

From Trial to Triumph

After his parents were brutally murdered in North Vietnam, Ri moved to South Vietnam, where he went to school and eventually became a building contractor. Ri prospered greatly until he was arrested while on a trip north. After being imprisoned in North Vietnam for three years, he finally escaped and made his way south, only to be charged as a spy for the north.

When he learned that the United States was pulling out of South Vietnam, he gave all his worldly possessions in exchange for passage on a small, overcrowded fishing boat. He was later rescued by an American ship and taken to the Philippines, where he lived in a refugee camp for two years.

Finally, he was released to the United States, where Ri's cousin offered both him and his wife jobs in his tailor shop. Their net pay was only \$300 a week, but they were able to save by living in the back room of the tailor shop and taking sponge baths. Within two years, they had saved enough to buy out the cousin's business. It was only then that they rented an apartment.

Today, Ri is a millionaire. Hard work and frugal living can bring a dream into reality. A leader is not leading if he or she is not moving forward.

Perseverance is a marvelous quality that brings great results. The Apostle Paul knew a lot about perseverance. He wrote:

We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character, and character, hope (Romans 5:3-4).

– Beecher Hunter