

VOCATION STORY

My name is Haroman Tyson. I am the eldest in a family of five—two brothers and sisters. The second elder is a girl. She has a career as one the staff in Gerehu Secondary School in Port Moresby. As for the other brothers—one is married, whereas the other is doing his grade eight this year (2018). The last born is girl who is doing grade three also this year (2018).

In the family, education is the point that often is stressed to us by our parents. We were encouraged to work hard in whatever schools or institutions that we called to or were attending. This hasn't stopped my parents; we were always reminded and urged to uplift our study, and especially to be well educated. Therefore, reflecting on this gives me challenges from my education and to be someone with a personal ideal about the family that I have been brought in.

However, I was brought up in a family in which the mother and father are from different places. My mother's name is Kessie Kolish. My father's name is Cletus Haroman. My father is from Bougainville, Pororan Island in Buka. Mother is from East New Britain Province in an island called Duke of York. As for my father, he is not a well-educated person. He finished schooling in grade six, and that used to be the first examined grade in the past. But he is a very skillful and creative in carving canoes and also gifted in fishing. My father helped the family very much, especially earning money and food through the barter system from the fish that he used to catch. This is what the family entirely depends upon. On other hand, my mother is a well-educated person, unlike my father. She was once a typist—working under the CPL Company in Rabaul in the past before the volcanic eruption. Nowadays, she has become a housewife. She is now taking care of us, doing gardening, cooking, and marketing. Concerning our behaviours and attitudes in the family, she is the one who usually talks a lot and has been urging us. Both parents are very supportive and even challenge us for our future betterment.

We are fortunate that we were converted to the Catholic faith when we left Rabaul in 1994 during volcanic eruption. We were all baptised in 1996 to the Catholic faith except my father was brought up in the Catholic family. Living a life of being a Catholic has moulded the family into prayer, attending mass, and receiving the sacraments. Nowadays, the members in the family are taking part in activities concerning the parish such as liturgy, choir practice, strumming the guitars and others. This reflects the life that has been taught to us by our parents, and which also brings joy to the family.

I did my study beginning with the elementary school. I attended the elementary by completing all the grades which were required. In 2001 I did my grade three and completed grade eight in 2006. One of the courses that I have favoured the most during the years in primary school was Religious Education. I would often be the top student in this subject. This could be one of the unfigured reasons for me in my vocation.

In 2006 while I was doing my grade eight I could not believe that I would be awarded a dux that year in the school that I was attending. This has surprised me a lot unexpectedly. So I was selected to Bishop Wade Secondary School where I did complete grade nine to twelve that is in 2007 to 2010. Unfortunately, I was not selected to any institutions for further studies due to my marks, which were not acceptable.

However, when I was in secondary school (Bishop Wade), I was still having that desire to pray personally either in my own comfort zone or where I am going. Academically I did well on my marks in grade 9 and 10. Then I continued on doing grade 11 and 12. This is where I was tempted in many obstacles. I was taking drugs (marijuana) and joining peer groups that were involved in doing unnecessary practices. Yet my marks were dropped, which led me to concentrate poorly on my study.

Moreover, I was a Math 'A' student while doing grade 11 and 12. Internally I did well in all the subjects taken. I was awarded a second place in Chemistry and third place in Physics. But my external marks in the examination did not fit the choices I made for the institutions. This has left me behind, spending a year at home in 2011.

During a year living in home I experienced a lot of challenges and obstacles that I faced especially because I was involved in a peer group. I was addicted to vices such as alcohol (beer, home brew), and marijuana or cigarettes. During these times I could see these practices as what I desired most. I even sold marijuana to the consumers. During my adolescent stage I

very much enjoyed myself and my life, taking pleasure and satisfaction from living these vices.

I could remember on the Christmas night 2011 just after the mass I went to see a priest by approaching him about my interest to the priesthood. In me it was something I could not understand, because the thought of being a priest popped out from me just a couple of months after I quit the vices (smoking, particularly marijuana). It was that Christmas night I first time in some past years that I attended mass for such a celebration. That same night I went to my parish priest, who was a Marist priest, and had time with him for few words. The priest explained to me a bit about the life of being a priest. After having words with him I made a choice to be a candidate for a Marist.

Spending a couple of months with him in the parish doing my observation and likewise applying for the formation to the Marist, I was fortunate to be accepted after submitting a written letter. This took me into the first stage of my formation which was called a COME AND SEE PROGRAM. This program was held for four months with two interested candidates me: and the other one.

In 2013 I was accepted to do my study in Fiji since the Marist society was moved to Fiji with the exception of the other candidate who was with me in the COME AND SEE PROGRAM. In Fiji I did two years of studying in Pacific Regional Seminary, Suva. I lived in the Marist College where the Marist seminarians lived for study purposes. At the end of the second year 2014 I was not accepted to do my noviciate as religious usually do due to my failure in my spiritual formation. In spite of the good will toward me in the community, and from the Marist that I lived with, I was removed from formation.

However, it didn't end there. I felt that I still had a call to pursue on my vocation. In 2014 I consulted a priest from my own village who was also a Marist to say that that I would like join the diocesan seminary. So from mid-February 2015 I met with a vocation director by the name of Fr Willie Satsi, a diocesan priest, to express my interest to join the diocesan seminary. Then on March I began the COME AND SEE PROGRAM with other four candidates—five of us.

In 2016 I was accepted to do my propaedeutic years of study with other four candidates from Bougainville. Unfortunately in 2017 there were two of us with the exception of other three who did not continue on in their formation. This in turn brought me here to St Fidelis Seminary to pursue on my formation for a Spiritual Year.

Nowadays, looking back on my journey, it was a long one that I have gone through and which I still am going through on that I hope. I will still encounter many challenges and difficulties from the call that I am journeying to. Recalling the past years at home living a life of being a village youth I had experienced many different life styles whether bad or good. But these life styles were all both challenging and helpful which I believe have helped me journey through this far. Therefore, as I pursue this call or vocation, I believe that God will be the only one who will guide me all the way.

TYSON HAROMAN