

I, Talania James from Bali Island, Kumburi village, District Talasea, Kimbe, West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea, in the Pacific Region just north of the neighboring country, Australia, would like to share my autobiography with you and those who wish to know all about me. My father's name is Clement Talania and mother's name is Cecilia Tapu. My father and my mother are both subsistence farmers. We are ten in the family, four girls and six boys, and four got married, and five are yet to be married, meaning to say that they are still in their education process from primary and secondary schools.

I was born in the year 1989, on October 10. I am now 26 years of age and on October this year, 2016, I will celebrate my 27 birthday. When I was about the age of 8 or 10, one priest came to our community and had the service of the Eucharist. He wore his clothes and marched to the altar to begin the celebration, and at that very moment the desire to become a priest came upon me. And I thought to myself, "One day I will become like him, wearing such beautiful colored clothes and stand at the altar to be the main celebrant celebrating Mass and offer the sacrifices on behalf of the people of God."

In the year 1996, I began my education doing grade one. My class moderator was a female; she was from a village at our main Catholic station called Makiri. She with her husband were both teachers, and her husband took grade six while she was taking grade one. Then the next year, which was 1997, I did my grade two; a male teacher by the name of Mr. John Koroï was our teacher. He was my father's cousin. He was very strict teacher and used to get on us when we did something that not in line with what taught us. He had a particular style to punish the students. His particular style was to put his hand on the other ear and press it and pull it up. Some of the students who received such punishment used to drop tears on other students.

And then in the years 1998 and 1999, I did not complete my grades 3 and 4. I went only for the first term and the rest of the term I was in the village doing what was required at such a childish age: helping my mother and my father. I had left the school because of my mother's cousin. She was our teacher during those two years, her name was Miss Pataki. She used to throw my exercise book out of the window just after marking it or making corrections. She used to say that I was the 'dead lock' in the classroom that was hard to open. I was very upset by such things, and then I made my decision to stay at home for those two years.

Anyway, I continued my studies in 2001 and 2002, and completed my primary school at Ruango Primary School at Kimbe Town in 2003. Then I was selected on 2004 to do my grade 9 and 10 at Kimbe Secondary School. In 2004 and 2005, I did grades 9 and 10. These two years were not full academic years for me. The school had many suspensions of classes' because of fights among the students and between the students and the teachers. I graduated with the grade 10 certificate at the end of 2005 on the 5th of November. I was then selected to continue my studies at Ulapia, or so called Chanel College, Minor Seminary for grades 11 and 12 in 2006 and 2007, at the Archdiocese of Rabaul, East New Britain Province. I completed my two years there and passed on to Formation House at Lannuzel in 2008. I went into the Major Seminary which is called Sacred Heart Inter-Diocesan Major Seminary, Rapolo. This is in Rabaul. From 2009 till 2013, I had my studies there and in 2014, I went for pastoral and last year, 2015, I came to Port Moresby and did my 5th year in the Catholic Theological Institute.

This year, 2016, is my final year in the seminary and I am looking forward to the last battle at the end of this year, probably during the first week or second week of November. I am not certain of the exact date and week but the month is November for our final examination, the Comprehensive Exam. As a final year seminarian, I kindly ask you, especially, those who are able to read my autobiography and see my picture, with a grateful heart I kindly ask for your prayers for all the final year seminarians in the world, and more so for us especially at Catholic Theological Institute. To really be like Christ and to serve the people of God wherever we live and wherever we go, we need your prayers. Your understanding would be much appreciated. I will pray also for the good Lord to bless you and your families.

Thank you so much by Seminarian Talania James.