

CHOOSING TO BECOME A SLAVE

Abraham Bininger, a Swiss boy from Zurich, came with his parents to this country on the same ship that brought John Wesley – the Anglican theologian who, with his brother, Charles, is credited with founding the evangelical movement known as Methodism – to Savannah, Georgia.

Bininger's father and mother both died on the voyage and were buried at sea, so he stepped alone from the gangway on to a strange continent where there was not a single familiar face.

When grown to manhood, Bininger heard about the plight of the black people on the island of St. Thomas, including their misery and degradation. He asked to be sent to tell the story of the cross and the hope and redemption of Jesus Christ.

When he arrived at the island, Bininger learned that it was against the law for any person but a slave to preach to the slaves. It was the policy of the planters, he said he was told, to keep the blacks in ignorance and superstition. Bininger was greatly moved by this.

He wrote a letter to the governor of St. Thomas in which he begged to become a slave for the rest of his life. He promised to serve as a slave faithfully, provided he could give his leisure time in preaching to his fellow slaves.

The governor sent the letter to the King of Denmark, who was so touched by it that he issued an edict empowering Abraham Bininger to tell the story of the Messiah when and where he chose – to black or white, bond or free.

Bininger's story is a marvelous example of a person who understood what his calling in life was, and was very passionate about it – even to the point of giving up his own personal freedom to accomplish it.

We, too, in Life Care and Century Park are engaged in a noble mission. We have been ordained and equipped by our King to fulfill it. In response, we have associates who daily make sacrifices in services to the people entrusted to us and the betterment of their lives.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:16 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter