

## March 25

**Romans 15:4 (NIV)** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope

New York City has over 34,000 police officers, with new officers joining the force regularly. Yadarquis is one of those recent graduates and was assigned to one of the many precincts in the city. About the same time, Jazmin, also a recent graduate, was assigned to the same precinct. The two women became locker neighbors and discovered that they had the same last name: Molina. This unique fact brought them together, and they became friends. One day, Yadarquis, the older of the two, remembered that a long time ago, her mother told her she had a sister somewhere. She jokingly told Jazmin, "It would be funny if were family." Jazmin laughed and said, "Maybe, because I don't know my father's side of the family." As they continued talking, they realized that they were sisters! Yadarquis said the sisters do not believe in coincidence but in God's will to make their paths cross.

Often when we read stories like that of Joseph, we see them only as ancient stories. Joseph is sold as a slave, thrown in prison, made second to Pharaoh, keeps Egypt from starving, and years later is reunited with the brothers who sold him into slavery. That is a great story with some great lessons, but we tend to view what happened to Joseph as a one-time event. However, God tells us that everything in the Bible is written for our benefit, to teach us and to encourage us. When we read about the Molina sisters, we can see that what God did for Joseph, He is still doing for us today. God is working in our lives so that our paths cross the paths of those who are to be part of our lives. Many people will read about those sisters and attribute their meeting to luck or coincidence. When they do, they will view it as an isolated event that has nothing to do with them. However, as the sisters said, "There are no coincidences; there is only God." Therefore, their story is part of our story because all stories are part of God's story.