other Mennonites from the majority, especially top church leaders from the opposite tribe. I recalled back and connected some events like when I was dropped out of pre-school at age 4, taken to the village house without electricity, carried the buckets of water from some miles to our new mad house, collecting fire woods, selling some homemade donuts for our survival, and so on. I was really stressed. Maybe this is not migration but the situation involved the same feeling of not belonging.

As I connect my personal autobiography to my religion an trauma, I agree that the unhealed trauma can become PTSD and might be passed to another generation. I lived in a deep trauma for a little bit over 8 years. It was totally a confused and a burdened period on me! I enjoyed my time at school but when I reached back home the memory started to trigger and recall back to what the church did on us. I continued to suffer from those memories for a number of years.

So what does hope look like? When I was 19 years old, I attended a four-day youth Christian fellowship. One evening the preacher preached from Matthew 11:28-30 and I have decided to surrender my

life to Christ. He centralized his sermon on, “So if someone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20a”. Being born and raised in a Christian Mennonite family did not satisfy my life until I personally met the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. I started reading the Bible and committed my personal life in prayers. My life changed and became a more devoted person. I grew spiritually and maintained good relationship with other Christian students. During this time I was at secondary school. The Christian student fellowship elected me to be their leaders for two years. I had time to attend many Christian and counseling training. Gradually, I began to realize it was the beginning of my journey from traumatization to recovery. It was the time when I even started to be more closed to the Mennonite students. I built a strong friendship with them regardless of what happened earlier. They invited me to their houses and I did too.

The time came when I completed my secondary education. Because of my faith background reputation, one the Baptist missionary who served in Tanzania welcomed me to serve with her in the area of teaching sessions on Christian religion at secondary schools. I was so privileged to get that employment immediately after my secondary school education. I taught diligently as the syllabus required. That impressed the Missionary to offer me a scholarship to study a diploma in theology and then a bachelor of Biblical studies.

I graduated from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia, USA with a degree in Biblical Studies major. Prior to EMU, I earned a Diploma of Theology from Mount Meru University in Arusha, Tanzania. I earned the peacebuilding certificates from various institutions including from the Centre for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University, in USA, Great Lakes Peacebuilding Institute in Ggaba, Kampala; African Peacebuilding Institute in Johannesburg South Africa.

Nevertheless, I worked for *EcomResearch* Group. I am a co-founder and program coordinator of *Hope for Children in Adversity* for three years and two years Country Director for African Leadership And Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM), in Tanzania, three years as Executive Director of Jamii Bora Development Initiative (JBDI) and I am currently a General Secretary of Tanzania Mennonite Church. Alongside, I am an ordained Mennonite minister for ten years now. I had an opportunity to lead Temeke and Mwanaghati Mennonite congregations. While in the USA, occasionally, I worked for Raleigh General Hospital for two years as health attendant and participated in several mission trips across the world. I revitalized the divested African American communities in Philadelphia. Prior, I taught Missions and New Testament at Mennonite Theological College of Eastern Africa. I have trained Pastors and Youths conferences in Tanzania.

As a trained Anabaptist- Mennonite servant, my call to peace building embodies a personal conviction in Jesus as the center of my faith, community as the center of my life, and reconciliation as the center of my work. Basically, this is the core of the Mennonite theology summarized by a prominent Mennonite theologian Arnold Bender in 1943. I am called to help reconciling people to God and community through faith in Christ.

Now I facilitate many Pastors and top church leaders from Southern Africa region on trauma healing and resilience. I serve as a minister to one of the largest Mennonite congregation with the majority of members from the two conflicted tribes. They are united and proud of my service.

I am married to my lovely wife Mary and we are blessed with three children Faith, Joyce and Charlie. Faith is thirteen years old. She just completed her primary school education. She will be starting secondary school in January of next year 2019. Joyce will be ten years old by the twenty eight of this

November 2018. She is in standard five. Charlie is six years old and he is in standard one. Joyce and Charlie have dual citizenships: Tanzania and United States of America. These two were born in the USA.

Master's in Public Administration with ESAMI will shape my career and guide me to be a competent leader.

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