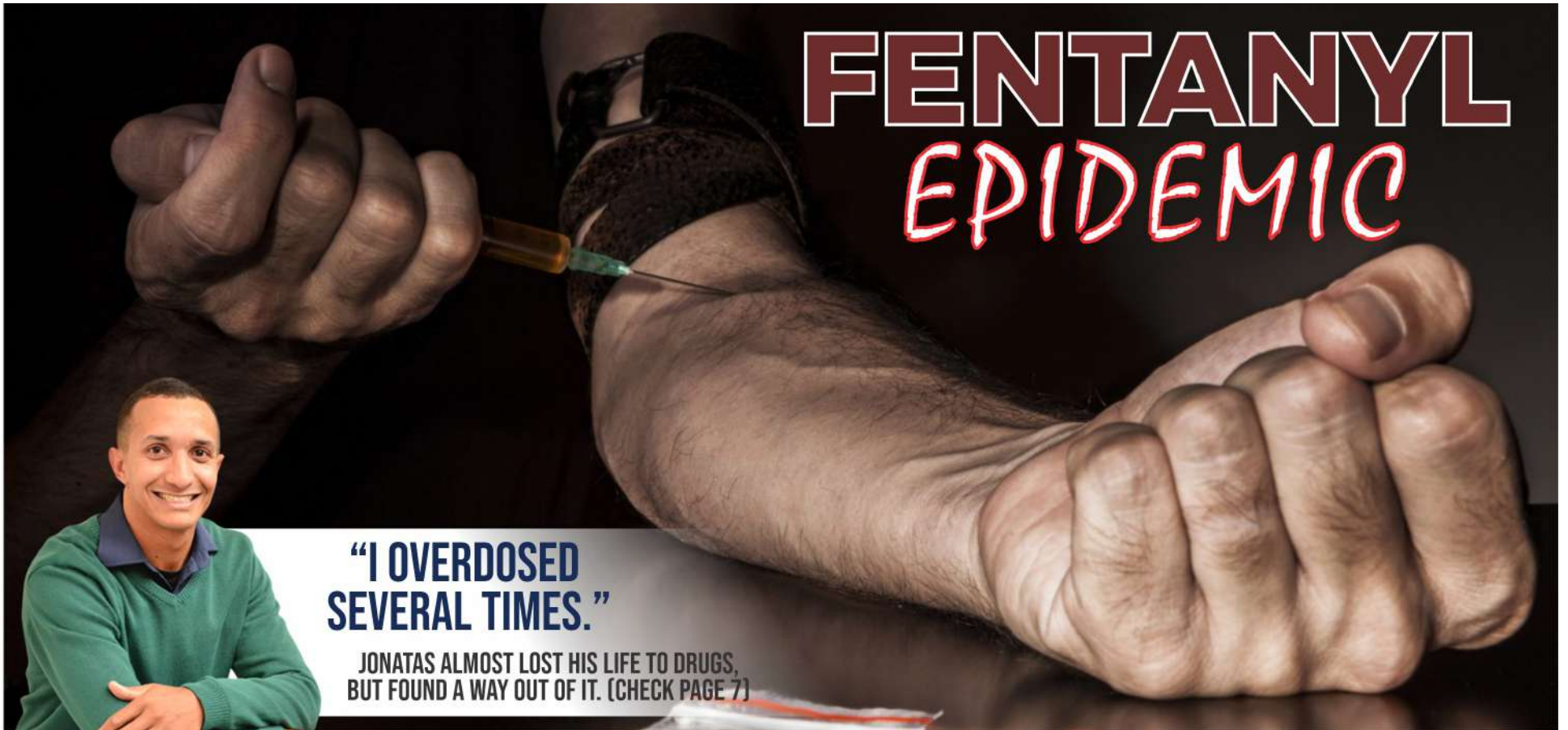


UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME


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FENTANYL EPIDEMIC

"I OVERDOSED SEVERAL TIMES."

JONATAS ALMOST LOST HIS LIFE TO DRUGS, BUT FOUND A WAY OUT OF IT. (CHECK PAGE 7)



"Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered. It is everywhere. From large metropolitan areas to rural America, no community is safe from this poison." (Source: <https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness>)



YOU CAN BREAK FREE FROM THIS PRISON.



**MESSAGE
BISHOP
EDIR
MACEDO**

**5 STEPS FOR AN
ADDICT'S FAMILY**

Page 2



Page 9

**"THIS LIFESTYLE
LED ME TO USE
DRUGS. I STARTED
USING MARIJUANA,
AND IT BECAME AN
INSTANT HABIT.
THE HIGH WAS
ALRIGHT AT FIRST."**

JUSTIN

(CHECK FULL STORY ON PAGE 9)

Gathering of Faith and Miracles in Harlem

Page 5



April 16th, 2023 - Sunday of Peace



SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

FENTANYL CRISIS

Fentanyl has been on the rise in the US in recent years. On top of being one of the deadliest drugs the nations encountered, according to the DEA, Fentanyl has been spreading and 'poisoning' communities all over the US- from large metropolitan areas to rural America.

The DEA seized more than 57.9 million fentanyl-laced pills across the US only in 2022. Still, unfortunately, more than 71,000 deaths that year were linked to fentanyl overdoses and drug poisoning. Many of these deaths came without intending to take fentanyl, but the drug was unknowingly traced with it. These deaths could have been avoided by simply not taking drugs, but for addicts, overcoming a habit comes with much difficulty.

When we look at the word 'addiction' in Latin, it is a term for 'enslaved by' or 'bound to'. Addictions can be so strong that it distorts an addict's ability to make decisions regarding their life. But however tricky it may be to overcome, it is not impossible, especially with the help of God.

Are you or a loved one struggling with addiction? Do you fear falling victim to this drug but have no strength to quit? What if I told you there is a place where you can be strengthened, renew your confidence, and regain the power to make decisions and beat the addiction? You, too, can overcome addiction! Continue reading, see how others overcame, and visit a Universal Church near you.

| 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.



Bishop Edir Macedo

5 STEPS FOR AN ADDICT'S FAMILY



STEP 1
Understand that your family member's addiction does not imply he has a flawed character, is a delinquent, or has behavioral issues; it means there is a spirit that dominates the addict's mind. Knowing this, we begin to understand that the battle is strictly spiritual, and the family must fight with all their strength to free their family member from the control of this spirit.

STEP 2
Do not wait for the addict to ask for help for you to start taking action. After all, most of the time, he will say he doesn't want help or denies being an addict, which leaves the family powerless since every treatment requires the addict to be present. However, the "Treatment to Overcome Addictions" at the Universal Church is the only treatment in which the family can seek a cure for the addict without him being present.

STEP 3
Never be influenced by an addict's words, such as "I don't want help," "I like using drugs, and I'm not going to stop," or "I use because I want to, and I can stop whenever I want," "It's no use looking for help because I'm not going to stop...." These words, however convincing they may seem, are influenced by the spirit of addiction to discourage the family from fighting. The best thing to do is wait for the right moment to convince him to come to the treatment. And this happens when he begins to realize what they have

"Understand that the battle is spiritual, and the family must fight with all their strength to free their family member from the control of this spirit."



lost and how much pain he has caused. What the family can do is help him learn such things.

STEP 4
Unlike many families, the addict should be treated with love and understanding. Avoid accusing or condemning him for his addiction. As hard as it is to do this, it's the only way to keep him connected with the family because when you act differently, you end up pushing them away, which causes a barrier between the addict and the family and brings them closer to other addicts who also face the same difficulties with their family.

STEP 5
Don't conform to the idea spread by other treatments that addiction has no cure and you will have to live with your addicted family member for the rest of your life. It is not valid! It only serves to discourage the family from fighting for the addict. The Treatment to Overcome Addictions has proven that addiction can be cured! Thousands of people have received a definite cure! What a family should do is come to the treatment, believe, persevere, and obey. By doing this, you will have your family member back, and they will be transformed.



It was hard to come to terms with my brother's passing. I didn't just lose my brother; I lost my best friend.

After his death, I was devastated and struggled to make sense of my feelings and what had happened. It sent me down a dark path. I didn't know how to fill the void that my brother's absence left, so I was ready to try anything to numb the pain I felt inside.

At 14, I was already snorting cocaine. I saw some kids at school doing it, and although I had never felt like using drugs before, I decided to do it. But what started as a one-time hit turned into a habit. As time passed, I started using other drugs

"TRYING TO FILL THE VOID"

like marijuana, ecstasy, and poppers and drank alcohol. I even started carrying a gun because I never felt safe; Dangerous people always surrounded me.

My mom always did her best to try and help me, and I felt good for a while when I was around her. But I was so different from the little boy she once knew. Everything I did was an attempt at filling the void I felt, even down to my tattoos.

In another attempt to fill the void, I moved to England. I intended to make some money and return to Brazil with a better life. But contrary to what I thought, when I got there, things only got worse. I placed massive pressure on myself to reach my financial goals. Still, things were not happening as I wanted, and I became very anxious. Consequently, I resorted to smoking and taking pills to try and ease that anxiety.

I started reflecting on ev-

erything and realized time was passing, and I was stagnant. I had many dreams but no strength to go after them. Living my life in my way was not working; I needed God's direction. I called a friend who attended the Universal Church, and He advised me to go to the nearest branch and ask for help. I went there on a Friday Deliverance Service and was advised and guided by people genuinely willing to help me. I applied all the advice I received and replaced my negative habits with positive habits, such as meditating on the Word of God. It was not easy, as I was not used to doing these things, but my Faith empowered me to stick to my decision and keep coming.

Persevering, I developed a relationship with God, and His presence filled my emptiness. Today I no longer depend on any drug to 'feel at peace' because I have real peace from Him.

-Marcos Moreira



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

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



"No more lupus, arthritis, or pains in my body!"

I was diagnosed with lupus arthritis, which would cause my high blood pressure to get worse. I had pains in my legs and all over my body, so it was hard to get out of bed sometimes. The doctors said I had no cure, so they just gave me medicines. One day I was watching the Showdown of Faith on TV, and so I came; I began to exercise my faith by drinking the blessed water, and little by little, I felt better. I have no more arthritis, high blood pressure, or pains.
-Linda, GA

"The curse of sickness is broken!"



My sugar level was very high; I had seen so many of my family members dying of diabetes. I had to make a change; I had to come to God. I said: "Lord, I do not want this in my body anymore." My sugar level is normal today; I am grateful that the curse is broken.
-Tina, OH



"I was healed from a hernia and ulcers."



My esophagus had a problem; I felt burning in my stomach.

After the endoscopy, doctors found a hernia. I also had ulcers. I drank the Blessed Water by faith for my healing.

When I went to the doctor for a colonoscopy, the doctor said my esophagus was clean and healed after seeing the results!

-Estella



See page 12 for a location near you.



|Message|

BISHOP JOSHUA

INVISIBLE PRISON

We were born to be free. Freedom gives us the right to choose how we live—the right to be free grants each of us the space to make our own choices. Unlike freedom, prison takes away all rights.

There is not only physical prison. There is also spiritual prison.

Many have no idea they live in a spiritual prison and depend on addictions, evil feelings, sins, pornography, abusive relationships, medication, fear, guilt, or grudge. These are just a few of the many other types of spiritual prisons.



If you are feeling the pain of being handcuffed to sin, I want you to understand that you were born free, and God granted your right when He gave His son to die for all of us.

Read the verse below:

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
John 8:36

The word of God takes the person out of spiritual prison, frees him from the most afflicted state he can find himself in, and gives him the privilege of salvation.

Believe in the word of God with faith, and this is the first step toward the freedom you desire.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

Many have no idea they live in a spiritual prison and depend on addictions, evil feelings, sins, pornography, abusive relationships, medication, fear, guilt, or grudge.



BISHOP JOSHUA

>>><https://birafonseca.com>

Join our mailing list to receive the latest updates from Bishop Joshua

ADDICTIONS LED ME TO THE STREETS

Janaína Alves was a teenager full of dreams and friends. At age 15, she started drinking beer and spirits at clubs and used marijuana. She did not imagine that “enjoyment” would lead her to live on the streets years later.



First came the weekly drunken episodes, but they were a laughing matter back then. Then, when I turned 18, I tried cocaine. I needed to be home by midnight, but I was drunk, and my mum would notice. Then one person offered me cocaine to cut the ‘high’ off the drink, and it worked.

To keep having fun, I used ever-increasing doses of cocaine. Gradually, my life began to revolve around parties with friends. I stopped studying and quit my job.

I thought I controlled the situation until I used crack at age 24. Since I had no money, I stole and sold drugs to support my habit. My condition worsened after I was arrested. I missed my family a lot, and I promised I would change.

After eight months, I got out of prison and, encouraged by my mother, agreed to go to a rehabilitation clinic. There they gave me a lot of medicine. I lived doped. When I left, I started using twice as many drugs and ended up on the streets. I feared being arrested again, so I started prostituting myself to use drugs. I contracted syphilis, had sores all over my body, lost my teeth, and didn’t shower.

I smoked more than 60 crack stones in a single day. I remember the dark days when I would look for food in the garbage cans. I even lost my voice because I smoked crack in steel wool. Where I lived, it is possible to find drugs of all prices, which ties the addict; It’s hell. When I was homeless, I had three children, and they were left with my mother.

| APRIL Bible Reading | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| | | | | | | John 1 |
| John 2 | John 3 | John 4 | John 5 | John 6 | John 7 | John 8 |
| John 9 | John 10 | John 11 | John 12 | John 13 | John 14 | John 15 |
| John 16 | John 17 | John 18 | John 19 | John 20 | John 21 | Amos 1 |
| Amos 2 | Amos 3 | Amos 4 | Amos 5 | Amos 6 | Amos 7 | Amos 8 |
| Amos 9 | | | | | | |

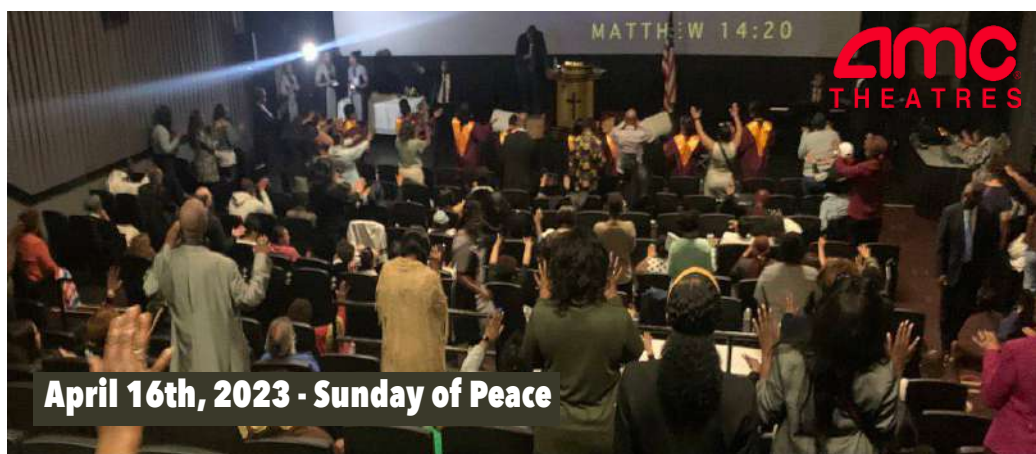
It seemed that his “hell” had no end. However, one day, in desperation, I asked for help from the cars passing by the avenue I was on. I couldn’t sleep; I couldn’t take that life anymore. I threw myself in front of vehicles until one person stopped. The person took me to my mother’s house and offered me a bath and food. When I got into his car, I wanted to steal the stereo, but he started talking about God; he said there was a way out of my situation, which gave me hope.

He invited me to the Universal Church, and I decided to go. I remember the Pastor told me to open my heart to God. I didn’t know what that was, but I asked to be healed. So I started using my faith. I learned that God gave us the authority to cast out the evil of addiction. It wasn’t easy, I even had a relapse at first, but it’s been four years since I’ve been cured, and I don’t want to use drugs anymore. I now have contact with my three children, aged 13, 9, and 5.

Today, at 31, Janaína does evangelistic work with people who want to overcome drug addiction. Furthermore, she completed her high school education and is self-employed. “I am very grateful to God for everything that has happened in my life and for having put these people to help me. My goal is to show that there is a way out for those who are addicted.”

SUNDAY GATHERING OF FAITH AND MIRACLES IN HARLEM, NY

AMC MAGIC JOHNSON THEATRES



The Universal Church in Harlem held its Sunday Gathering of Faith and Miracles at the AMC Magic Johnson Theatres in Harlem, New York.

It was the **Sunday of Peace** - Pastor Luiz reminded the congregation of the scripture, **"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27**

He then called all the Attendees to the altar, whose "heart was troubled," who received bad news and felt hopeless. Pastor Luiz and the Assistants then prayed that the Attendees would receive true "Peace" in all areas of their lives. Pastor Luiz encouraged the Attendees to use their Faith, for without Faith, it's impossible to please God. As well as to continue resisting the devil because, as the scripture states, **"... Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7**

Pastor Luiz then blessed the attendee's water, who prayed that the Attendees would receive "Peace" in their lives. He prayed that all Attendees would find "Peace" in their health, finances, family life, and all other areas. The Attendees then took three (3) sips of the blessed water utilizing their Faith and believing in their healing.

Testimony

Ms. Equasia noted that her heart had been troubled before the service because she had received the bad news that her Super had defrauded her. In addition, her vehicle was involved in a multi-collision accident. As a result, she has been hounded by Officers about property damage loss in the six (6) figure range. After the prayer, she testified to feeling much better and that she will put her "Faith in the God she serves" and "Putting it All in God's Hands."

Prayer for the Family

Bishop Carlos then prayed for the Attendees and their Families, that they would find "Peace" in their families wherever there are. He suggested to the Attendees to pray for the family member that causes the most problems or causes the most tears. He asked God to free their family members from diseases, depression, and separation, for those in the hospitals sick and those lost in the streets. Bishop Carlos also prayed for the Attendees to have a blessed family - "Peace and salvation upon all the families -

receive Peace and joy in your houses." It is written, **"...Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16: 31**

Consecration of Teen and Young Adults

All the Teens and Young Adults were then called to the altar to be blessed and consecrated to God by Pastor Gino, the Pastor in charge of the Youth Ministry. Pastor Gino prayed that the youths would be blessed and protected on their journey in life. He also told the youths that he and the coordinators were there for them. To help navigate them through the struggles they may be facing, He and the coordinators have already faced the issues the youths currently face and were able to overcome them.



The Message

The message for the day was conveyed by Pastor Luiz from **John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

Pastor Luiz noted that we have begun the seven (7) Sundays and Wednesdays of the **"Journey towards Pentecost."** He reminded the congregation that, as our Lord Jesus said, if we are with Him, we must overcome the tribulations/problems we experience. We should not surrender to tribulations, i.e., anxiety, fear, doubts, depression, and chaos. Once we have the "Peace" our Lord promises, we must also learn how to maintain this peace within.

The scripture notes - **"Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret--it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth." Psalm 37: 8-9.** Pastor advised the congregation to be mindful and vigilant about sinning while in anger. We can be angry but should not sin by letting the seed of evil take root in our hearts. We need to "watch and pray" to keep our hearts clean and keep an eye on the company we keep but even more

so on our hearts which can be our greatest downfall.

We need to learn to forgive others who have done us evil, even if it's difficult if we want to maintain the "Peace" we have received. Give God the anger, grudges, and rage towards others, and God will give us the "Peace" we need. Give others the "Peace" we have received so that they too may be transformed and change and receive that "Peace" inside. **"For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:10-11**

Pastor Luiz also reminded us not to envy the evildoers because they seem to be doing great in life and succeeding. Instead, we should remember the words of our Lord Jesus - **"There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked. Isaiah 48:22** So no matter how much the evildoer seems to be striving, they are not at "Peace." God brought us to His house to have peace - listen to the voice of God over the voice of the devil. Only God can change our lives.

Pastor Luiz then called to the altar all the Attendees presently going through tribulations in life where they are thinking of returning evil for evil, who have grudges and cannot forgive. Pastors Luiz and Roger prayed that the attendees would be delivered from the resentments, anger, rage, and hurt they may be going through. They prayed that the Attendees would find "Peace" regardless of the situation/circumstances they were in. Pastor Roger reiterated to the congregation that with "Peace" within, one could overcome the tribulations outside. Pastor Luiz advised the congregation to **"Hold your peace - God is with you."**

Pastor Luiz also prayed for the tithes and offering givers, reminding the Attendees to give their best and put their trust in our Lord Jesus. He reminded us of the blessings our Lord Jesus Christ performed while preaching to the multitudes and needed to feed them with only five (5) loaves and two (2) small fishes. Our Lord Jesus multiplied the offering that was given to feed the multitudes and still had a surplus. **"So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of remaining fragments. Now those who had eaten were about**

five thousand men, besides women and children." Matt 14:20.

New Attendees

Ms. Joy was invited to service Sunday through the Street Evangelism Ministry. She noted that she enjoyed the service, and the message she took with her was that "She needs to give more time to God." Make God a priority.



Ms. Jenny was also invited to today's service by the Street Evangelism Ministry Sunday while walking by the venue. She left the service with the message of "forgiveness," learning to forgive so you can be forgiven and find your "Peace."



Ms. Willene also came to service today through the Street Evangelism Ministry Sunday. While passing the venue, she heard the gospel music and needed to find a church that would feed her spiritually. She was on her way to get her hair done but came in. She enjoyed the service and believed she had found what she sought in this church and would return. The message that resonated with her today was having "Peace," peace of mind, and letting go of the anger which will destroy your peace.



PLEASE
SCAN THIS
QR CODE
FOR MORE
INFO

FENTANYL

Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid manufactured pharmaceutically for severe pain management. It is also made in a non-pharmaceutical form. It is about **50x more potent than heroin** and **80-100x stronger than morphine**.

There are two types of fentanyl: pharmaceutical fentanyl and illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Both are considered synthetic opioids. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain, especially after surgery and for advanced-stage cancer.



In the last few years, fentanyl has expanded from the East Coast to the West Coast and is found in all cities and within many rural communities. Fentanyl is found in various forms, including:

- * Pills sold as fake oxycodone, Xanax and sought after medications
- * Powder form; sometimes mixed into other drugs such as cocaine, crystal meth, and heroin. When sold as a powder, fentanyl can look varying levels of off-white to light brown. When it is mixed into other powders, fentanyl tends to bring an off-brown color to the mixture.
- * Prescribed fentanyl patches, but are mainly found in clinical settings.

Fentanyl is increasingly responsible for the growing amount of accidental overdoses. Currently, more than **67%** of drug overdoses involve fentanyl.

**100,000
overdose
deaths in a
12-month
period**



Drugs may contain deadly levels of fentanyl, and you wouldn't be able to see it, taste it, or smell it. It is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl unless you test your drugs with fentanyl test strips.

Test strips are inexpensive and typically give results within 5 minutes, which can be the difference between life or death. Even if the test is negative, take caution as test strips

might not detect more potent fentanyl-like drugs, like carfentanil.

Signs of overdose

Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose can save a life. Here are some things to look for:

- Small, constricted "pinpoint pupils"
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking sounds

- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

If you think someone is overdosing, call 911 immediately.

If you know someone who's struggling with addiction, don't hesitate to seek help. See back page for locations and receive the help that you need.



"I OVERDOSED SEVERAL TIMES..."

Jonatas was born into an evangelical home. His mother took him to church. He says, however, that he moved away from the Presence of God as he grew up. "My parents divorced, and I sought ways to fill my void. I couldn't understand why my family wasn't more complete."

Although he still went to the Universal Church with his mother, Jonatas says he transformed into someone else when he went to his father's house. At 14, he got acquainted with alcohol and started snorting cocaine. "When the drink no longer brought the effects I had hoped for, I wanted to try other drugs, such as

In addition to addictions and financial problems, Jonatas had difficulties in his romantic relationships. He once started dating a woman, and before long, the two moved in together, got married, and had a daughter. "My ex-wife asked me to cut down on drug use. She knew about my addictions but didn't know the intensity and how much I used drugs. I wasted my money and hers too. I stopped using drugs for a few days, but it was even more excessive when I started using them again. I took my daughter with me to the crack house."

Because of the wild life, Jonatas was unstable at work and constantly changing jobs. "Everything I put my hands on went wrong and didn't prosper," he declares.

In addition to using drugs, he encouraged others to do the same: "I ruined many lives. I snorted cocaine for 16 years. I had a dirty name, and I couldn't pay my bills". He says the drugs led him to the beginning of an overdose. "I went to the hospital several times because it was horrible. I came very close to death."

After a conflict with his ex-wife, Jonatas was kicked out of the house by her: "My first thought

was to end up on drugs and drink. However, God spoke to my heart, and the Holy Spirit asked me to look for a church", he reveals. I saw the Universal Church's program. Jonatas remembered the times he went to church with his mother.

Jonatas participated in the deliverance meetings at Universal and got rid of addictions and everything that kept him away from God. "I was baptized in water and started to have a relationship with God. Receiving His Spirit was the greatest joy I have ever had in my entire life," he reports. He apologized to anyone he had offended, including his ex-wife and family.

Today he is married to a woman of God and his daughter lives with the couple. "Although God has fixed every detail of my life, there is nothing more valuable than knowing the destiny of my soul. I am extremely grateful to God for my Salvation", he concludes.



marijuana and the mix (marijuana mixed with crack).

Afterward, Jonatas started watching stadium football matches: "I went out into the streets to harm others. I was angry with rival fans. I wanted to kill people, all because of football."

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.

WHAT GROWTH LOOKS LIKE

It's funny how in the name of love and loyalty, so many are willing to take the case for someone – to get themselves thrown into seg. Or someplace similar. They assume responsibility for something they didn't do and purposely get into trouble for stuff in the name of love, but when it comes to their own life – to taking responsibility for their actions and for building their future, the control, dedication, and focus seem lost.

“

ONE OF THE MAIN SIGNS THAT SOMEONE HAS GROWN IN THEIR MIND AND IS MORE LIKELY TO TURN THEIR LIFE AROUND IS THAT THEY OR CAN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND REACTIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, A PERSON WHO WILL PROBABLY KEEP ENDING UP IN TROUBLE TENDS TO BLAME OTHERS FOR WHAT THEY DO AND THE STICKY SITUATIONS THEY GET INTO.

For example, suppose you do not understand that your short temper and lack of patience make you react impulsively. In that case, you will always blame the other person on the receiving end for the damage you do. “You provoked me; that's why I cursed you out. Had you not done this, I wouldn't have done that.” In other words, you take zero responsibility for your actions.

Suppose you don't understand that you are responsible for your feelings. In that case, you may feel unhappy and blame everyone else for your unhappiness. You hold everybody around you accountable for how you think. Of course, unfair treatment or behavior should be addressed – but it should be managed separately from your feelings.

Yes, others are accountable for their actions, but you alone are responsible for how you

feel. You ultimately decide if you will deal with the problem without all the drama, without playing the victim, or if you will respond with an all-out war.

A grown person takes control of their actions and reactions. There are many things around us that we can't control, but when we understand that we're responsible for ourselves, that is a sign of growth.

How have you been reacting to situations? Is it time to grow some more? Is there ever a time to stop growing?

It's impossible to be mature without being responsible.

“IF WE ARE GROWING, WE ARE ALWAAYS GOING TO BE OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE.”

~ JOHN MAXWELL



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

Clements 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

Clements 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

Tgk (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 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



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.

***BP. JOSHUA NOW ACCEPTS E-MESSAGES YOU CAN SEND YOUR NAME AND ID # TO BE ADDED TO THE UBB CONTACT LIST. SEND YOUR LETTER TO BP. JOSHUA, HE WILL PERSONALLY READ AND REPLY. 7075 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY. HOUSTON, TX 77074.**

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





UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

You are not alone!

FROM TROUBLED TO SAVED



even know I was there.

I had a void inside me, so I decided to hit the streets. I found attention from people and so-called "friends" I didn't find at home. It momentarily made me feel good about myself, knowing people "cared" about me.

Of course, living life on the streets wasn't anything good. As time passed, I became influenced by the people I hung out with, and it was for the worst and not the better.



"THIS LIFESTYLE LED ME TO USE DRUGS. I STARTED USING MARIJUANA, AND IT BECAME AN INSTANT HABIT, THE HIGH AT FIRST WAS ALRIGHT."

~ JUSTIN

This lifestyle led me to use drugs. I started using marijuana, and it became an instant habit, the high at first was alright. Still, my curiosity and drug addiction escalated when that didn't do it for me. From there, I started using ecstasy pills and prescription drugs. Not long after that, I moved up to cocaine. I lived most of my life under the influence, I was always high, and

Growing up, I was a troubled youth. I started using drugs at 13, my home was destroyed, and I had no attention from my family. It's like they didn't

because of my drug addiction, I needed a way to support it. I got involved in petty thefts. I hadn't been caught made me almost feel like I was "the man."

My rock bottom was when I left my home for several months. Mind you, and I was already living this street life for many years. My drug addiction had become more intense.

I was hopping from friends' places to different relatives, and it wasn't easy not knowing where to lay my head at night, but I didn't have the strength to stop. I went deeper into drugs and crime.



JUSTIN WOULD SPEND MULTIPLE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK IN BARS, AND CLUBS.

I began using crystal meth, and my life went from bad to worse. I started getting in trouble with the law I started getting in trouble with other people. I began stealing more and committing more crimes.

I had a warrant out for my arrest, and I got locked up for my warrant. I remember inside the cell, I told God I would change my ways if he took me out. I wasn't committed to what I had told God when I got out. I started to use drugs again, until one night, hallucinating from the drugs, I was losing my mind.

I decided to go home and asked my mother

for help because I didn't want to be like this anymore.

My mom told me about the UBB (the Universal Beyond Bars). I was not too fond of the thought of going. I didn't believe there was a God. The only thing that led me to go was the words, "I could receive the help I needed." Eventually, I went, and I was never the same the first day. I had a genuine peace that I had been searching for all my life.



With all my effort and commitment, I was utterly transformed. God changed my life. I was free from every addiction, left the streets, and, most importantly, had an experience with God. It was the most significant day of my life. My mindset changed, how I spoke, and how I saw lives changed. I gave my life entirely to Christ. Today, I am happy, have peace, am an example to my family, and bring joy to my mother; she does not have to worry about me. I am happily married and serving God. I owe it all to God for changing me. He saw something I didn't see in me, and I am grateful that I found the UBB because they helped me without judging me.




JUSTIN TODAY IS HAPPILY MARRIED.

"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 SIMPLY DEALING WITH IT. DO NOT DEAL WITH IT ALONE! WRITE YOUR LETTER TO BP. JOSHUA, BECAUSE HE WILL PERSONALLY READ AND REPLY TO YOU.

* BE SURE TO INCLUDE: FIRST/LAST NAME, YOUR ID NUMBER, THE FACILITY NAME, ADDRESS, ALONG WITH THE CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE.

* SEND YOUR LETTER TO BP JOSHUA AT: 7075 SOUTHWEST, FREEWAY. HOUSTON, TX 77074

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THE AM SHOW | 9am

OVERCOMING DEPRESSION
1pm 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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universal online radio



living faith network



Are your finances going down in flames?



What should you do when faced with an expected loss in your business or when the debts you have been fighting to pay off for years only continue to pile up? Everyone is faced with struggles from time to time. Still, some are more intimidating than others and can be complicated to resolve. Without the right direction to fix these problems, the pressure can grow so intense that it feels like you are walking through fire, just like in the story of Kaio.

"I used to go out to parties and smoke cigarettes until I got introduced to marijuana." Kaio says that smoking helped him to be accepted by a group of friends. "I wanted to be like them. I began to drink more and consume cocaine until I became addicted. Still, it was an expensive habit, and I could not pay. For this reason, I went to do some favors for gang members. I took orders and delivered the product until I began to sell for myself," he reveals.

He also began to involve himself in car theft and continued to sell drugs. "I always came home under the influence of the drugs; I could barely stand. It came to the point that blood would come out of my nose and mouth simultaneously. I tried to kill my father in our fights and would provoke my mother by bringing the drug dealers into her house." Kaio says that he met his wife, Mayara, at a party. "She also had many problems in her family since she

was 12; she drank heavily. She came from an abusive relationship, and this caught my attention because I understood it was a spiritual problem. My mother already attended The Universal Church. She didn't give up on her faith and continued doing her purposes with God for me at the church. Finally, we decided to go to the church," he says. "We started going to The Universal Church together. My wife came by her own choice. I didn't force anything on her. Five years later, we got married."

"In the beginning, I came to the church



high." After participating in the services, Kaio and Mayara were delivered from their past and received the Holy Spirit. "I believe that those who choose to surrender their lives to God must be perseverant in order to have peace; this peace is the Holy Spirit. The important thing is to keep the faith and not give up. At first, it will be challenging, but you must desire to change and, above all, believe in God. Don't give

up, and don't listen to those thoughts that you are in sin. These thoughts will come, but if you focus on God, the miracle will happen," says Kaio.



PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLAN PROCESS TO ACHIEVE

INVEST
SAVE
PROTECT

- ASSESSMENT**
Donec, et euismod purus, ut amet quam. Aliquam ligula augue, blandit eu suscipi ut amet, dictum at nulla.
- GOAL SETTING**
Praesent nec ex ante. Pellentesque autum libero non mollis fehendit. Sed ut amet elit nec eu lobortis tempus qui ac urna. Cras tristique ipsum leo, eu consectetur sapien rutrum id.
- CREATING A PLAN**
Proin vehicula a lorem scelerisque elementum. Donec orn. Mauris qui lectus ut ex porta accumsan in a ipsum. Blaciant in libero ultrices felis libero eum euismod.
- EXECUTION**
Fusce ultrices urna libero, id tristique nulla pretium nec, nullam nec, justo rutrum maximus. Com socii natoque peratibus et magna do parturient montes, nascetur ridicula mus.
- MONITORING**
Mauris quisque ut ex porta accumsan in a libero eum Mauris at lobortis maee portenti. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas.



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