

UNIVERSAL NEWS



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YOU CAN START A NEW CHAPTER, **2023** AND HAVE A NEW LIFE!



Start a Chain of Prayer today! (Learn more inside)

CHAIN OF PRAYER RESULTS



HE WENT FROM BEING A BORN LOSER TO A SUCCESSFUL MAN.



I WAS LIVING A CRIME LIFE, BUT I GOT TO TURN THINGS AROUND.



"I HAD 25 BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS"

- Rebecca



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

2023, YOU CAN START A NEW CHAPTER AND HAVE A NEW LIFE

Changing one's life is not as simple as changing a hairstyle or a shirt. There are years of deep-rooted habits, behaviors, and problems that will not change overnight. How ever change can all start in the making of a single decision to do differently

Any change that is significant and worthwhile takes effort and time. But people tend to have the tendency to give up when something is difficult. But things that come with minimal to no effort tend to not last. To rebuild a marriage, start a business, quit an addiction, become debt-free, etc, does not happen overnight. But neither is it impossible.

Below are 3 things you need to do if you want to change your life, to start a new chapter:

1) Know WHAT you want to change - have a goal, a target. 2) Identify what sacrifices you have to make and MAKE THEM — If you want real change, you have to be prepared to pay the price for it. And this is the real test of your will. 3) Realize it's going to take time and it's going to be a battle – and so you get yourself ready for it by making a Chain of a Prayer. Greater than fighting on your own is having the help of God. As you make a chain of prayer you will receive practical advice and spiritual encouragement and support to overcome.

Make a commitment to change; Whatever it takes, as long as it takes. Follow these 3 steps, this new year, Start a Chain of Prayer in 2023, and I guarantee you, your life will turn around.

| BEATING DEPRESSION |

Depression is an illness of the soul that you can only cure through the power of Faith. What physical medication can be used to heal what is spiritual? 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. Make a Chain of Prayer by attending the prayer meeting for 7 consecutive weeks. You will receive practical advice as well as spiritual help through the power of prayers to overcome depression. We have thousands of testimonials worldwide that proves a Chain of Prayer works.

Just because you're struggling right now, it doesn't mean that the only option left is to end it all. You CAN have a new beginning. You, too, can defeat depression

YOU CAN BEAT DEPRESSION

YOUR STORY ISNT OVER!

Call 1.888.332.4141

Text 1.888.312.4141

For more information
SEE PAGE 12 FOR LOCATIONS



Bishop Edir Macedo



THE LAST YEAR

During this time of the year, many make a 'sacrifice of fools' and are filled with excitement and expectations for the coming year. They make promises, such as: "I'm going to lose weight this year!", "I'm going to learn a new language in 2023!", "I'm going to pay off my debts and start saving money this year!", "I'm going to get married this year!"

However, many of these desires are just emotions. When the time comes to put things into practice, the person does absolutely nothing to accomplish them. He lives each new day as he did the day before, without goals, without objectives, without sacrifices and, as a consequence, without results. When he realizes it, the time has passed and the complaining begins: "My God! This year has flown by so quickly! It's already December..." And again, he makes promises for the following year, which he certainly won't do. And the cycle continues...

The problem is that when a person is undisciplined with what is Natural, which represents life here on Earth, this person is most likely also undisciplined with what is Supernatural, which represents his Spiritual life and communion with God. The Lord Jesus spoke the following parable:

"(...) A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

"When a person is undisciplined with life here on Earth, this person is most likely also undisciplined with his communion with God..."

Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' " Luke



13.6-9

In this parable, The fig tree is us; The vineyard is the Kingdom of Heaven – Salvation; The owner of the vineyard is God the Father; The keeper of the vineyard is the Lord Jesus; The expected fruit of the fig tree is the Holy Spirit. When we truly surrender to God, He delivers us, cleanses us, and gives us Salvation. Even though we are a fig tree, He plants us in His vineyard, and has patience with us until we bear fruit from the Holy Spirit.

In this parable, we see that God becomes angry because He's been waiting for three years to find fruit on the fig tree, but He hasn't found any. The fig tree continued the same; nothing changed. God even commands for the fig tree to be cut down. But the Lord Jesus, who is the Advocate of the fig trees, asks for ONE more year. He says he will invest, care and fertilize the fig tree as the last opportunity. HE BELIEVES IN US! But He says, "And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down."

This parable fills us with fear! Has God been seeking fruit in you for years, but hasn't found any? Did the Lord Jesus ask God to make 2022 your last opportunity? Grab hold of this last opportunity, so that your life will be fruitful for God in 2023! "I [JESUS] am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15.5. God bless you!

You don't have to learn to live with your problems or learn to manage them as though they were a life sentence. The power of God can transform your life so that your problems today can become part of the past. So, whatever your current situation is, your past or condition, never give up hope, because there is a solution through the power of Faith. You can lead a happy and fulfilled life. Call or Visit a Universal Church near you today



"OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF STARTING OVER"

way out of the situation. I turned to alcohol to drown my sorrows but it wasn't long until I became dependent on it. I was drinking so much that I started feeling even worse.

Starting over

'I still remember the first time I entered the Universal Church. When I set foot in the church, I felt like I belonged there. There was this peace about the place and I loved that. I was introduced to the chain of prayer, a 7 week program that is focused on prayers together with actions of faith to target the most prevalent problem in a person's life. I joined these meetings where I learnt that first, I must believe change is possible. Secondly, I must never give up until I see results. That is exactly what I did. I began to see changes within myself; I was

no longer feeling sad and empty and I had no desire at all for alcohol. My life was finally beginning to take a new direction.

Turning point

Today, I can say that I have peace and happiness that nothing and no one can take away. After 10 years of not seeing my family, I was finally able to travel back home and be reunited with them. I am now working on pursuing my career and seeing my dreams come true.

Regardless of the things I have conquered, I can say that my biggest achievement has been truly finding God. I always thought I knew God, but today I know Him on a different level. I am able to face challenges and not allow them to put me down or stop me.'

- Esther Acheng

MIRACLES EXIST



**"I HAD
25 BLOOD
TRANSFUSIONS"**

- Rebecca

My suffering started when I was diagnosed with Hemolytic anemia. Due to all the medications, I developed high blood pressure and convulsions, among other complications. Later on, I was diagnosed with leukemia.



There was a time when I was blind for three days and had 25 blood transfusions. My mother used her faith; she would bring the Divine water to me and always do purposes of faith for my healing. Today I am 21 years old and completely healthy, thanks to the power of faith.

**DIVINE
WATER**



HEALED FROM ASTHMA

- Qwashon

At the age of 14, I was diagnosed with Asthma. I remember collapsing at school due to this illness, and my mother had to come and get me. I couldn't take part in physical activities for three years. I was kept a lot indoors. Additionally, doctors also observed that I had an irregular heartbeat. When I drank the Divine water by faith, I got healed completely. The doctors didn't find health issues in me anymore.



**HE EXPERIENCE SEVERAL SEIZURES THAT
LED HIM TO A COMA FOR 11 DAYS...**

- Catalino

The doctors saw that I had meningitis, a virus that attacks your brain. Suddenly I started having seizures, and then I was taken to the hospital; I was in a coma for 11 days. I do not remember much, but just some things here and there. After my healing, I saw that there is a God that can make the impossible possible!
Lorem Ipsum

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

PLEASE TURN ON THE LIGHT

Entering a dark place is undoubtedly a challenge. No one likes walking around in total darkness. You probably remember the last time you walked in the dark and bumped your foot on a piece of furniture in your house. Moving around inside that house entirely in the dark will first make you feel nervous about being unable to see clearly.

We can compare the present world to that kind of dark house. Many are bumping their feet on the problems. Just as being in a place lacking light is unpleasant, living in this world without true light is utterly destructive.

The world is in the dark, and the people living in that same darkness suffer.

Many try to find the light in evil things and places, such as drinking, parties, drugs, extramarital affairs, casinos, and other things that seem pleasant but are nothing more than darkness.

If you find yourself in the dark looking for a light, see what the Bible says:

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”



John 8:12

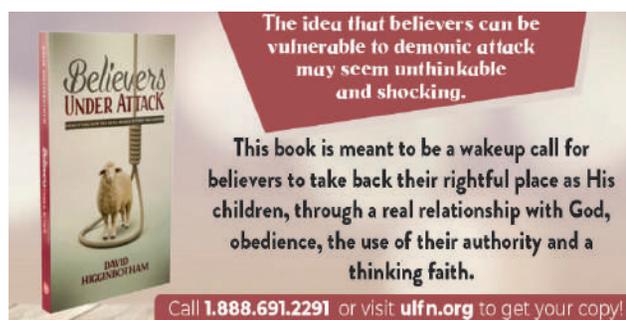
Let Jesus in. He will bring the security, confidence, certainty, and peace you need.

When He enters your life, the darkness does not remain, like when you turn on the light in a room.

Turn on the light in your life. Don't trade your light for the darkness of this world.

Remember that everything on earth is temporary. So keep your salvation, and don't let your light be turned off.

May the God of the Bible bless



EVERY FRIDAY

Receive strong prayers for your spiritual freedom and learn to overcome problems such as **addictions, negativity, anger, constant fear, inability to rest, self-harm tendencies, lack of motivation for life, suicidal thoughts**, among many others.

**START A CHAIN OF PRAYER IN 2023
IT WORKS!**

I WAS SUFFOCATED BY AN INVISIBLE FORCE EVERY NIGHT



From a young age, Florence was troubled by what she describes as “a strange presence around her,” which brought out a deep fear that constantly had her looking over her shoulder. “I cannot recall why we went there, but something changed when my family visited a witch doctor. It is something quite common in our culture, so I didn't think much of it. However, from then on, I started seeing what I can only describe as the shadow of a man standing in the corner of my room, staring at me when I was in bed. Then, that shadow would strangle me, trying to kill me. I felt suffocated and could not breathe; I tried to scream but couldn't do it. It always happened at night, so naturally, I developed an extreme fear of the dark — I could only sleep with the lights on.

Although my parents and siblings knew about it, I didn't tell anyone else as I felt embarrassed. I thought I was the only one going through this, and no one would understand me. Things escalated to the point that I couldn't sleep in my room at night. I had to sleep with my parents. I became so afraid of the dark that the anxiety made me feel like I could not breathe.

As a consequence, I was constantly worried and afraid. I felt anxious about being in crowded or small places (like lifts or small shops). I remember one day that I was in a shopping mall, and it was very busy. In my mind, I felt as though the people were touching me — although they were not — so I started shaking. My heart was racing, and I couldn't breathe, so I blacked out. When I regained consciousness, an ambulance was on its way. It went on for ten years. I thought that if I continued with life, it would somehow disappear. So, I got into a relationship, hoping it would make me happy and all the bad things would disappear — I was wrong!”

Florence became deeply sad after the relationship went south; an unplanned pregnancy ended with a termination that tore her to pieces. “I had an abortion, and I hated myself for that. I felt so guilty that nothing could heal or numb my pain. I couldn't see a way out. I felt so disconnected from society — how could anyone possibly understand the emptiness, fear, and pain I felt inside? How could anyone accept me with all my baggage? I was a total mess inside. It continued until a university friend noticed my suffering and invited me to the Universal Church. I was really down, crying every day, so I decided to give faith a chance and accepted her invitation immediately. I must confess that at first, I thought the life-transformation stories I heard at the church were fake — how could people change like that? I'd never known what true happiness and peace felt like, so I struggled to really believe that it was possible in anyone's life. Looking back now, I also think that believing in the stories I heard meant I had to face my past, which I was ashamed of; it meant dealing with the night terrors I didn't want to face. Believing meant having to change, and I wasn't sure if I was ready to take a leap into the unknown, so I didn't open up to anyone. It took me almost four years before I finally got the strength to ask for help.

By attending the Spiritual Cleansing meetings on Fridays, I heard positive words that empowered me to fight to change the mindset that good things could not happen to me. I thought, ‘If other people's lives changed for the better, why couldn't the same happen to me? I can overcome too!’ I found a strength and confidence that enabled me to fight against my fears and worries. Now I had faith that was stronger than my fear, and when you decide to face a fear, it may take some time, but there comes a moment when it cannot affect you anymore. That's how I overcame my night terrors.

I want to share with anyone who may be going through something similar and feel that no one would believe them, so they suffer in silence. There is help out there, and it begins with talking about it. I don't know where I would be if it weren't for the help I received at the Universal Church.” “I was able to come to terms with my past, and now I can smile because the emptiness I had was replaced with joy, and my fears were replaced with peace. If I could take back control of my life and change, I believe anyone can, no matter what horrors they may face. I hope that speaking about this will inspire anyone going through it to reach out and get the help they need.”

Florence Forest

UNISOCIAL IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

HEADQUARTERS IN CASTRIES
25 Brazil Street Castries,
Opposite the Derek Walcott
square

Saint Lucia is an Island with a population of approximately of 184,401 people.

This year, many have lost their homes due to recent floods and what was bad became worse. For this reason, the Unisocial team has been the helping hand to feed those who have been in need.

The Universal Church in Saint Lucia donated countless bags of food, which was the hope that many of those people were waiting for.



SAINT LUCIA



The Youth Power Group (YPG) of The Universal Church in Bahamas hosted its first basketball tournament in the communities. It was a day to benefit the youths

and families from Nassau. The tournament took place at Edmund Moxey Youth Community Centre at 10am. Approximately 200 persons attended. This included youths, children, and the elderly from various communities. A message of hope was given to all those that were present.



The Unisocial team has been helping the needy in Antigua & Barbuda. The island of approximately 98,728 people has gone through difficult times during the last few years, specially after the Covid-19. The Unisocial has been bringing this help on the right time, with food donations and spiritual support.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



HEADQUARTERS IN ST JOHN'S
Redcliffe Street, St John's
(opposite ECAB bank)



BAHAMAS

HEADQUARTERS IN NASSAU
Wulff Road - Opposite Wulff Road
Police Station By Superwash
Plaza- Nassau - New Providence

LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN:

- Jamaica:** 141 Maxfield Ave, Kingston 10 - Tel. 1876.757.8424
- Suriname:** Keizerstraat 159 Paramaribo 26 - Tel. 855.5519
- Guyana:** Georgetown, Former Strand Cinema 162 Charlotte and Wellington
- 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

- Trinidad & Tobago:** Port of Spain #40 South Quay P.O.S - Tel. 389-9880
- Dominica:** 26 Great Marlborough St - Roseou (near Digicel)
- Cayman Island:** 71 Eastern Avenue - Crown Square, Unit A10 (Behind Jn money Transfer)
- Barbados:** Baxter Road, opposite Kensington new Road - Bridgetown, St. Michael
- Sint Maarten:** 27 back street- Philipsburg- Dutch Side.
- Antigua & Barbuda:** Redcliffe Street, St John's (opposite ECAB bank)

NEW

CHAPTER.

NEW LIFE.

Many enter the New Year with the same old habits and reactions they had in previous years. They make the upcoming year a bad remake of the last year. However, the Holy Spirit advises us to walk in the newness of life, and there is no better time to remember it than at the turn of the year.

Everyone is talking about “new.” New year, new life, new everything. However, this only happens when we leave behind last year’s rubbish and start with renewed faith, expecting what hasn’t happened until now will happen.

Start your year with the chain of prayer, and make this year worthwhile and victorious.



years. “I had drugs and money, but I didn’t have anyone. I felt overwhelmed and empty. I asked God where I would end up with this life.”

After one night of getting high, he heard

a call on television. On a Friday, Gilberto decided to attend a meeting at the Universal Church. He got there using his bicycle. Halfway through, the tire went flat. He looked for some change to go on the bus, but the



money was gone. “I went on foot. It was a small church evening service. I sat on the first row. I saw the empty cross on the Altar. I held on to the arm of the chair and thought to myself, ‘I just want to get my answer,’ and then I heard the Pastor call the name of the Lord Jesus. After that, I don’t remember anything else.”

“He still smoked and did wrong things because he hadn’t made a sincere decision. It took a year for him to break free. **I heard about a Concentration of Faith on a Friday, and I decided to go.**

According to him, this day was a turning point: “Insomnia, nervousness, and fights with my wife, Gilviane, ended. My life was going from bad to worse. I was unemployed, collected cardboard and cans on the streets, and sold water at traffic lights. I got a job, and my wife and family started to notice a difference in me. That nervous man was being transformed. I started to

have peace of mind and even started dreaming again – something that didn’t happen before.”

Despite this news, he did not know God. In a campaign of Israel, Gilberto had his Faith awakened and wished to receive the Holy Spirit. “Apparently, I took my life to the Altar, but in reality, I left only half of my body there. I only gave myself up from the neck down since I was still in the world from

the neck up. However, I understood that God wanted my mind.”

Early one morning, he received the Holy Spirit. “I am certain God is with me because I am with Him. I thought I was worthless and lost and that He would not forgive me, but I received life and peace from Him.

I want to tell people that Jesus is alive and wants to give them the same peace he gave me.”

“I am certain that God is with me because I am with Him. I thought I was worthless and lost and that He would not forgive me, but I received life and peace from Him.”

Gilberto has five siblings. Addictions marked his adolescence. “I started drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes. From cigarettes, I went to marijuana. I was only 12 years old.” When he laid his head on the pillow, he felt torment.

“Not even my family knew what I was going through and that drugs were my refuge.”

At the age of 18, Gilberto moved to another city. There, he became involved in crime and remained in that life for almost 13

CHAIN OF PRAYER

What is it?

A Chain of Prayer is when you attend a prayer meeting for a certain number of weeks without interruption 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. Before starting a Chain of Prayer, you must decide what you want to fight for and then choose the day, or days, that you will participate. Making a Chain of Prayer requires you to attend a Sunday service every week.

Learning to release your faith

When a person makes a Chain of Prayer, their faith is encouraged, awakened, and prepared to take possession of God's promises. But due to the seriousness of their problems, some are so overwhelmed and worried that they find it hard to use their faith in the first prayer meeting they attend. Though it happens, only a few receive what they want on their first visit. One prayer is not enough. Even Jesus taught us to pray always and never give up (Luke 18.1).

Important

Before you start a Chain of Prayer, you should get your pastor's advice. He will teach you, step by step, how to use your faith to overcome your problems. If you are attacked with doubt or confusion, or if your faith gets weak, do not hesitate to ask for help. Don't be shy. One word of advice can prove to be invaluable, even more than a prayer. Just like a doctor gives you a series of treatments and monitors your progress until you are completely healed, we aim to help you through your problems until you are strong enough to use your own faith and no longer need to depend on a pastor's prayers. The essence of a Chain of Prayer is to teach you to be independent, to rely on yourself and God alone!

Perseverance

The success of a Chain of Prayer depends on your perseverance. If you're determined, it will work. When you begin a Chain, you are picking a fight with the root of your problems, and negative forces can try to stop you from completing the Chain, but no matter what happens, **DO NOT BREAK IT!** Be serious about this. It would be better not to start a Chain than to start and not finish.

It's up to you!

A Chain of Prayer is a biblical strategy for conquering blessings; God delivered His people from the Egyptians with ten plagues; He told Joshua to march around Jericho thirteen times; the prophet Elijah prayed for rain seven different times. It works! It has worked for thousands of people just like you and could also work for you. No matter how big your problem is, a Chain of Prayer will help you overcome it. In fact, being faithful to a Chain of Prayer is proof of your faith in God. It's time to declare war against your problems. Have you had ENOUGH suffering? If so, start your Chain of Prayer at your nearest Universal Church this week!

Every Friday, we fight for your deliverance. You will receive strong prayers with the laying on of hands. There's nothing impossible for God, whether it's a curse, addiction, insomnia, witchcraft, or paranormal activities. For seven consecutive Fridays, fight to uproot all suffering and be free!

MAKE A



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.

A QUICK HEALTH CHECK



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
T&K (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**



We all know how important a physical health check is, and even if you hate to have it done, you still get it done because the results can mean health or sickness. You only have 100 percent assurance that everything is fine when you've had it professionally checked out and confirmed.

But what about your spiritual health? What's the check-up, and how often should it be carried out? Read on and take this as your official spiritual health check.

Let's start with these two questions:

Do you have a public or private relationship with Jesus? Is he a 'homie' or an associate?

Take a moment and consider those two questions as we think of Nicodemus from the Bible. You can read about his story in John 3.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1: Nicodemus had all the facts and no doubt about who Jesus was. So why did he go out of his way to approach Jesus in secret? Why didn't he want anyone to see him with Jesus? What does it tell you about his relationship with Jesus?

Suppose your partner is ashamed of going public with you. What does that say about your relationship? If you answered 'private' in question 1. Ask yourself why. Do you honestly

think that God is okay with you hiding Him? Nicodemus had a specific position that he had to protect. Perhaps you do too. He didn't want to seem weak before others and tried to see if he could have a secret relationship with God. Maybe you do too. If that's your case, your spiritual health is not doing well.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 2: You may not have much in prison, but one thing you do have, is control over who approaches your cell, right? You have those who don't need to think twice and can come up to your door or window and talk about nonsense. It's those homies you would happily share your toilet paper with if they needed it!

Then you have those associates you don't have beef with, but you 'ain't cool with them like that' either, so your interactions are kept to the day room.

Now bring it back to your relationship with God. Do you freely and often talk to Him or consult Him in your daily decisions? Do you consider Him before taking action? Or does He stay in the 'day room' and you only speak sometimes, when situations get rough?

Nobody can judge your spiritual health but you. They can advise and suggest, but your actions will tell you the state of your spiritual health.

So, what do you do if, after reading this, you honestly recognize that you can do better with God? What's the remedy for someone who wants their spiritual health to improve? The answer is simple: do better. All is not lost; you can get closer to God.

Like with any relationship, it's only as good as the investment you give it. Start to invest more in your relationship with God. Don't hide your faith – even if it means being looked down upon or losing 'credit' with others. Remember, God honors those who honor Him, and honoring Him means not being ashamed of your faith. It also means regularly checking your spiritual health to ensure that you are not a 'Nicodemus' or that distractions have not gotten the best of you.

If you want a more detailed 'check-up,' write to Bishop Bira Joshua. He will be happy to consult with you on spiritual matters.

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UBB



UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

MY CHILDHOOD DREAM WAS TO GROW UP, BECOME A DRUG DEALER AND EVENTUALLY KILL MY UNCLE...



The story of José, 32, begins with a destroyed family without structure. By witnessing fights at home and seeing my parents separate due to drinking, when I

was four, I started to relate to the wrong people.

“

AT SCHOOL, I GOT INVOLVED WITH THOSE WHO MADE TROUBLE. AT 13, I STARTED GOING OUT AT NIGHT, DRINKING ALCOHOL, AND SMOKING CIGARETTES, SINKING DEEPER AND DEEPER. IT WAS THEN THAT I BEGAN TO STEAL AND DO VARIOUS DISHONEST THINGS.



“I STARTED DEALING WHEN I WAS 16, AND MARIJUANA BECAME VERY WEAK, AS IT NO LONGER AFFECTED MY MIND, SO I STARTED WITH COCAINE. I WAS ARRESTED FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN I WAS 20 BECAUSE I TRIED TO KILL MY UNCLE. I WAS THE ONLY MALE GRANDSON IN THE FAMILY, AND I SAW HIM BEATING MY MOTHER AND AUNT. HE EVEN SHOT MY GRANDFATHER IN THE MOUTH WHEN I WAS LITTLE, AND I GREW UP WITH THAT DESIRE IN MY HEART THAT I WOULD BECOME A DRUG DEALER AND KILL HIM,” SAYS JOSÉ.

I delve into the world of robbery and smoking marijuana. I would say that I wasn't addicted because I only used it on the weekends. Still, after a short time, I took drugs every day and started to depend on marijuana to live. And it was through marijuana that I became directly involved with organized crime.

In the first crime, I was imprisoned for almost two years. I learned everything wrong in prison, including how to understand illicit products better. “I started selling drugs to inmates. I left there with my head completely distorted. The first thing I did when I was released from prison was to get involved with people to start dealing, which landed me in prison again,” recalls José.

I spent another year and six months in prison. Upon leaving there, I went so far as to become involved with an extensive criminal organization. I was the dealer's manager and learned to manufacture drugs with him. I conquered motorcycles, cars, and other material goods. I snorted so much cocaine that the products began to erode my nose to the point where I poked a hole near my eye. When everything started to change I wanted to change, to get out of that life. My

relatives tried to do everything, they looked for help in every way, and even the idea of admitting me came up, but that wasn't enough. **“IF I INTERNEED, I WOULDN'T CHANGE. I NEEDED GUIDANCE, WHICH WAS GOD. I GOT TO THE POINT WHERE I WANTED TO TAKE MY LIFE. I ATTEMPTED SUICIDE,” HE SAYS.** To my surprise, the head drug dealer of the faction, seeing my despair, asked me to read the Bible and seek God. “Watching a television show, I got to know Universal. My cousin, who was going to church, took me. I arrived with fear, without understanding anything. It was a deliverance meeting, and I ended up staying. I started to seek God, and I abandoned friendships and prostitution.”

But it wasn't because I converted that his life turned into a bed of roses. The fights continued. I remember evangelizing one day, being stopped by a policeman. I was arrested again because of a past lawsuit. I no longer did anything wrong. Inside the prison, I prayed for the people and talked about Jesus. Many prisoners didn't believe it and said I was pretending to be from the church. The drug dealer came to visit me and was playing my ego up there, saying that I was important in the world of crime.

I had to fight that devil's voice telling me to get out of God's ways and go back to the world, but I didn't believe it and continued in faith, seeking God. Praying.” In my cell, I spent my days evangelizing and winning souls until I was released to go home and never made mistakes again. “There my smile was to my ear. The first thing I did was go to the church to give God thanks. Today I am happily married. I am grateful to God for everything he has done in my life”, he concludes.



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with Pastor Damien

PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS
11am & 12am with Pastor Israel

REBUILDING FAMILIES | 12pm
with Pastor Samuel

MIRACLES EXIST | 1pm
with Bishop Edson

LET THERE BE LIGHT
2pm & 12am
with Pastor Dennis

WOMEN IN REAL TIME | 3pm

STOP SUFFERING | 4pm
with Pastor Diego

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Cristiano lost his mother when he was only a few months old. He felt like a born loser and as he went through life, he made all the wrong choices. When he understood a life of faith, his entire vision changed and so did his life. See his story...

impression on him: "true sacrifice on the Altar is giving one's life," he recalls. From then on, Cristiano recognized his mistake: "I understood that everything I did was with my strength. So I went up to the Altar and left my bad character there, frustrated, destroyed, and discredited by his own family, and I went down with a strength I never had before." Cristiano reveals that he started having a new vision, and many blessings were added to his life. "I let God take care of me, and things started to work out without asking. My family got restored, and I never lacked anything, especially faith, affection, fidelity, respect, and love. I became director of a logistics company and later opened my own business and a men's social fashion store," he says. While the planet was going through the Covid-19 pandemic, financially, it was different for Cristiano: "I paid off the house, bought a car, and invested even more in the store. My family and the business environment respect me. Most importantly, I have the Spirit of God in me. My faith makes me sacrifice myself every day for Him, who guides me", he concludes.

HE FELT LIKE A BORN LOSER

Cristiano didn't know how to make the right choices. Everything went wrong for him. "I was A born loser. My single mother died when I was three months old, and I never knew my father. At 17, I went to work and live at a gas station and was surrounded by prostitution and drugs. That's when I started losing myself." He says his life worsened; "I never had a family but wanted to form one. I was unfaithful in my first serious

relationship, which led to the separation," Cristiano recalls that he got to know Universal in his second relationship. Still, he had no interest in getting to know God. "I got baptized and heard the Word, but I didn't stick to it. I didn't return my tithes, I didn't believe that my life would change through sacrifice on the Altar, and I thought God was obligated to bless me." Then, Cristiano also cheated on his second wife, and once again, they

separated. Afterward, he met Suralia, his current wife. Their relationship was very troubled, full of fights and many betrayals, and because of that, she even thought about suicide. Cristiano says he was already lost in addictions, betrayals, and debts. In 2016, during a meeting, he heard a message that left an

I went to work and live at a gas station and was surrounded by prostitution and drugs. That's when I started losing myself

FINANCIAL TIP

Contrary to what many think, God's help depends on an individual's change, either in his vision or behavior. After all, it is impossible to obtain different results by insisting on the same attitudes. On the other hand, those driven by faith have determination, a thirst to win, and prioritize pleasing God. This last factor is the greatest secret to achieving success. It guarantees prosperity and achievements in other areas of life since the Word of God says: "Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart" [Psalm 37:4].



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