# UNERSAL EWS



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MAL

If you are tired and distressed by the heavy burden you have carried, there is an invitation for you. Do you accept it? Page 6

WHAT BURDEN **HAVE YOU CARRIED?** 

"



Alessandra lived 32 years with depression. At the lowest point of her life, she even used 20 medicines per day.



BISHOP EDIR MACEDO A message to the discouraged Page 2



Learn to prosper vour financial life

#### I WAS TOLD THERE WAS NO CURE FOR PEMPHIGUS VULGARIS

Everything started with a little ball, like a lump in my right armpit, but I thought it was simple. During that time, lumps grew on my scalp, my tongue became whitish, and I had wounds all over my face.



**NOT TO BE SOLD** 

**SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH** 

## **OPINIONS**

### IN THIS EDITION **DO YOU FEEL TIRED?**

Are problems plaguing you? Has your situation become so complicated that you feel overwhelmed by it? You may be overwhelmed by the many adversities. Because of this, you feel tired and even think of giving up and throwing everything away. But before you do that, I want to give you an invitation, and if you accept it, I guarantee you will find relief for your soul.

To see what this invitation is about, read the reports on pages 2 to 7. Through it, you will understand what you need to do to lift this burden you have been carrying. You will learn how it is possible to overcome any difficulties.

Be sure to check out the other articles prepared with care and affection so that you, the reader, can gain knowledge and find inspiration for your spiritual growth. Furthermore, you will find testimonies that prove how God's power can transform any situation. Until next time!

#### BEATING DEPRESSION

Depression is an illness of the soul that you can only cure through the power of Faith. Who, other than the Savior of Souls, can heal the soul? What medicine can we use to cure that which is spiritual?

Every Friday, at every Universal Church, we have a service for spiritual cleansing against depression. Make a Chain of Prayer by attending a prayer meeting for seven consecutive weeks. You will receive practical advice and spiritual help through prayers to overcome.

There are thousands of testimonials worldwide that prove a Chain of Prayer works. You CAN have a new beginning. You, too, can defeat depression.



Call 1.888.332.4141 Text 1.888.312.4141 For more information **SEE PAGE 12 FOR LOCATIONS** 



#### MESSAGE **Bishop Edir Macedo**



## A MESSAGE TO THE DISCOURAGED

asked my Lord what message I should give the discouraged today. This was His answer:

For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite (repentant) ones." Isaiah 57.15

The Lord Jesus reinforces this invitation by saying:

"Come to Me, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST." Matthew 11.28

You may ask: How can I go to the Lord Jesus while still in this filth? Will He receive me? Just think about it this way: Do healthy people need a doctor? NO!

"He can only save those who consider themselves lost; free those who consider themselves captive, restrained, in the claws of evil."

His invitation is for people like you who are afflicted and desperate. After all, can He save those who consider them-He forgive those who TRY IT!



think of themselves without sin? NO! Can He heal those who are healthy? No, a thousand times, no!

HE CAN ONLY SAVE THOSE WHO CON-SIDER THEMSELVES LOST; FREE THOSE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES CAPTIVE, RESTRAINED, IN THE CLAWS OF EVIL.

So, if you need Him right now, go to a private place (it can even be the bathroom), humbly kneel, and speak to Him the way you know how to. Use His name because this is what He promised. There is no need to choose words or say beautiful prayers, NO! Be honest and straightforward.

selves saved? NO! Can I'M SURE THAT YOU WILL BE SURPRISED.

Kelly was sick and tired of the way her life was going. She went from one failure to another, stuck in a never-ending cycle. But after accepting an invitation to the Universal Church, she found the change she longed for.



"Growing up, I never believed I could be truly happy. I saw my dad mistreating my mom and, having seen my older sisters experience similar issues in their relationships; it led me to believe my life would pan out the same."

Although Kelejatu was intent on stances in my life. steering her life in a positive direction, she often doubted herself.

"It seemed like every time I would try to break away from failure and the norms of my family, the results were always the same. When I found out I was pregnant at 18, I decided to have an abortion, myself, and I recognized that there the youngest. I can now say I am which ultimately broke me inside. were many things I was doing that truly happy! " - Kelejatu Tarawelie

#### **COMPLETELY NEW PERSON**"

trying to better myself. I gave up on everything that was going well for me.

When I was invited to the Universal Church and heard the messages and other people's experiences for the first time, I was hopeful that my life could also change. I was tired of feeling empty inside, and of doing things I did not enjoy but depended on for momentary happiness. I wanted everlasting joy and happiness despite the circum-

During her time at the Church, Kelejatu decided to fight against her former mindset.

"I focused on changing my inner self. I sought God in a way I had never done before. I had to humble

I hit rock bottom, and I stopped did not please Him, so I put a stop to these things immediately. I even cut ties with some friends. I battled against the thoughts that told me 'I could never be happy' and the thoughts that told me 'I was destined to fail.' I held on to the promises of God and believed my life would eventually transform."

> Once her transformation began, she was able to offer help to her family.

> "Today, my life is completely different. I found rest in Jesus. I look back at the old Kelly and can barely recognize that girl. I no longer look to others to provide me with happiness; I now have direction and purpose in life. I am an example to my family; my parents come to me for advice and ask me to help my sisters even though I am one of

## GREAT MIRACLES WATER FOR GREAT MIRACLES

Learn to put your faith in action in order to fight your problems! Get your Divine Water every Sunday at your nearest Universal Church

## HEALED FROM INSOMNIA



I was suffering from insomnia for two years. I could not sleep and was going to bed at two or three o'clock. I tried to play music, drink tea, and even sleep pills, but none could help me. It was so bad that I felt like a zombie; I developed depression and suicidal thoughts. I began to use my faith by drinking and bathing in the Divine Water. Today I sleep well, and I have no depression or suicidal thoughts.

Sharanda, NY



## I WAS TOLD THERE WAS NO CURE For Pemphigus Vulgaris

Everything started with a little ball, like a lump in my right armpit, but I thought it was simple. During that time, lumps grew on my scalp, my tongue became whitish, and I had wounds all over my face.





Then I started having a lot of pain; it was hard to swallow, and I lost my appetite. My neighbor knew about my situation; by then, the sickness had taken my entire body. So with my mother's help, she would bring me the Divine Water. I used to drink and shower with it as if it were medication.

When I was in ICU, my mother used to give me Divine Water. After some time, the wounds started healing, and I came out of ICU. For the honor and glory of God, today I am totally healed, as you can see in the image.

Edinaldo,



### FREE FROM SPIRITUAL ATTACKS

First of all, my family was cursed. I had low

self-esteem and many addictions in my family; I used to feel the presence of evil in my house, and I always had evil attacks in my jobs because of witchcraft. After coming to this ministry and drinking the Divine Water, I have been feeling amazing. I no longer feel the evil presence, and my family is much better now. Today I am free; I'm no longer in chains.

#### Sandy, SC

See page 12 for a location near your area.



## Message

#### **BISHOP JOSHUA**

## **GOD SPECIALIZES IN HELPING YOU**

There are specialists in every field to help with specific problems. For example, you wouldn't

go to a mechanic to help you with your kid-Nor ney. would you go to an accountant cut to your hair. Every problem



come them.

has a specific way to combat it. The same goes for issues in life.

These problems come in all shapes and sizes, but their effect on a person's life is immense.

Just like the problems you are facing in your marriage, with your children, in your health, or with the bills that seem to pile up continuously, time and time again, you have noticed that your life tends to take a turn for the worst.

Perhaps, you even see yourself becoming just like your parents. The health issue they suffered from, you are now suffering the same. Your parents' marriage broke up because of infidelity or fights, and you now face the same issues with your partner. There is only one specialist who can help you over-

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12

Take a look at what the word of God says:

Although these things may be physically affecting you, they are spiritual. When a person goes through generations of problems and illnesses that seem to have no explanation, there can only be one conclusion: It's time to fight Spirit with Spirit. The fight will not be against the medications you take or your boss or a family member; the battle has to be taken to the root of the problem. Whatever your situation may be, God has the solution. He is your specialist.

May the God of the Bible bless you.

March 2023	IND	Bib	le Rea	iding		SCAN ME
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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	13 Ecclesiastes 13			1		18 Hebrews 5
	20 Hebrews 7			23 Hebrews 10		25 Hebrews 12
26 Hebrews 13	27 James 1	28 James 2	29 James 3	30 James 4	31 James 5	



It's not a lack of love, sadness, or joy, but a feeling that bothers you, that is un-

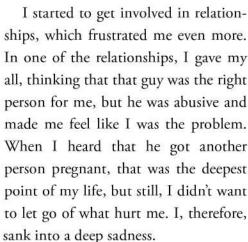
comfortable and cruel. It looks like a hole in the chest, which grows every moment. Not even an excellent social condition minimizes the pain. Know that only God can fill the void of the soul.

Since childhood, I suffered inside because of the absence

of my father in the family, which made me feel sad. Even with the support and love of my mother and grandparents, I grew up with a great void in my soul, and I tried in many ways to fill it but was unsuccessful. I started going to clubs using a fake ID when I was under age thinking that this way, I would fill up the void inside of me. This is how I felt for a



long time, says Melicia França.



One day, I was going through the TV channels at night since I could not sleep; I came across the program from the Universal Church, something that caught my attention, and I decided to go.

"On the same day I went, I felt a change, peace inside me, so much so that I managed to sleep that night. After some time going to church and learning about God's love, I decided to give myself entirely to Him,

I got baptized in water, and upon receiving the Holy Spirit, my life changed so much that I felt like I was a new person. I only found the peace I was searching for in clubs, relationships, and my family in the Lord Jesus Christ, and now, I am happy and fulfilled. Melicia França.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UNIVERSAL

## **"GREAT CRUSADE OF FAITH AND MIRACLES IN** HARLEM, NY"

#### AMC MAGIC JOHNSON THEATRES

and salvation. He also anointed and Curses - Mount Ebal in Israel.





The Attendees then received the her niece Rhea. Ms. Barbara par-"Drop of Miracle" in their waters ticipated/sacrificed in the previous and took three (3) sips of the "Divine Water," believing and trusting her niece (Rhea). At the time, Rhea in their miracles on behalf of them- suffered from liver disease and needselves and their loved ones.

All the Faithful Tithers were conse- different states and cities and could crated and anointed by Pastors Luis not receive proper help. Instead, she and Auxiliary Pastor Troy before was placed on multiple medications, entering through "The Door," rep- which affected her mentally, emoresenting our Lord Jesus to receive tionally, and physically. their prosperity. As it is written, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, Rhea experienced such extreme menhe will be saved and will go in and tal issues that she was denied placeout and find pasture." John 10:9

Harlem held its Sunday Cru- be completed on March 12, 2023. sacrifice, and placed her niece on the your enemies, do good to those who sade of Faith and Miracles at On this day, all the participants' altar in God's hand with the assur- hate you, bless those who curse you, AMC -Magic Johnson Theatres in names will be taken to the Moun- ance of her victory in the situation. and pray for those who spitefully Harlem, New York. As a result of Ms. Barbara's sacrifice use you." Pastor Luis reminded the Israel, wherein the Bishop and Pas- and Faith in God, Rhea received a Attendees that although it may be Pastor Luis started Sunday's assem- tors will pray for their blessings. In transplant without being placed on difficult/hard to forgive those who bly by praying for the Attendees and contrast, the list containing the curs- the Transplant list officially, which did you wrong, it was essential to do their families for their protection es will be taken to the Mountain of has a one (1) to one-and-a-half (1.5) so to be able to receive and main-

> time to make that sacrifice to break that curse. Even King David, when he needed to break the curse upon his land, presented a sacrificial offering to the Lord Jesus.

> "And David built there an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel." 2 Samuel 25

We then heard the powerful testiblessed all the children and preteens. mony of Ms. Barbara Laborde and campaign in December 2022 for ed a liver transplant. She received treatment from various hospitals in

ment on the transplant list because the doctors "did not want to give Pastor Luis reminded the Attendees an organ to a person who was men- The main message for the day was that "The Great Campaign of Break- tally unstable." Ms. Barbara, in her then taken from Luke 6:27-28.



year waiting period.

that this was their opportunity to surgery because of her quick healing tions to obey God's Word. Our Fabreak the curse in all areas of their and recovery. Today, Rhea has a new ther, God, would not impart somelives. If they notice specific patterns lease on life and has placed her life thing impossible for us to do. It may in their family which continue from in God's hands and was baptized in even be challenging, but not it is generation to generation, now is the water the day she was released from never impossible. the hospital.



and her niece, Rhea.

The Universal Church IN ing Curses" was ongoing and would revolt, went to the altar, made her "But I say to you who hear: Love tain one's salvation. He emphasized that we need to use our "Intelligence Pastor Luis reminded the Attendees Rhea was released only a week after Faith" and not be led by our emo-

> Pastor Luis then called to the altar, All who were presently carrying grudges, resentment, and anger due to past traumas and needed assistance to overcome this hurdle to move forward in life. The assembly was led in prayer against grudges, hurt feelings, resentments, and traumas in their heart, asking God to remove and replace the old heart with a new heart filled with love and forgiveness.



Before closing the service, Pastor See below pictures of Ms. Barbara Luis urged the Attendees to pass on to others what they have received without expecting something in return. To share with others, to give. For to give is better than to receive.

Address: AMC Magic Johnson Theater 2309 Fredrick Douglas Blvd., Harlem, NY, 10027

For More information on how you can join us for our next gathering, you can find us on Facebook by scanning the QR code to the right



#### **COVER STORY**

## ARE YOU BURDENED?

There are those who are tired and oppressed because they carry the weight of the past or a great load of problems, but there are those who have made the decision to carry a soft and light burden, filled with peace, joy and rest.

#### What burden have you been carrying?

Living is like being on a journey whose destination is chosen at every step. We hope to walk for many years and that the path, even if challenging at times, can be beautiful and pleasant without us noticing the passage of time. Some walks, however, are short, and others end unexpectedly. There are those in which the path is steep and tortuous and those that seem to follow through a labyrinth whose tiredness, weight, and oppression only make us want to give up.

Is your walk like this? Have you been carrying burdens of problems, illnesses, and thoughts that weigh you down, bend you down in the face of constant difficulties, and turn your life into such a painful journey that your only desire is to end it all as soon as possible? If your life has been like this, there is Someone who wants to invite you. Do you accept it?

Come!

#### In Matthew 11.28, the Lord Jesus makes an invitation when he says: "come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Jesus promises to relieve weary, weary, sick souls. Maybe you're that person who lacks almost everything, so you run after to have something better in your life. However, some have already conquered everything and still are empty, hollow, sad, bitter, and unhappy. How to satisfy this broken and desperate soul? Place your heart on God's altar. Jesus said: 'Come to Me' because only He can fix and solve this problem of yours.

Therefore, it doesn't matter what your current condition is, your past, how the present has been, or if the future perspective is nonexistent. Gather what strength you have left – and if there is none, ask God, and He will give it to you – and run towards the One who can change your situation and will not reject you.

## SHE WAS SEVERELY DEPRESSED

A s a child, Alessandra began to live with the intense sadness caused by her father's absence. Despite trying to lead an everyday life, as an adult, she was overwhelmed by depression, nightmares, and panic. She lived with this depression for 32 years, and at its peak, she spent two months and ten days without sleeping and 24 days without eating or drinking water. During that time, she took about 20 medications a day. "I didn't know it was depression until I had a meltdown.



#### I had no more life, I just stayed on the couch, lying in the dark, and didn't even speak anymore. I smelled horrible

I had no more life and just stayed on the couch, lying in the dark, and didn't speak anymore. I smelled horrible, forgot everything, and even went to the hospital with a cardiorespiratory arrest. I became completely dependent on my husband. He bathed me and even fed me", she says. While watching television, Cicero, her husband, saw the Universal church on TV and told his wife that he would take her to a place to solve her problem and literally carried her to the church. The two began to use Faith, initially, for the sake of curing the depression that afflicted Alessandra.



However, they soon learned that God wanted to lift the burden of those problems and grant rest to their souls. "I was baptized in water, freed, was healed, and began to seek the Holy Spirit. After six months, I had my encounter with God." Who is Alessandra today? A completely different woman, she reports: "I sleep well, I'm healthy, and, most of all, I have the Holy Spirit. It is priceless! Even in the face of problems, I have peace inside me. A great peace that allows me to speak of God's love for suffering souls. What God has done for me is great, and he will do much more", he concludes.

they soon learned that God wanted to lift the burden of those problems and grant rest to their souls.

## middle spre

#### **COVER STORY**



## **NOTHING COULD TAKE AWAY** THE DESIRE TO TAKE HIS LIFE

s a teenager, I began to isolate myself socially and sought fulfill myself with to self-harm. I had no desire for anything, neither projects nor prospects in life", he says. "Around the age of 13, my internal problems worsened." His mother, Marta, did everything she could to try to help. She paid for private consultations, bought the medicine prescribed by doctors, and gave her son video games and cell phones, but nothing took away his desire to take his own life. Breno stayed in that situation for five years, had to deal

him. His mother hid everything he could think of using to kill himself, but it was in vain because he used even the lamps. He could easily reach the bathroom light: "he would take it out, break it, lock the door and cut himself. I looked through the keyhole and saw that blood spilling on the floor. Upon meeting Universal, she saw the opportunity to use Faith to deal with the situation and change the family's reality. It wasn't easy. Once, upon seeing his mother praying, Breno set fire to her clothes inside the house.

BEFORE

with outbursts, when he broke everything, had panic attacks, fear of being alone and made numerous attempts to take his life. During seizures, he was so violent that it once took several firefighters to restrain



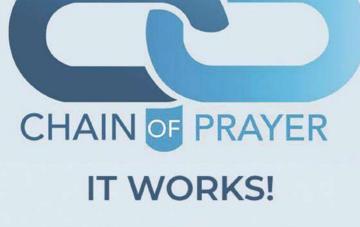
She, however, continued to persevere.

A month after Marta interceded for Breno, he himself sent a message to the Universal pastor on social networks saying he wanted to talk. A friend took him to the church and, after talking to the pastor, he started to attend meetings and follow what he was instructed to do. "I did everything I had to do to change my situation. In three months, I no longer took the medication and I was free. The fear and traumas are gone. "he reveals. For six years Breno has had no more crises, sadness or desire to take his own life. He began to lead a new life and to make his mother proud:

"I have the Holy Spirit and I know that everything I experienced was due to the lack of the Presence of God". Today he carries the scars on his arms to witness the transformation that God has made in his life and dreams of becoming a psychologist to help other people.

She paid for private consultations, bought the medicine prescribed by doctors, and gave her son video games and cell phones, but nothing took away his desire to take his own life.

MAKE A



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.



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.

## **UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS** TRUE FRIENDS DON'T HOLD YOU BACK. **THEY PUSH YOU FORWARD!**

m passing by today to talk about night, wherever the Lord Jesus was. I'm talking friendship. Indeed, you have somebody that you consider a friend, be it a neighbor, a cellmate, someone from your neighborhood, etc. But how much can you trust that person?

If you stop and think with me, most of today's enemies were once friends. You can't become an enemy with someone you never knew, right? Imagine walking on the street and you see a person. Instantly you say, "that's my enemy," without making eye contact or crossing paths; this is not practical.

However, being an enemy with someone you once knew is practical. Whether closely or from a distance, something caused the strain in that relationship, whether it be envy, malice, or vindictive motives.

For that reason, betrayed they that friend and broke that bond

of friendship. But just like you and me, these people went on with their lives and made new friends.

So, in conclusion, friendship is something that can deceive us if we are not careful. Maybe you opened up your whole life to someone you believed could never betray you, and that same one you were so close with is now your enemy. You can't even stand the thought of their existence or hearing their name.

Well, Jesus went through this with one of His friends. He was one of the twelve disciples. He was with Him from house to house, day and

about Judas Iscariot. Everyone knows that Judas was the traitor. But before he became a traitor, Judas was His friend. But even though he was a friend of Jesus, he betrayed Him.

The disadvantage for us is that we do not know what is inside of each one, but we can. Maintaining a relationship with God will let you be vigilant to the traps of these "friends" you'll be able to discern when they're trying to pick you up or bring you down.

First, as the Good Word says, we got to watch,

the ligns, and heck that erson's body anguage and ibe. We all have a mind, nd we can ense when omeone isn't rustworthy; know ou "gut hat eeling?"

that's es, what speaks. then,

prayer comes after to ask God to guide you to make the right decision. Even if you pray a lot, you have to watch first. Of course, we will not be suspicious of everyone. Otherwise, we will become an island, isolated and alone. Let's have friends, yes. However, know that the only friend who will never betray or disappoint you is the Lord Jesus.

#### "

#### WATCH AND PRAY, LEST YOU ENTER INTO TEMPTATION. (MARK 14:38)

#### UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS (UBB) NATIONWIDE SCHEDULE

Turs Monday a E.t. Tendi unt: Tan & Apri uther Unit: 10AM Daminis wat: 2.30pm Demonto 2 Unit: 1PM entel Unit: 2PM

Turadity's Forguson unit: Ban & Spin Hobby Unit: SAH Line Marray Unit:12:30PM Sores Unit: 2PH Auster UNIT: SPM Jeater 3 unit: 12:30pm Reper unit lipit

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Note: Ferguade Unit, place ta your Chaptain source schedule 188

LINEA. landes/s Actro West Detantion Center: 10AM

Steward Regional Javenile Occurity Center: 4PM SPM Tek (foreis jal) every 2nd & 4m lander 10an I2pm

Saturday's Mari Dete Courty Pre-Tital Detertion Center 10AM-11AM

Destinat luciday's Averal State Plane 274 4PM

under b Hubban Competitional Excision 724 Workessley a alewa 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:

8

7075 SOUTHWEST Fwr. 77074 HOUSTOR TX.

YOU CAN BE SURE THAT 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

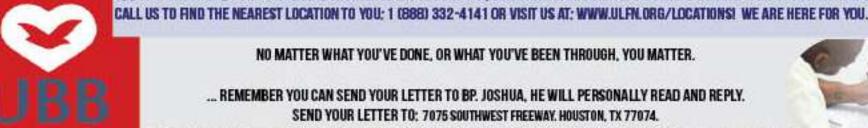


NO MATTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE, OR WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU MATTER,

... REMEMBER YOU CAN SEND YOUR LETTER TO BP. JOSHUA, HE WILL PERSONALLY READ AND REPLY. SEND YOUR LETTER TO: 7075 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY. HOUSTON, TX 77074.

RE SURE TO INCLUDE: FULL NAME (FIRST/LAST) INMATE ID # COMPLETE FACULTY NAME, CORRECT ADDRESS, CITY/STATE, AND 71P CODE











of my parents was constant fighting. All my father would do was beat up my mother. I remember him taking the kitchen utensils and using that to beat my mother, and he would stab her with forks, tie her with belts and whip her constantly. Imagine being a little child looking through the door's peephole and seeing your father beating your mother miserably.

I remember moments when my morn would get angry and remember something about my father. She would take that anger out on me and beat me horribly. I couldn't understand because I hadn't done anything wrong to my parents; my existence was an issue within their marriage. The situation got so bad that my mother and I fled from my father. I thought, "okay, this is the chance for my mother and me to have a better relationship."

It was the opposite. My mother completely changed; I never had that love from my mother. I remember after school, waiting for my mother, I would see other kids getting picked up by their parents with love and open arms, getting hugs, and it was never like that for me. When my mother would arrive to contact me, you would think that I was not her child. The relationship was cold. I grew up being very insecure, and because of this, I needed to be told

I was beautiful. I wanted to be told I was beautiful. I wanted to hear how special I was, I needed love, so I decided to look in other places to find this love. I began to look in the wrong places for satisfaction.

#### 66

IT STARTED WITH DRINKING AND SMOKING. I LOST MY VIRGINITY AT A YOUNG AGE AND GOT PREGNANT AT 14, WHICH MADE THE SITUATION BETWEEN MY MOTHER AND ME. ANY HOPE I HAD FOR MY MOTHER EVER TO LOVE ME WENT OUT OF THE WINDOW BECAUSE OF THAT SITUATION.



By the age of 16, I got into another relationship, which resulted in me getting pregnant for the second time. I ensured my mother knew nothing about this and terminated that pregnancy. It felt like I was digging a neverending hole for myself, I met the wrong crowds, and things kept getting worse. The group I hung out with were people who would carry guns and knives and would traffic drugs.

The first time I went to prison for the first time, it wasn't even in the country I grew up. I got locked up in Cyprus.



After being released, I was sure I would change my life, do better for myself, go to school, and make peace with my mother. But as soon as I returned to my mother's house, the situation repeated. My mother mistreated me, and there was too much conflict. I realized that the only time we had "peace" was when I would give my mother money and having that "relationship" was better than not having one at all.

This money I made had been from trafficking drugs, and it was only 8months after the first release I was caught again in Switzerland. I had been transporting drugs from Brazil to Belgium. As soon as I got out of prison, my first thought was that NOW I was going to change my life. When the plane touched down in the UK, I was saddened. So, to cope with these voices, I started drinking heavily, and my mother became so fed up that she said, "either you leave my house, or you come with me to church."

My heart sunk into my chest, and I decided to go; as soon as I walked through the doors of the Universal Church, I felt peace, which was unbelievable. All the negative voices stopped, and the more I came I saw changes in my character. For example, I didn't mind being around people or opening up to them; it gave me strength and control. With time I wanted to know God more, and I started pushing myself to achieve more.

I went after a job that was almost impossible because of my criminal record. Still, today God made it possible for me to work anywhere I wanted to. I have confidence now, and I no longer need anyone to validate that confidence because I received it from God Himself.





"NOBODY CARES ABOUT ME...." "I'M ALL ALONE..." " WHO WILL EVER REMEMBER ME...?" "IT'S OK..

HAVE THESE THOUGHTS BEEN RUNNING THROUGH YOUR MIND? YOU'RE AT POINT WHERE IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE, AND NOW YOU'RE SIMPL' Dealing with it. Do not deal with it alone! Write your letter to bp. Joshua, because he will personally read and reply to you.

HE SURE TO INCLUDE: FIRST/LAST NAME, YOUR ID NUMHER, THE FACILITY NAME, ADDRESS, ALONG WITH THE CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE. Send your letter to bp Joshua AT: 7076 Southwest, Freeway, Houston, TX 77074

## UNIVERSAL MEDIA



### Monday - Friday



#### 9pm CT / 10pm ET

#### **ULFN PROGRAMS SCHEDULE (ET)**

#### THE AM SHOW | 9am

**SHOWDOWN OF FAITH | 12pm** with Bishop Joshua

**OVERCOMING DEPRESSION Ipm** with Pastor Edwin

STOP SUFFERING | 2pm with Pastor Diego

WOMEN IN REAL TIME | 3pm

AT THE EDGE OF DEATH | 4pm with Pastor Valdo

FIGHTING THE UNSEEN ENEMY 7pm with Bishop David

#### **THE PROMISED LAND | 8pm**

THE LAST HIT | 9pm with Pastor Damien

**THE RICH AND LAZARUS | 10pm** 



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## **REAP PROSPERITY TODAY** I was waiting for death to come



🖌 ianca da Silva Ferreira, 25 years old, walked away from the Presence of God when she was still a teenager. She started to no longer believe in what she heard about God. "I grew up in the church, but, as time went by, due to doubts I had and the fact that I hung out with atheist people, I no longer believed what I heard and, around the age of 18, I started to get involved with the world and look for ideologies to follow."

She resorted to things and people to escape her reality and her inner emptiness. "I was guided by my heart and took it all out on alcoholic beverages. Everything was a reason for me to drink. I was always at parties; I loved to be in different relationships with men to prove that I had some value, even with women," says Bianca.

Despite appearing happy in front of her friends, her days were marked by depression and anxiety. Therefore, she tirelessly searched for something to solve her unhappiness. "I wasn't concerned with how I felt inside, but only with having money, traveling, and showing off, even if I was experiencing difficulties and hunger at home. I always occupied my mind so I would not face my reality, but when I was alone, I was dominated by thoughts of death," she recalls.

Her rock bottom occurred when she she faced the death of her brother and, wanted. "The shortly after that, the loss of her job. Holy Spirit is "I started to think about the the fulfillment possibility of living on the street and of my life. He waiting for death to arrive. Every helps day, with great sadness, I cried and through 'talked' to my brother, shouting and situations and calling him, because I wanted him to continue in to come back", she recalls. She said faith. Now I am that she wanted to go to heaven at that moment, she happy. and, remembered Jesus. It was then that everything changed.

"When I remembered God, I found a reason to live, something I hadn't found in anything, not even money, professional accomplishments, or love relationships," she reveals.

Then she returned to attending Universal meetings. Initially, her goal was a financial achievement, but she soon found that her greatest need was not money. "I realized that I didn't need what I was looking for in the world, but what I was looking for in God. So, I was in water, completely baptized, behavior changed my and thoughts, and received the Holy Spirit," she says.

Today, Bianca has the joy and peace

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