

## NEW YEAR COMING UP... SAME OLD PROBLEMS?

*You're still battling the same issues you started this year with. It's time to do something about it, and enter the new year without old problems.*



*"I got into the world of drugs and trafficking and set up my place as a drug house. From there, I sank," says Michael*

## How has this year been for you so far?

You can still turn things around this year. Come and join us in the New Years' Night Vigil on Dec. 31st at 10 PM.  
You can start a new year with a new Life.  
At every Universal Church.



**| MESSAGE |**  
**BISHOP EDIR  
MACEDO**

**TO CHANGE  
YOUR LIFE**

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**HE HAD  
LITTLE  
GROWING  
UP.**

**TODAY HIS FAMILY HAS THE BEST.**

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**SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

**NOT TO BE SOLD**



| IN THIS EDITION |

NEW YEAR,  
SAME OLD PROBLEMS?

How has this year been for you so far? Are you still battling the same problems you started this year with? It's time to do something about it to enter the new year without the old problems.

Your problems, challenges, and dreams don't know what a New Year is. They go on, indifferent to the calendar — unless you decide to do what is necessary to overcome and achieve them.

Instead of wishing "Happy New Year," watching fireworks, wearing white, and all other new year traditions, make courageous decisions to change your life. Do what you have to do, do what is right, and be committed to the changes you want to see. Decide to be committed to your relationship with God because only through Him can this new year genuinely mean a new you, a new life.

Visit a Universal Church near you and start a chain of prayer to overcome your old problems. The day you do this is the day your New Year will begin.

Join us for Christmas



2022 was a year of many losses and has proven that anything can happen in a blink of an eye, let alone 365 days. One thing we can be sure of is that it is essential to appreciate simple things such as our family and loved ones. On Christmas Day, we will have a special gathering for those who want to establish their life and family in the Kingdom of God. Write down the names of your loved ones below to present to God for protection and salvation this Christmas at a Universal Church near you.


Meeting: Christmas Service  
Day and Time: Sunday, Dec 25 at 10 AM  
Location: The nearest Universal Church  
Call 1.888.332.4141  
Text 1.888.312.4141  
For more information  
SEE PAGE 12 FOR LOCATIONS



Bishop Edir Macedo



TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

People often think that if they had something, or if something were to happen, their lives would change. Many get married, play the lottery, get a higher education, move to a different city, steal and even kill to have a particular person, object, or position. They believe these things will have the power to change their lives. But how can they change their lives when what controls their actions and directs their choices have not changed? How can they enjoy new things when they continue dealing with things the old way?

The secret to changing your life is to change your way of thinking. If you want to have a new life, you need to absorb new thoughts. Only then will you be able to have a new attitude. And as a consequence, you will have new opportunities and results.

It is what Gideon did. First, he changed his thoughts; he thought about having more rather than settling, changed his attitude, and went to thresh wheat in the wine press instead of staying in the cave. Soon after, he had a new opportunity – sacrifice to God. And, finally, he obtained new results – he delivered Israel from the oppression of Midianites and became extremely rich.

**"How can people change their lives when what controls their actions and directs their choices have not changed..."**

Everything that happens in the environment first occurs in someone's mind. Nothing can be accomplished or realized if it hasn't first been assimilated



ed and processed by the mind. Therefore, it must first occur in your interior when you want something to happen on the exterior. If you want to change what is on the outside, you must change what is inside. Otherwise, change will never truly take place.

If you want something new, but nothing is happening, check if your thoughts are still the same. Maybe you keep the same ideas about sacrifice. You think you have sacrificed in the past, about your own life and even about God. Update your mind, like Gideon did (Judges 6.13). He was unsatisfied with the old; He wanted new and updated results.

If you deal with new opportunities as before, with old thoughts, then it will not work. Change your old ideas for new ones so you can change your old life for a new one. Change the "I was" to "I am going to be that." Renew your mind and have a testimony that is as up-to-date as the Word of God. This is what you need to do to change your life.

**Depression is an illness of the soul that you can only cure through the power of Faith. Since it is an illness of the soul, what medicines can be used to heal it? Who, other than the Savior of Souls, can heal the soul? Every Friday, at every Universal Church, we have a service for spiritual cleansing against depression. Come and make a Chain of Prayer at one of our locations. You, too, can defeat depression**

**DEFEAT  
DEPRESSION**  
THROUGH THE POWER OF FAITH



**"I WENT INTO DESPAIR BECAUSE I COULDN'T  
END MY LIFE"**

The depression began at 13, and over the years, it worsened. I was empty and unhappy. I later got into a relationship that only brought me more pain and suffering; I had two daughters from that relationship. When my daughters' father abandoned me, it worsened my situation. I felt unable to take care of them alone and started having suicidal thoughts.

The desire to die was so great that I started researching on the internet how I could kill myself. I tried to commit sui-

cide three times. On my last attempt, I was taken to the hospital because I had ingested several drugs simultaneously and was between life and death. When I woke up, I went into despair for not being able to end my life; I didn't want to live; my soul was in deep anguish.

Coming home, I fell in tears and asked God for help. I could not stand to live; it was suffocating. That same day I remembered an invitation from the Universal Church by church members who passed by my door evangelizing and decided to seek help.

I have no words to explain how I was welcomed with open arms and guided. They told me that I had value and

was special; I felt loved and found the strength to start over. I made my chain of prayers and was freed from everything that enslaved me; drugs, drinking, prostitution and partying.

Today I am a new person, free and cured of an unhappy past. I found a new identity, the identity of the daughter of God, and I received the Holy Spirit. Today my smile is sincere. Even when facing struggles and challenges, I know that in all of them, I will win, for greater is the One who is with me than the One who is in the world. To you who live what I once lived, I tell you there is a solution. BELIEVE ME; they do not judge; they help.

-Jussara da Silva

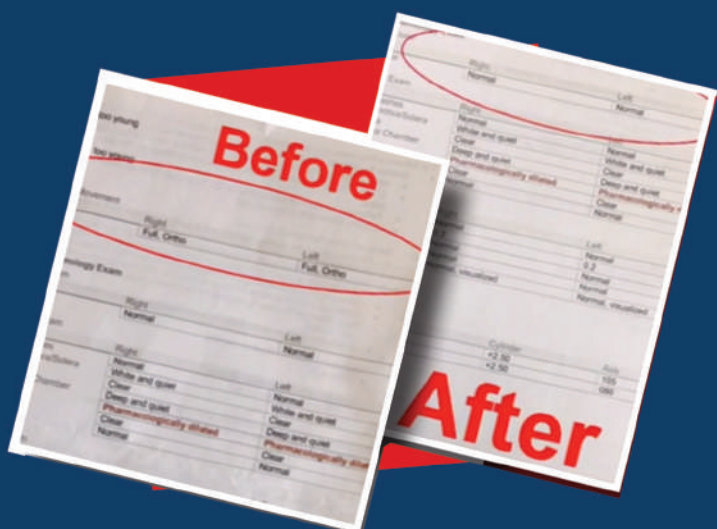


# MIRACLES EXIST

## MY GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER WAS BORN BLIND.



She was a premature baby, and the doctor said she was legally blind. It was because of an injury she had sustained to her head and other developmental issues. It bothered me a lot, so I took a bottle of the Divine water and gave it to my grandson, telling him to give her little drops to put on her lips.



I believed God didn't bring this baby here to suffer this way. I kept praying, used the Divine water to wash her eyes, and started to notice that she was reacting to me more and more, not just to my voice. The special teacher also noticed it. We went back to the eye doctor, who confirmed the great news she could see! My great-granddaughter is five months old now and has her vision back. - Mary



## I WAS ADDICTED TO CIGARETTES FOR 18

I had a real bad addiction to cigarettes for 18 years off and on. I was also depressed. I was homeless and it was difficult to overcome all these problems and better myself. Someone invited me to attend the church so I came one day and continue doing the Chain of Prayer and following the guidance I was receiving in the church. When I started using the Divine water things started to change. Nowadays I feel great, I am not smoking nor depressed, I'm happy, active and in addition to that now I have my own apartment. -Verley SC



Martin and her son Matthew

## MY SON WAS IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL

I had a terrible addiction to cigarettes for 18 years off and on. I was also depressed. I was homeless, and it was challenging to overcome all these problems and better myself. Someone invited me to attend the church, so I came one day and continued doing the Chain of Prayer and following the guidance I was receiving in the church. When I started using the Divine water, things started to change. Nowadays, I feel great; I am not smoking or depressed; I'm happy and active, and in addition to that, I now have my apartment. - Verley SC



Learn to put your faith in action in order to fight your problems!

**GET YOUR DIVINE WATER  
EVERY SUNDAY**

at your nearest Universal Church





|Message|

BISHOP JOSHUA

## ONE FOOT IN AND ONE FOOT OUT

Did you know there are certain places you can stand in the world where you would be in two places at once? For example, when walking down a state street in Tennessee, one foot can be in Tennessee and the other in Virginia. Quite an interesting fact to know. But logically speaking, there's no way to walk through life like this — one foot in one place and the other in another.

However, many face this separation when it comes to their faith. Unfortunately, many walk with Jesus on one side but with the world on the other. Although they may attend services, they have yet to fully let go of old habits, the old mindset, an old addiction, or their old life. Because of this, they haven't fully received all the new things God has prepared for them. They have not received peace, joy, salvation, etc., and are left wondering why.

Here is the answer: We cannot walk

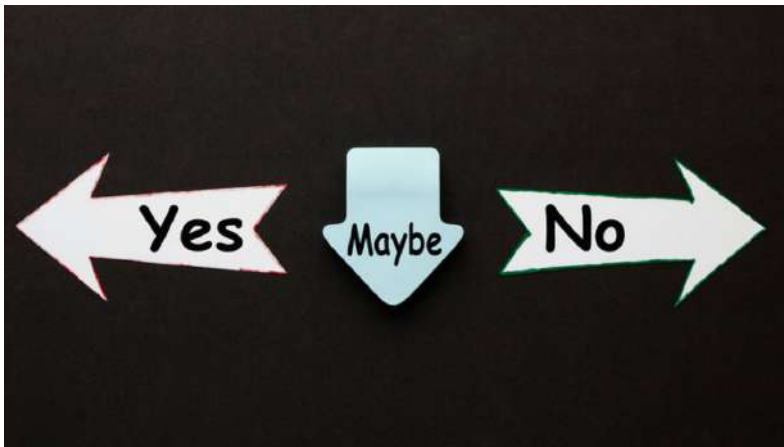
with one foot in and one foot out. We need to realize that we can't be halfway with God. We are either all in or all out. Take a look at what Jesus said to this man in the Bible:

"Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" (John 3:5)

You only enter the kingdom of Heaven when you are born again.

This word was not one of condemnation but of salvation. Perhaps you have felt like going to church hasn't made a difference in your life, but the true difference will only come when you give yourself one hundred percent to God. When you give your all, God gives you His all, and His all has so much more to offer than you can ever imagine.

May the God of the Bible bless you!



**2023**  
**TURN AROUND**

Do you want a 180 degrees turn in your life in 2023?

**DON'T MISS OUT THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

**TURN AROUND**  
**New Year's Night Vigil**

**December 31st @ 10pm**  
**At a Universal Church near you**

Call 1 888 332 4141 for more information

Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

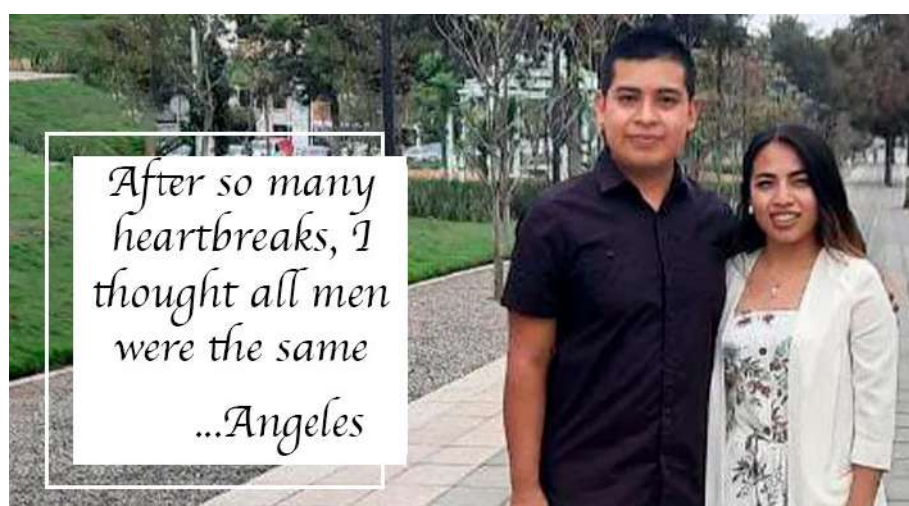
12	2022 DEC	Bible Reading					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				1 Isaiah 31	2 Isaiah 32	3 Isaiah 33	
4 Isaiah 34	5 Isaiah 35	6 Isaiah 36	7 Isaiah 37	8 Isaiah 38	9 Isaiah 39	10 Isaiah 40	
11 Isaiah 41	12 Isaiah 42	13 Isaiah 43	14 Isaiah 44	15 Isaiah 45	16 Isaiah 46	17 Isaiah 47	
18 Isaiah 48	19 Isaiah 49	20 Isaiah 50	21 Isaiah 51	22 Isaiah 52	23 Isaiah 53	24 Isaiah 54	
25 Isaiah 55	26 Isaiah 56	27 Isaiah 57 & 58	28 Isaiah 59 & 60	29 Isaiah 61 & 62	30 Isaiah 63 & 64	31 Isaiah 65 & 66	

## BEFORE GIVING UP ON LOVE, READ ANGELES STORY...

I always had problems in my love life. Whenever I got involved in a relationship, I ended up disappointed because of infidelity. Because of all my heartbreaks, I thought there was no way for me to be happy in my love life. That made me feel worried and sad. Although I had another opportunity to start a relationship, I no longer believed in love or marriage. I thought all men were the same and nothing would be different.

Once I began participating in the Universal Church, I started making the chain of prayer for my love life. While doing the chain of prayer, I learned that having the Holy Spirit is very important for me to make the right decisions concerning my love life and life as a whole. I decided to prioritize it, and

when I received Him, my way of being, thinking, seeing, and feeling changed utterly.



The Spirit of God assured me that I would find the right person. I started dating the one who is now my husband, and everything was different. I was sure he would not lie or betray me because I observed how he treated his family and me. I liked that he respected me and treated others well.

I was no longer afraid that the same experience would repeat itself. Now that we are married, we face our difficulties together because we always remember what God has done with us. In addition, we talk, go out together, and see what we need to change to get closer to God and, thus, take care of our marriage.

Having a happy love life is essential to healing internally and trusting that God has a unique purpose to fulfill in your life.

Ángeles and Abundio



# UNISOCIAL

## IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS



### JAMAICA



The Unisocial team in Jamaica has been reaching out to many homes from parish to parish. This work has been done systematically, bringing not only food items, hygiene products for inmates but above all the spiritual support. We believe that no matter what a person may be facing in life there will always be a way out through the power of faith.

**HEADQUARTERS IN KINGSTON**  
141 Maxfield Ave. Kingston 10  
**Helpline: 1876.757.8424**



The CBC (Children's Biblical Center) and the Unisocial team from Guyana prepared an event for the children of West Ruimveldt, Georgetown in Guyana with 115 volunteers, dentist, barber and a General practitioner doctor who provided assistance for the children and their family members.

This event gathered 380 children that were able to received gifts like toys among other items that were donated during the event.

About 300 families were benefited from this great event in Guyana.



**HEADQUARTERS IN GEORGETOWN**  
Former Strand Cinema 162 Charlotte and Wellington  
**Helpline: 952.225.1557**



### GUYANA

#### LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN:

**Trinidad & Tobago:** Port of Spain #40 South Quay P.O.S - Tel. 389-9880

**Suriname:** Keizerstraat 159 Paramaribo 26 - Tel. 855.5519

**Barbados:** Baxter Road, opposite Kensington new Road - Bridgetown, St. Michael

**St.Vincent:** Tyrell Street near the Hospital - Kingstown

**Belize:** 77 Central American Boulevard, Belize City

**Grenada:** Halifax Street - Saint George's Upstairs Klassic Kollection

**Bonaire:** Kaya Industria Pariba # 32 Kralendijk - BQ 0000 Caribbean Netherlands

**Saint Lucia:** 25 Brazil Street Castries, Opposite the Derek Walcott square

**Dominica:** 26 Great Marlborough St - Roseou (near Digicel)

**Cayman Island:** 71 Eastern Avenue - Crown Square, Unit A10 (Behind Jn money Transfer)

**Bahamas:** Wulff Road - Opposite Wulff Road Police Station By Superwash Plaza - Nassau - New Providence

**Sint Maarten:** 27 back street- Philipsburg- Dutch Side.

**Antigua & Barbuda:** Redcliffe Street, St John's (opposite ECAB bank)



# NEW YEAR'S COMING UP... SAME OLD PROBLEMS?



Given the state of the world today, it's no wonder that people are increasingly frustrated and angry. Day-to-day tasks, family conflicts, and pursuing financial growth take up most of their time. With this, physical, mental, and even spiritual health end up getting harmed.

According to the global report of emotions carried out by the American company Gallup, which specializes in opinion research, people all over the planet are feeling this way: more frustrated and angry.

Without God's presence, it is impossible to eliminate these problems affecting the soul and spirit.

Therefore, in this world where people are more pressured every day, faith must be the greatest ally to conquer peace of mind definitively.

**This Friday, receive prayers to end all frustrations. Go to a Universal Church near you. See back page for locations.**

Michael started making wrong decisions as a teenager. Despite being introduced to faith in childhood by his parents, who both attended the Universal Church, he chose to go his own

way.

"I got into the world of drugs and trafficking and set up my place as a drug house. From there, I sank. I used marijuana, cocaine, and ecstasy. Because I live in this environment, they tried to kill me, and I had to run away from death several times", he recalls. In order not to be caught, he moved to another city, but confusion and addictions accompanied him. "I went to rob this new location, and other criminals tried to kill me too. I ran away again."

"I lived in crime and as a fugitive for 11 years, and throughout that period, my father fought for me through the chains of faith, purpose, and prayers at the church," he says.

Michael says he was so involved with this life that he didn't want to know about faith, much less about God's proposal for each person's life. "Until then, for me, the church was something



for tacky people. But my life was destroyed, starting with my love life. It was day to day with different women, and I didn't want a person by my side because I knew that someone would want to kill me at some point, and I would have to run away." He reports that his financial life was no different: "I won one day, and the next day I lost everything. In addition, I had no peace; I had the desire to kill myself, was depressed, and I thought there was no other way for me".

After spending an entire night using drugs, Michael couldn't sleep and remembered his father's teachings on faith.

He heard a message on TV from Bishop Edir Macedo encouraging viewers to talk to God how they knew how even if it was using slang. "A revolt hit me, and a desire to start over. I prayed the same day I went to church and gave myself to God. I left there as a different person, with peace inside and free from addictions. On my way home, I thought about what I had heard and decided to get baptized in water. On the same day, I stopped at the church in my neighborhood and asked the pastor to baptize me", he says.

Michael went beyond words and showed God with actions that he wanted His Presence

in his life. "The next day, I left the bad friendships and the job I was working on because I wanted a job where I didn't have friends that would take me to drug trafficking or robbery."

He became involved with the things of God. He understood the importance of the Holy Spirit: **"I didn't need money, women, or anything else. I needed the Presence of God, and to have Him, I sacrificed. I fasted, woke up at dawn to cry out, and went to the Altar with my sacrifice and my life. I fought for the faith until the Holy Spirit came on me."**



An experience with God changes how a person thinks, acts, and dreams. "My life today is transformed. I have peace. My family members now know who I am, and we have communication. I no longer have addictions or relapses. The most important thing is that the Holy Spirit filled me, and the other things are being added daily," he concludes.

**"My life today is transformed. I have peace. I no longer have addictions or relapses. The most important thing is that the Holy Spirit filled me, and the other things are being added daily."**



In all of his projects, God worked in partnership with man. For example, to save Noah and his family, Noah needed to build the ark. Still, God gave the materials and the guidelines and later brought the animals, also.

Today is no different. God counts on human collaboration to accomplish great deeds, such as saving one's family. After all, just as He reached you, He wants to reach out to your nearest and dearest.

If you don't want to lose your family to poor lifestyle choices and want to help them before things get worse, come to the Universal Church this Sunday. Determine that you will serve God with your family. **"Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household...'"** (Genesis 7:1)

This Sunday, bring your family and walk through the ark so that you can save your family through faith.

Fernando is married to Sandra. Together for more than three decades, the two consider they have a happy family. However, their story was not always like this. When they were young, they learned about the work of Universal and participated in the Work of God. Fernando was even a pastor, but he ended up moving away.

They already had a small daughter after less than two years of marriage. "Fernando started drinking. I would go days without coming home. He also started using drugs. In addition to being drunk, my husband was a drug addict: he started using cocaine, marijuana, and even crack. When he got home from a night out, he couldn't stand up; he would go in and pass out on the couch. He also became a cold person, but even so, we had another child", says Sandra.

She passed a civil service



## "I GOT TO THE POINT OF PLANNING MY DEATH."

exam, the couple bought a house, and Sandra started working two jobs. "Fernando traveled to another city for work, stayed away for up to three months, and when he returned home, he spent more time with his lovers. Sometimes he called, drunk, saying he was coming home, but he didn't. When I was on duty at work, my daughter called me, asking where her father was. I depended on the neighbors and my sister-in-law to look after my children," she recalls.

The situation revolted even Fernando's sisters, who asked Sandra why she didn't separate. "I got to the point of planning my death. I poured alcohol on my body, and the only reason I didn't set it on fire was that I couldn't find the match," she says.

After that, she decided to end what was happening: "A Campaign of Israel arrived, but I didn't do as the Altar asked, and the situation didn't change. Until I said to God: 'it's all or nothing; I'm going to stop paying electricity and my bills.' I separated all my salary from

the two jobs and went to the Altar".

One day, Fernando came home drugged, turned the stereo on high, and started dancing in the living room. "I went to the bedroom, and he followed and leaned me against the wall as if he were going to attack me. I gave him an order: 'Let go of my arm; I see you in the Name of my Lord. Get out of here. He got down on his knees, became disoriented, and asked me what had happened. From then on, I started to show the devil who the God I was serving was", says Sandra.

Fernando started going with her to the Universal Church, cured his addictions, and distanced himself from his lovers. The two went back to doing the work. **"Today, I can say to those who are going through what I went through to put all their faith in God.** I am grateful to Him for changing my life. I paid my debts, and my objective is to win souls for God's honor and glory," concludes Sandra.

**"I am grateful to Him for changing my life. I paid my debts, and my objective is to win souls for God's honor and glory."**

## MAKE A CHAIN OF PRAYER IT WORKS!

A Chain of Prayer is when you attend a prayer meeting for a certain number of weeks without interruption in order to see a breakthrough in your life. Whether it is healing, a financial breakthrough or spiritual deliverance that you need, a Chain of Prayer helps you develop the faith and determination to overcome.

**Monday - Strong Nation  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**



Learn the secrets to overcome financially. Receive direction to grow and become a successful person.



**Tuesday - Prayer for healing  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**

Receive prayers for your physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

**Wednesday - Night of Salvation  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**



A meeting will be held for those who want to invest in a genuine relationship with God.



**Thursday - Family & Love Therapy  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**

The goal of the family meeting is to bring families together. No family is perfect, but they can be free from any hate, separation and other underlying issues.

**Friday - Deliverance  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**



There is a root to every problem. No issue can be dealt with permanently without removing its root. Every Friday, strong prayers is provided for anyone who is facing a problem that is influenced by negativity.



**Saturday - Impossible Cases  
8am & 12pm**

Have you ever looked at a problem or situation and thought, 'this is impossible, there is no solution to this?' If you want to see the 'impossible become possible', join us every Saturday.

**Sunday - Gathering of Faith & Miracles  
7am, 10am, 3pm & 6pm**



These meetings aim to help people connect with God, to empower people and teach them how to use their faith to achieve what they want in their lives.



WHOSE WORDS  
HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO?

How many people suffer traumas because of a spoken word? That child that heard from the parent that they would never make it in life! Many years have passed, and this person even made it in life but never forgot about the negative words that were spoken.

That person that heard from a spouse that they would never be happy with someone else after a bitter breakup. Someone who the doctor told that this sickness cannot be cured and will lead to death!

When it comes to the authorities in this world: police officers, judges, lawyers, doctors, etc., the final word is the last! How many times have you tried to speak with someone, and they reaffirm the terms of their lawyer or doctor by saying, “My doctor says...”

And no matter how you try to show them a way out, they can’t forget about the doctor’s final word. Let me be clear I have nothing against lawyers, doctors, or any authority in this world.

The point I want to make clear: When it comes to The Word of God, there must be the same awareness and conviction! The God of the Bible is the Highest Authority, and His Words are final!

THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER  
FADES, BUT OUR GOD’S WORD  
STANDS FOREVER.” (ISAIAH 40:8)

Maybe you have recited so many Bible verses from your youth up until your adult age. But you only saw words. You haven’t experienced them in your life in a practical way!

Today is the day to change this situation. Take the Word of God for what it is: powerful and able to transform your life!

Instead of just quoting Bible verses, challenge God with His Words! If His Word promises to heal, you cannot accept being bound by infirmity! Find a Bible verse that speaks of His healing power and start your challenge by saying: “Your Word says...”

If His Word promises a life of abundance, you cannot accept lack! If His Word promises freedom, you cannot tolerate being bound by addiction! I challenge you to open the Bible daily and proclaim the blessings of the Lord in your life! There are more than eight thousand promises available! What is written in the Word of God is final, and it will stand forever!



UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS (UBB)  
NATIONWIDE SCHEDULE

\* Scheduling may vary depending on local changes

TEXAS		
MONDAY'S:		
C.T. TERRELL UNIT:	1PM & 4PM	
LUTHER UNIT:	10AM	
CLEMENS UNIT:	2:30PM	
CLEMENS 2 UNIT:	1PM	
TERRELL UNIT:	2PM	
TUESDAY'S:		
FERGUSON UNIT:	8AM & 5PM	
HOBBY UNIT:	8AM	
LANE MURRAY UNIT:	12:30PM	
GOREE UNIT:	2PM	
JESTER UNIT:	1PM	
JESTER 3 UNIT:	12:30PM	
KEGAN UNIT:	1PM	
WEDNESDAY'S:		
LUTHER UNIT:	11:00AM	
CLEMENS UNIT:	3PM	
GOREE UNIT- EVERY 1ST AND 4TH WED OF THE MONTH @ 4PM.		
HOLLIDAY UNIT:	8AM	
THURSDAY'S:		
CRAIN UNIT:	5PM	
HILLTOP UNIT:	1PM	
SANDER'S UNIT:	5PM & 6PM	
FRIDAY'S:		
LUTHER UNIT:	10AM	
DARRINGTON/MEMORIAL UNIT:	3PM	
SATURDAY'S:		
JESTER UNIT, EVERY 1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH @ 1PM.		
*NOTE: FERGUSON UNIT, PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR CHAPLAIN FOR THE UBB COURSE SCHEDULE.		
FLORIDA		
TUESDAY'S:		
METRO WEST DETENTION CENTER:	10AM- 2PM	
BROWARD REGIONAL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER:	4PM-5PM	
TOK (FEMALE JAIL)- EVERY 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY:	10AM-12PM.	
SATURDAY'S:		
MIAMI DADE COUNTY PRE-TRIAL DETENTION CENTER:	10AM-11AM	
CALIFORNIA		
TUESDAY'S:		
AVENAL STATE PRISON:	2PM- 4PM	
HAWAII		
TUESDAY'S:		
HALAWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY:	7PM	
WEDNESDAY'S:		
HALAWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY-	7PM	

\* IF YOU DO NOT SEE YOUR UNIT ON THE UBB SCHEDULE YET, DO NOT WORRY. THERE IS STILL AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE UBB (UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS) BY SENDING YOUR LETTER TO BISHOP JOSHUA AT:

7075 SOUTHWEST Fwy.  
HOUSTON TX, 77074

YOU CAN BE SURE TAT BISHOP JOSHUA WILL READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR LETTER. HE MAY ALSO ATTACH A BIBLE STUDY TO IT SO THAT YOU CAN KEEP YOUR MIND FOCUSED ON SOMETHING POSITIVE, AND STOP THINKING ON THE NEGATIVE THINGS.

IF YOU NEED ANYMORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIFFERENT COURSES OFFERED BY THE UBB, PLEASE GET IN CONTACT WITH THE CHAPLAIN IN YOUR FACILITY.

CONTACT US UPON RELEASE:  
1 (888) 691-2291



UBB IS SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH. WHEN YOU GET OUT, COME AND LOOK FOR THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH THAT SPONSORS THE UBB! CALL US TO FIND THE NEAREST LOCATION TO YOU: 1 (888) 332-4141 OR VISIT US AT: WWW.ULFN.ORG/LOCATIONS! WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE, OR WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU MATTER.

... REMEMBER YOU CAN SEND YOUR LETTERS TO BP. JOSHUA, HE WILL PERSONALLY READ AND REPLY.

SEND YOUR LETTER TO: 7075 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY. HOUSTON, TX 77074.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE: FULL NAME (FIRST/LAST), COMPLETE FACILITY NAME, CORRECT ADDRESS, CITY/STATE, AND ZIP CODE.







**“THE WORST DECISION I MADE WAS KNOWING I SPENT YEARS BEHIND BARS AND CONTINUED GETTING IN TROUBLE AND GOING BACK TO PRISON.”**

I lived my crazy life. I remember one day, my mom left to go to church and came back to find six police cars surrounding the street. They said to my mom, “Look at your drug dealer, son...” as I knelt with my hands over my head in the middle of the street. People would mock my mother, seeing the way I was. They knew she was in the Universal Church; it was shameful, but she never gave up on me.

**ONE DAY I FACED A TRAGEDY, THERE WAS A LOT OF JEALOUSY FROM OTHER DRUG DEALERS, AND THE HEAD OF THE DEALERS SENT SOMEONE TO TRY AND KILL ME. HE HAD ARRANGED EVERYTHING AND CONTACTED OTHER PEOPLE TO EXECUTE THE MURDER. MY FRIEND AND I FLED ON HIS MOTORCYCLE. HE WAS SPEEDING AND LOST CONTROL OF THE BIKE, AND WE FLEW OFF; HE BROKE HIS NECK AND DIED ON THE SCENE. WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, VERY HURT. I BROKE MY ARM. HOWEVER, THE DOCTOR WAS IMPRESSED THAT I ALSO NEVER DIED. I THEN NOTICED MY MOTHER HAD BEEN IN THE ROOM WITH ME. SHE KNEW FROM THE HOSPITAL BED I WAS UNDER ARREST BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY POLICE OFFICERS THERE BY MY ROOM.**

They transferred me from the hospital to prison. I continued to be involved with crime again, making phone calls in jail and dealing drugs, and I didn't know it had been a trap. One day I met up with a rival in prison who killed a guy right next to me and died on the spot. This guy in prison wanted to kill me. I was outraged and disturbed. I realized he could've murdered me too, but he didn't. I saw once again the God my mother served had saved me. From the age of 10 until that moment, God was there.

I slowly abandoned the practices I had started and became disgusted with this life. I quit the old habits I had, like smoking marijuana and cigarettes, and I eventually stopped smoking completely. I stopped talking to the wrong people in prison. I wasn't interested in participating in those conversations anymore.

**I WANTED TO BE INVOLVED IN CALMER, MORE FULFILLING DISCUSSIONS TALKING ABOUT THE THINGS OF GOD. I ASKED MY MOM ONE DAY FOR A RADIO. SHE BOUGHT ME A SMALL ONE.**



**RAFAEL AND HIS MOTHER**

I remember deciding to listen to the radio of the church. That night it was my motivation. I started getting closer to God, making my prayers. Then every Sunday, I watched the church's services (Universal) at 9:30 AM; it was my daily fuel. There came an opportunity for me to challenge God, and I did. I used my faith inside the prison, told my mom to take what I had, and did my campaign of sacrifice. She placed it on the altar for me. I told God I would not leave prison without the Holy Spirit because if that's the case, I would leave and come back as I did in the past. I talked to God and said I wanted to have His identity because, until then, I was living as the devil's son and wanted to be a child of God.

The Fast of Daniel came in December 2021. I was still in prison, but I took part in it. On January 9th, 2022, I participated in the TV service Sunday morning. The bishop determined the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; it was a wonderful and unforgettable day. I was on my knees seeking, and the Spirit of God came upon me. Honestly, I became a child of God. I cried in happiness and thanked God. I was light.

I remembered my prayer to God that I didn't want to leave prison without the Holy Spirit, and He answered me. In February of this year, I was released, and the first place I told my mom to go to was the Universal Church. Today, physically speaking, I am full of marks on my body, tattoos, and scars, but inside I am whiter than snow. I thank God and my mother for never giving up on me all these years. My life is fulfilled now. I help in the UBB ministry. I am in the faith, and God has completely transformed me.



**RAFAEL AND HIS FAMILY.**

I grew up as an obedient child; my life was every day until I was about 10-11. My habits and characteristics started to change. I remember one day, I had left the house to go to school and hadn't returned home. After that day, life changed drastically; I became “head over heels,” as they say, for drugs. I started smoking a lot of weed and sniffing glue. I started committing small thefts around 11 to 12 years old until I did my first robbery around 12 to 13. At 14, I was drug trafficking and selling cocaine because my “family” on the streets wanted more exposure, so I spent more time on the road than in my mother's house. My life was sinking rapidly.

I was getting arrested on several accounts. I would leave and go back; it was like a game of ping-pong. I decided to run away. I never wanted to stay in hospitalization. But, when I was older, I went to jail for the first time, I waited for four years and five months, and when I left, I left with the most criminal mind I ever had.



I lived in places with many people and got involved with the worst people. I dug a deeper hole for myself, and my suffering increased.

My mother came to the Universal church while

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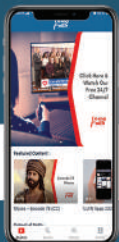
DIRECT TV: Channel 379  
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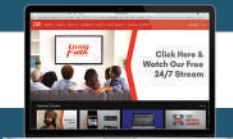
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Join Pastor Damien  
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today!

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**OVERCOMING DEPRESSION**  
**9am** with Pastor Edwin

**THE LAST HIT**  
**10am & 11pm**  
with Pastor Damien

**PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS**  
**11am** with Pastor Israel

**MIRACLES EXIST**  
**1pm** with Bishop Edson

**REBUILDING FAMILIES**  
**12pm** with Pastor Samuel

**LET THERE BE LIGHT**  
**2pm** with Pastor Dennis

**WOMEN IN REAL TIME 3pm**

**STOP SUFFERING**  
**4pm** with Pastor Diego

**AT THE EDGE OF DEATH**  
**5pm** with Pastor Valdo

**FIGHTING THE UNSEEN  
ENEMY**  
**7pm** with Bishop David

**THE PROMISED LAND**  
**8pm and 7am**

**- WEEKEND SPECIALS -**

**YOLO Sat at 3pm**

**THE RIGHT ANGLE**  
**Sat at 4pm** with Evelyn

**THE LOVE SCHOOL**  
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Renato & Cris



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Ivan's father abandoned the family, and his mother worked two jobs to support him and his brother. He started working in his teens. The fights and disagreements at home were constant. Despite the dysfunctional home, the family tried to make things better. He tells the struggle: "Things only got more difficult in our financial and health areas, addictions entered the scene, and relationships were bad, which pushed us away a lot and made me a cold person, tough, always questioning everything and everyone." Seeing that other families lived well made him envious. A friend invited him to go to Universal.

#### An Awakening

Ivan went to meetings but still needed to awaken his faith. During this time, he met Gabriela, who is now his wife. He thought that by forming his own family with Gabriela, the problems would end, but, despite the excellent relationship between them, the difficulties only increased. "We would have to leave things behind at the supermarket because we didn't have enough to pay." The couple's first child was born during great financial hardship. That's when his mind opened, as

**we would have to leave things behind at the supermarket because we didn't have enough to pay.**

he explains: "I started dedicating myself to work, studying, and I saw results. I got promoted several times, but in the midst of that, I woke up: it wasn't with the strength of my arm that I would achieve something, but when I focused on God, He would focus on me". That's when the big turning point occurred, as defined by Ivan: "I reversed my priorities, and God became the first in everything. God told me not to be anxious anymore because if I sought His Kingdom before anything else, the blessings would be added. That

was my true awakening." By making God his priority, Ivan began to rely on God to move forward. He soon became a partner in his company. Gabriela graduated with a degree in nutrition. The couple had a daughter, born after the family stabilized financially. Despite material achievements, Ivan highlights what is most important: "I became attached to God to the point of being greatly honored as His son. Blessings, he well knows, today are only consequences, not goals in themselves. Relatives, who once questioned my belief, now ask me for prayer and guidance. I am a spiritual reference for them and help them in every way."

## HE HAD LITTLE GROWING UP TODAY HIS FAMILY HAS THE BEST

### FINANCIAL TIP

Life isn't just about paying bills; it's also about accomplishing something. Establishing the goals, dreams, and achievements to be achieved is essential to stop making random choices based on emotion or a trigger response generated by ads. Money should be a natural subject for the family, including children, as it is important to involve them in building this healthy budget.



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