



DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

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Photo: Our Daily Bread

GOD'S WORKER

The Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Genesis 39:23

READ Genesis 39:19-23

In a refugee camp in the Middle East, when Reza received a Bible, he came to know and believe in Jesus. His first prayer in Christ's name was, "Use me as your worker." Later, after he left the camp, God answered that prayer when he unexpectedly secured a job with a relief agency, returning to the camp to serve the people he knew and loved. He set up sports clubs, language classes, and legal advice—"anything that can give people hope." He sees these programs as a way to serve others and to share God's wisdom and love.

When reading his Bible, Reza felt an instant connection with the story of Joseph from Genesis. He noticed how God used Joseph to further His work while he was in prison. Because God was with Joseph, He showed him kindness and granted him favor. The prison warden put Joseph in charge and didn't have to pay attention to matters there because God gave Joseph "success in whatever he did" (Genesis 39:23).

God promises to be with us too. Whether we're facing imprisonment—literal or figurative—hardship, displacement, heartache, or sorrow, we can trust that He'll never leave us. Just as He enabled Reza to serve those in the camp and Joseph to run the prison, He'll stay close to us always.

By Amy Boucher Pye

PRAY & REFLECT

Saving God, You never leave me, even when I face the hardest of circumstances. Please give me hope and eyes to see Your work in my life. Amen

When have you experienced God's redeeming action, such as Reza and Joseph did? How does Joseph's story help you to trust Him more?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

In Genesis 39, the word translated "prospered" (v. 2) or "success" (vv. 3, 23) is the Hebrew word *tsalakh*. In Genesis 24, it's used in connection with the mission of Abraham's "senior servant" to find a wife for Abraham's son Isaac (vv. 21, 40, 42). Elsewhere in Scripture, "success" is associated with obedience to the Scriptures. After the mantle of leadership had been transferred from Moses to Joshua, God told Joshua that he'd be "prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8) when he obeyed God's law. In Psalm 1, the person who delights in the words of God "is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers" (v. 3). The success of God's servants is based on God's provision - His presence and His strength to obey Him. – By **Arthur Jackson**

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