



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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It started as a normal day in Joseph's life. He wore a special coat of many colors from his father to prove he was Jacob's favorite son. It was no question, Joseph was the man! But then things went in a different direction. Joseph had a bad day. His brothers turned on him and sold him into slavery.

When Joseph arrived in Egypt, he was sold to a man named Potiphar. Potiphar's job took him out of town a lot. While he was away, his wife, "Mrs. Potiphar," attempted to seduce Joseph. Joseph refused her advances, but she refused to give up. Every day, she tried to cause Joseph to yield, but he would not compromise. One day, when no one else was in the house but Joseph, she grabbed him by his cloak and tried to seduce him again. Joseph ran, leaving his cloak in her hands.

The spurned Mrs. Potiphar held on to Joseph's cloak, and told her husband upon his return that Joseph had tried to lie with her. This resulted in Joseph having to move out of Potiphar's house to a new residence in the local prison. Joseph was having another bad day!

For the next 10 years, Joseph was held in prison. During this time, he met two men, a butler and baker, from Pharaoh's (the title of Egyptian kings) household. (Genesis 39:20) Both men had been troubled by their dreams. Joseph interpreted the dreams and predicted one man would be executed, while the other would return to his job in Pharaoh's court. And such was the fate of both men: the butler was released and the baker executed.

The butler promised to help Joseph, but after his release, he forgot about Joseph. This was another bad day for Joseph!

Two years later, Pharaoh was troubled by a dream he could not interpret. Now the butler remembered Joseph. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream and, in gratitude, Pharaoh promoted him to second in charge under himself (our equivalent of governor).

Many of us have in the past year experienced the same feelings of discouragement and uncertainty Joseph felt in his 10 years of imprisonment. If we were asked to summarize 2020, COVID-19, the losses of family members, friends, and jobs would probably cross our minds. But at the end of Joseph's life, he summarized his experience without bitterness, anger, or thoughts of animosity. Instead, he responded to the brothers who had sold him as a slave, "You meant it for bad; but God meant it for good!" (Genesis 50:20)

2020 has been a year of many bad days. It provided unusual challenges for the world as we faced the enemy of COVID-19. At the time of this article's publication, we have seen the death of over 340,000 Americans.

We were forced to talk about the dynamics of race relationships as we saw protests in our major cities. We saw opportunists use the protests as an excuse to loot local businesses. At times, it felt like we moved from the experience of one bad day, with police brutality involved in George Floyd's death, to months of bad days with violence and the destruction of property. Many small businesses could not survive the impact of being caught in the middle.

Yet amidst the difficult times, we have heard heartwarming stories of those who reached out to assist others rather than throw in the towel. Families grew closer because of home confinement. Random acts of kindness put smiles on our faces. Neighbors got to know each other. We learned new words like "virtual church" and the importance of church fellowship.

Only God can show us the silver lining beyond dark clouds! Thanks to Him, we are still learning positive lessons from this experience.

2020 is now in our rearview mirrors, but our story has not ended. We don't know what is behind the doors of 2021. But we can still trust the faithfulness of our God. I realize it's not easy to say these ... [Full Article](#)

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6



It's never too late to make a U-turn on the Road of Life. Ling's kind, Christian father died of cancer when she was 9 years old. She missed him, and his death made her wonder if God existed — if He was real, why would He take him away when her poor family had little else?

Life took another bad turn for Ling when her mother remarried two years later. The heartless man who became her stepfather forced her and her older sister to pull a machine designed to be carried by an ox for the next four years.

As Ling's stepfather profited from her back-breaking work, Ling grew resentful. Her bitterness spiraled into depression, and the teenager despaired of life itself. Thoughts of suicide swirled through her mind.

Concerned for her well-being, Ling's mother prayed for her and invited her to church. Ling began to attend the services, and her depression slowly faded.

One night, an evangelist visited their church and explained how sin could be forgiven through faith in Jesus' death on the cross. Feeling she could carry the burden of her anger and guilt no longer, Ling acknowledged her need for Jesus and became a Christian.

Ling didn't waste any time to begin serving Christ. At 17, she left home and began traveling alone by foot from village to village, sharing the gospel, distributing Bibles, and organizing house churches.

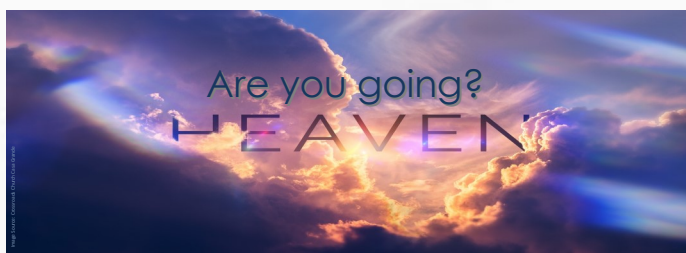
Though her work was often dangerous and she faced torture and imprisonment, Ling was committed to the task. She continues serving as an active leader in China's underground church to this day.

History is filled with unlikely saints whose lives experienced a 180° turnaround after they encountered Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul is one of the most famous examples. His Damascus-

Road experience is a reminder such change is possible for you.

New Year's resolutions are great; but without a catalyst for change, our resolutions are nothing more than a behavioral wish list. That's where a relationship with Jesus comes in. Get to know Him. Spend time reading His Word. Talk to Him about areas in your life you want to change. Ask Him what He wants to change, and let Him go to work. He allows U-turns on the Road of Life. Apply His Rules of the Road to your life today, and soon you'll see a difference.

Happy New Year



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