Ubuntu african story pdf

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The autographed page of the review copy I received of Ubuntu: An Inspiring Story About an African Tradition of Teamwork and Collaboration said "Ivana – Love your work, Keep it up Sawa Bona – Bob Nelson." I've received autographed copies before, but I wasn't sure what Sawa Bona was. I had to read the book to find out (more on that later). I received Ubuntu as a review copy, but my MBA has an emphasis in teamwork and collaboration, so this book is something I would have bought on my own. It doesn't hurt that it's a 5 x 7 book with 132 pages in font large enough for even my middle-aged eyes to read comfortably.Bob Nelson, bestselling author of 1001 Ways to Reward Employees, and Stephen Lundin, bestselling co-author of Fish, have put their heads and experiences together and created a business novel that will give you an MBA's worth of management insights in the couple of hours it takes to read the book.What Is Ubuntu? I Am, Because We Are"In Africa there is a concept known as Ubuntu – the profound sense that we are human only through the humanity of others; that if we are to accomplish anything in this world it will in equal measure be due to the work and achievements of others." — Nelson Mandela Ubuntu is the story of John Peterson. John had always been a terrific worker at BullsEye, but when he was promoted to management, he found out that he faced more challenges than he had bargained for. Not only that, but his personal life was falling apart as well. When it rains, it pours.Then along comes Simon, a young student from South Africa. When Simon overhears John's frustration about having to come in over the weekend, he skips out on his college final to come in on Saturday to help John finish some poorly done paperwork. When John asks him why, Simon says simply, "It is Ubuntu." Soon after, John becomes Simon's student in the way of Ubuntu.As luck would have it, BullsEye is running a contest, and Simon is one of the winners of the grand prize – a trip to South Africa. John, Simon and several other BullsEye employees go on the journey of a lifetime and learn the principles of Ubuntu firsthand. They come back with a plan and soon BullsEye is transformed and is not only a great place to work, but is successful as well.How to Read This Book Like many business novels, you don't want to read this as if it were a Shakespearean work of art. This is not its purpose. Read this book as an allegory. As you read through the lessons and experiences of the characters, look inside yourself and see what lessons you can learn. The authors include outlines and notes the characters made that you can use as inspiration.A Few Lessons From the BookOne thing I really like about the book is the call-out boxes sprinkled throughout. Each features a Ubuntu principle you can think about and reflect on. Here are a few examples:We tell ourselves stories to explain the events in our lives. Being connected to others provides a necessary opportunity to challenge the stories that might be hurting our performance and inhibiting our growth. Ubuntu doesn't mean respecting bad work; it does mean respecting the person who does the work.As long as there are employees who think of themselves as little people, the work of Ubuntu is not done.I don't know about you, but for each bullet I can think of an example of a time or place where I could have applied each of these principles. In fact, I recognize that it's not too late to go back to the folks that were impacted by my actions and acknowledge their work.Who Should Read Ubuntu? Ubuntu isn't just for business owners or HR professionals. If you volunteer or are involved in church or school organizations, you'll find a lot of value in Ubuntu. In fact, a great way to bring your team closer together before starting a project is to get everyone a copy, take the weekend to read it, and then talk about how you will use the principles to work together.What's Sawa Bona and How Should You Respond?I started this review by telling you that Bob Nelson signed his note with "Sawa Bona." Sawa Bona is an African phrase that means "I see you." It acknowledges the connection that we share as human beings. The proper response to "Sawa Bona" is to smile widely and say "Sikhona" — which means "I am here."   It reminds me of the greeting "Namaste," which means "I see the light inside you."One of the parting thoughts in the book is that the first step toward Ubuntu is gratitude and acknowledging the connections that we share. Ubuntu is a fun book you can read quickly to learn lessons that will guide you for a lifetime of working with people. Sikhona.From Small Business TrendsUbuntu: An Inspiring Story About an African Tradition of Teamwork and Collaboration General Biographical Narrative:Dr. Stephen Lundin is a writer, entrepreneur and filmmaker with a rich history as a graduate level business school professor and dean. Steve has written a number of books including the multimillion copy best selling FISH! and the simply bestselling FISH! Tales, FISH! Sticks and FISH! for Life. His book Top Performer, A Bold Approach to Sales and Service was published in January 2007 and has been adopted by a major hotel chain. CATS: The Nine Levels of Innovation was published in January of 2009 and was quickly adopted by a medical products company. Loops: Success in Small Business is All About Closing Loops was published in April of 2009 and Ubuntu: Ancient African Wisdom for Today's Leaders (working title) will be published by Random House in the spring of 2010.During the last decade Steve has worked with hundreds of organizations in 40 countries. The government of Abu Dhabi, the largest builder in Dubai, nursing homes in New Zealand, banking systems in Africa, Australia and Malaysia, a shipping company in Singapore, the Japanese, Singapore and Australian Management Institutes, and health club chains in Sweden and Portugal are a few of his clients. A sample of his US clients include 3M, Guilda's Club, Johnson and Johnson, Microsoft, Keyspan Energy, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, The Barnes Jewish Hospital System, Cargil, The Credit Bureau Executives, P&G, Wells Fargo, the University of Florida Medical School and Hampton Brands by Hilton. You might have heard of the open-source Linux Operating system(OS) known as Ubuntu. It was first released in 2014 and is now one of the most popular OS's on the planet. It is behind the world's fastest supercomputer, runs on the most web servers around the world, and is even behind the technology used by Google's Self-driving car.But do you know what "Ubuntu" actually means? Jun 15, 2013 Sundarraj Kaushik rated it liked it Ubuntu is an African philosophy based on which every human is treated as one. Everyone is accorded the respect due to them, not to due to their position in organization or society or due to the relationship with the other. When practiced universally it leads to an harmony in the life and the environment in which one lives, be it home, or work. According to the book, it was this philosophy, that was promoted by the likes of Mandela and Bishop Tutu which ensured that there was not much lashback af Ubuntu is an African philosophy based on which every human is treated as one. Everyone is accorded the respect due to them, not to due to their position in organization or society or due to the relationship with the other. When practiced universally it leads to an harmony in the life and the environment in which one lives, be it home, or work. According to the book, it was this philosophy, that was promoted by the likes of Mandela and Bishop Tutu which ensured that there was not much lashback after the lifting of apartheid in South Africa.While this may be true, it is sad to see that even today, after so many years of lifting of apartheid, there are slums in the cities of South Africa and is populated mostly by the "coloured" people. It is difficult to gauge whether this is due to apathy of the administration, or due to "Ubuntu" not being exercised fully, or due to laxity on part of the "coloured" people who expect the government to keep helping them. The last reason was the reason that was quoted by somebody in South Africa, when I was there for a short while, as the reason for this situation.Over all a nice book. But for "Ubuntu" to succeed in an Organization, it needs to start at the top of the organization. Only when the heads start practicing it can they preach others to follow it, in fact if they heads start practicing it honestly, the others will almost automatically follow. ...more We would all love to learn how to be happy. And sometimes, the solution comes from a surprising place. Let me tell you a story... There was an anthropologist who had been studying the habits and culture of a remote African tribe. He had been working in the village for quite some time and the day before he was to return home, he put together a gift basket filled with delicious fruits from around the region and wrapped it in a ribbon. He placed the basket under a tree and then he gathered up the children in the village. The man drew a line in the dirt, looked at the children, and said, "When I tell you to start, run to the tree and whoever gets there first will win the basket of the fruit." When he told them to run, they all took each other's hands and ran together to the tree. Then they sat together around the basket and enjoyed their treat as a group. The anthropologist was shocked. He asked why they would all go together when one of them could have won all the fruits for themselves? A young girl looked up at him and said, "How can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?" How to Be Happy: Ubuntu Years later, the well known South African activist Desmond Tutu would describe the little girl's thought process by using the word ubuntu, which means "I am because we are." Here's how Tutu explained the concept: We believe that a person is a person through other persons. "Africans have a thing called ubuntu. We believe that a person is a person through other persons. That my humanity is caught up, bound up, inextricably, with yours. When I dehumanize you, I dehumanize myself. The solitary human being is a contradiction in terms. Therefore you seek to work for the common good because your humanity comes into its own in community, in belonging." This is exactly the type of philosophy that our community embraces. Community First "Your humanity comes into its own in community, in belonging." In our little community here, we each have our own goals and mission. Some of us are working to lose weight and get healthy. Others are striving to gain muscle and feel happier. But regardless of our individual pursuits, we are always a team grinding towards greatness. We are a group of people on a quest to make the world better, not just different. We support each other. We believe that there is always room at the top. We believe in abundance and we work hard to make life great for everyone in our community. We walk to the tree and enjoy the fruit together. Happiness comes from combining what we love to do with something that is meaningful. In this community, our goal is to improve your health and happiness so that you can do what you love and contribute something that is meaningful. We believe that we are here to make the world a better place, and we think that happy and healthy people have a better chance to do that than anyone else. That's why we share ways to naturally lose fat and gain muscle, reduce stress and feel happier, and boost your energy and creativity. If you choose to share your journey with us and work towards your goals as part of our team, then you'll find thousands people who support you. That's because we find value in community. We find our humanity in belonging. Thanks for reading. You can get more actionable ideas in my popular email newsletter. Each week, I share 3 short ideas from me, 2 quotes from others, and 1 question to think about. Over 1,000,000 people subscribe. Enter your email now and join us.

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