

A CHURCH THAT COUNTS
What a Church Does Under Pressure
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I. THE PRESSURE OF

“Then Joseph had another dream and said to his brothers, “I had another dream, in which I saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowing down to me.” He also told the dream to his father, and his father scolded him: “What kind of a dream is that? Do you think that your mother, your brothers, and I are going to come and bow down to you?”

Genesis 37:9-10 (Good News)

A. The _____ may not always be accepted by others.

“Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that’s not the way of Christ.” Colossians 2:8-10 (The Message)

B. Man’s smarts, debates, traditions and superstitions are not always _____

II. THE PLAN OF

“So Pharaoh commissioned Joseph: “I’m putting you in charge of the entire country of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his finger and slipped it on Joseph’s hand. He outfitted him in robes of the best linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He put the second-in-command chariot at his disposal, and as he rode people shouted “Bravo!” Joseph was in charge of the entire country of Egypt.” Genesis 41:41-43 (The Message)

A. Crisis always _____
in a surprising way.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him...But now he [God] has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.”

Colossians 1:15-16 & 22-23

B. True faith in God always leads to _____ answers.

III. THE PRODUCE OF

“But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid; I can’t put myself in the place of God. You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good, in order to preserve the lives of many people who are alive today because of what happened. You have nothing to fear. I will take care of you and your children.” So he reassured them with kind words that touched their hearts.” Genesis 50:19-21 (Good News)

A. God’s grace and _____ should be the same!

“We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all God’s people... He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of his dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.”
Colossians 1:4 &13-14 (Good News)

B. The solution for the crisis we face always involves _____ in Jesus Christ and _____ for people.