

Beulah Heights University

Grains of Sand

Submitted to Professor Christopher Scott Bowen

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of

ATH115

Success for Life and Ministry Online

by

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I Trust You Lord! The book entitled “Grains of Sand” by Benson M. Karanja is about a young man who trust God’s plan for his life. This book reflects a man life who experience wealth, poverty, racism, and rejection; however, having the faith to trust God’s purpose in his life; however, not knowing his plan.

Benson M. Karanja is a native of Kenya, East Africa who was born on April 5, 1953. During this time in his country they had not obtain their independence from England. Karanja was raised up on a farm in Gikammeh where his father was a cook for over 50 years.

Karanja, even in his early years of school was always intelligent and purpose driven. He was able to find ways to get along with everyone even his enemies, achieving his goals despite his adversities. He began school at the age of 7 which was highly irregular. In Kenya, education was compulsory, and all the children could go through the primary grades, which is considered 8th. By the age of 10 Karanja country was released from slavery on December 7,1963. Karanja continued his education as he passed KPE, attending high school, at the age of 13, which was irregular in that time.

After completion of high school, despite his dreams of going to a University, Karanja continue his education through a work training program at Bata. Bata would be considered like a Technical School her in the United States where he obtains two years of management training. Going into his third year at Bata, Karanja farther told him come home that, it was time for him to support himself. Karanja had the upmost respect for his father and return home to a life of entrepreneur. His father taught him that he could have more if he worked for himself.

For Karanja this was a major decision because he had the choice of becoming a manager at a growing shoe company or become a business owner. Karanja always had a desire to help

other's and remember that Jesus was a farmer, seeing a reflection of himself. Using this analogy, he opens his family company called Mbyaka. The company help small-scale farmers.

As a farmer Karanja was phenomenally successful, learning a lot about patient's, love and unity for others, and humility. Often, he would have to wait for payments from his customer, throwing his own bill's behind from time to time; however, he never stops helping his customer's leading him to wealth and prosperity.

Karanja later got married and had three children. Karanja and his family were very prestigious in his country because of his business practice and his love for others. He had given up his dream of obtaining more education. He was a very spiritual and prominent Businessman in Kenya.

After Karanja had spoken to one of the elder's, who revealed to him he would become a Pastor. Karanja was in disbelief and prayed for several month's for guidance from the lord. He never told his wife about going to bible school; however, the feeling grew stronger and stronger inside of him as he constantly seeks God for guidance.

When he initially mentions it to his wife, she was not to fund of going to the U.S. Not understand why they would leave such a prominent life that they had been blessed to obtain. Karanja did not want to leave his family; however, he knew that he had to do God's will. Karanja on the other hand was excited about going to the United Sates. Karanja knew he could not go and take care of his children without his wife. Karanja wife despite her own feeling supported her husband and her faith that they were doing God will.

After his wife agreed to go with her husband, they prepared themselves to move to Atlanta, Ga, where Karanja would attend BHBC. Karanja knew it would be hard to get one visa, let alone five; however, he went and applied in less than 20 minutes God plan had been revealed.

As God order the steps of a righteous man, Karanja was not only able to get one visa, but five for his entire family. Karanja was excited to be able to attend bible school and take his family along with him.

He had no idea of the obstacle that he would face in the United States; however, he was determined to do God's will. Karanja sold most of his equipment; keeping his family house and land and moved to the Atlanta, Ga with \$10,000 and his family. The school promised that they would provide him with housing for him and his family. When they arrived at their new home at BHBC, it was somewhat of a disappointment, a one-bedroom home that needed a lot of work and repairs.

He left a country where he was loved and prestigious to come to a place where he endured rejection, poverty, and racism; however, his faith was never broken or wavier. Karanja had the support of his family and most importantly he had faith in God's purpose for his life. Karanja worked several job's never having enough to provide the wants of his family just simply their need's and most time's not even that. Through it all God always stepped in and provided for his faithful servant.

Karanja began working for BHBC to pay for his education and housing; while working varies other jobs, along with his wife to provide their family needs. He never complained despite some feeling of disappointment. Karanja endure his path and trusted that he was doing God's will; continuing to learn from every life experience he encounters. Karanja worked his way up from the Janitor of BHC to the President of what is the present-day BHU.

Karanja was tested in all areas of his life. From his wife illness, to racism towards him and his family, to rejection from the church and other's that feared the gift's that the Holly Spirited placed inside of him. Karanja had opportunities to take higher paying jobs as he

completed his degrees; however, God always intervene and showed him his unique divine purpose was at BHBC. Karanja is a great leader and despite adversity he found a church home that excepted him and allowed him to go back home and bridge the gap between two totally different cultures.

It has been an honor and a privilege to just read his story. It warms my spirit and provide me understanding of how God absolutely loves us. Karanja dedication and loyalty to God allowed him to be pressed into the man of God that he is today. Karanja faith in God and support of his family lead him to place where he received Glory in the Eyes of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As I think of Karanja and his choice to follow God it touches my soul. It reminded me of how the bible talk's about how a wealth man cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Karanja stepped out of faith and brought his family to the United States. Karanja went from a life of prestige to poverty in the blink of an eye; however, the reward at the end of his journey was so much greater.

Bibliography

Karanja, Benson M. *Grains of Sand*. Highland park, Illinois 60035: Mall Publishing Company, 2006.