

“Joseph”

Ponder: Life isn't fair.

Scripture: “But as for you, you meant it for evil against me, but God meant it for good” (Genesis 50:19, NKJV).

In a different part of Africa, “Joseph” is alive and well. Actually, his name is Frank Muzabe, and he lives in Zambia, not Egypt.

A trained driver, Frank was hired to take a Toyota Land Cruiser into the Democratic Republic of Congo (not to be confused with the similarly named “Republic of Congo”). There, Frank was detained by police because, unbeknownst to him, the vehicle had been stolen at gunpoint. The authorities presumed Frank was involved and sentenced him to death along with the robbers.

While awaiting execution, Frank learned the gospel through World Bible School correspondence courses. He taught other inmates and established a prison congregation that grew to 150 members!

Government officials sat up and took notice. They vacated the death sentence and decreased his prison time. Frank Muzabe was finally released in 2015.

What happened to Frank Muzabe wasn't fair. He ought never to have been imprisoned, much less sentenced to death. To his credit, Frank has avoided the pity trap. He says, “I now see how God sometimes allows us to live through painful experiences so that we can grow closer to him. Sometimes we learn lessons that would be impossible to learn in any other way, and through these lessons we are equipped to help others discover that they, too, can become children of God. Accept whatever God sends you.”

Doesn't that sound like Joseph in Egypt? What Joseph's brothers did, selling him to a caravan of traders, wasn't fair. What Potiphar's wife did, falsely accusing him of attempted rape, wasn't fair. What Potiphar himself did, imprisoning Joseph, wasn't fair. What Pharaoh's cup-bearer did, neglecting to tell Pharaoh of Joseph's plight, wasn't fair.

But we see no hint of bitterness in Joseph. His brothers feared retaliation after their father, Jacob, was no longer alive to restrain him. Fortunately, Joseph wasn't interested in revenge. Instead, he saw the hand of God using him to save Egypt from famine. Frank Muzabe saw the hand of God saving him and using him to save another 150 souls.

You might be surprised what God can do through you when you “accept whatever God sends you”!