

UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

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"Son of man, can these bones live?"
Ezekiel 37:3

THE DAY OF PROPHECY IN THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

DO YOU FACE A SITUATION ONLY GOD CAN SOLVE?



DEPRESSION

ABUSE

ADDICTION

BANKRUPTCY

FAMILY ISSUE

SICKNESS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10 AT 10 AM

MESSAGE

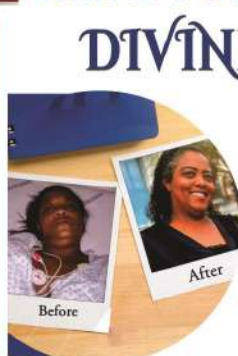
MIRACLES

FAITH IN ACTION



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FREE FROM TUMORS IN HER THYROIDS

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GATHERING OF FAITH AND MIRACLES IN HARLEM, NY



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

THE WORLD WE KNOW AND THE "VALLEY OF DRY BONES" DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE

Given the scenario we will present below, it is possible to compare the world in which we live today with the "Valley of Dry Bones" described by the prophet Ezekiel in the Bible:

-In 2022 alone, nearly 703,000 deaths are believed to have been due to suicide, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) assessment.

-In 2022, about 719 million people were living below the poverty line, according to a report called "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016: Taking on Inequality."

-In 2020, according to the Small Arms Survey, approximately 531,000 lives were taken by lethal violence worldwide.

These numbers have only increased over the years; the world has declined for the worst.

What is the "Valley of Dry Bones"?

In the book of Ezekiel, chapter 37, from verses 1 to 14, the prophet meets with God through a vision. The Holy Spirit led him to the midst of a valley filled with dry bones. While Ezekiel looked at that gloomy landscape, God asked him if he thought those bones could come back to life. And the prophet replied that only the Lord could decide. But the Most High tells Ezekiel to determine (prophesy) that those bones would have spirit again. That in them, nerves, flesh, and skin would grow; That all of them would live; As soon as those bones "heard" Ezekiel's words, all God had determined through the prophet came true. And so a great army arose.

Life in the "Valley of Dry Bones"

This vision that Ezekiel saw was an announcement made by God, informing him that He can change any situation—no matter the conditions. In a chaotic world like ours, the Universal Church has been a means by which the Most High has transformed lives. In September, a movement of faith will happen aiming at helping the suffering and lost ones; those feeling hopeless and depressed and those who thought being alive physically live a life of "Dry Bones" due to sickness, addiction, and problems.

It was the case of Thoba, whose life was spiraling out because of his addictions. He was on the verge of losing everything precious to him. God restored his life; He found peace and purpose. God can transform your life regardless of how dire your situation may be. Continue reading to see the story of Thoba and those who experienced the power of God in their lives. The same can happen to you. Call or visit a branch near you today.

| BEATING DEPRESSION |

Depression is a sadness felt in the deepest part of one's soul. It causes a sense of hopelessness and exhaustion so great that a person loses the motivation to do anything and some to live at all. It is a sickness of the soul. But who can heal the soul other than the Savior of Souls, the Lord Jesus?

On Fridays, at every Universal Church, we have a service for Deliverance from Depression. Visit a branch near you today. Make a Chain of Prayer by attending a prayer meeting near you for seven consecutive weeks. You will receive practical steps, counseling, and spiritual help through prayers to overcome. You won't regret it.

There are thousands of testimonials worldwide that prove a Chain of Prayer works. You, too, CAN defeat depression!

**DEFEAT
DEPRESSION**
THROUGH THE POWER OF FAITH

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



Bishop Edir Macedo



WHOSE BONES ARE THESE?

Without a doubt, the Bible passage about Ezekiel prophesying about a valley of dry bones is one of the most well-known (Ezekiel 37.1-14).

But something in this passage caught my attention: Whose bones were those?

They could have been Jews who had been killed in battle and who had not been buried according to Jewish tradition—a group of defeated people!

And yet, we know that the people of Israel were invincible whenever they were close to the Most High. As long as they were living by faith, it was impossible to defeat them, no matter how great their enemies were.

And so, we can conclude that they became dry bones because they stopped listening to the prophecy. They rejected the voice of sacrificial faith, God's voice. But God is the God of the impossible, and this passage of Scripture teaches us that no matter how badly destroyed a person's life may be, it will rise from the ashes when they accept the prophecy.

"Faith has to be constant, and sacrifice must be a daily activity!"

We can also conclude that the reverse of what happened to the



dry bones can occur in people's lives. When a person refuses to listen to the voice of faith and live by sacrificial faith, they will fall and lose their spirit, skin, flesh, and tendons until they become dry bones.

Many people have come to the church with destroyed lives, exercised their faith, conquered, and given testimonies, but eventually became cold. They assumed that they had achieved it all on their own merits until they began to lose everything and eventually returned to the valley of dry bones. Because of this, faith has to be constant, and sacrifice must be a daily activity!

Regardless of the situation that people are in, faith in a prophecy has the power to bring into existence all that does not yet exist.



OVERCOMING ADDICTION THROUGH FAITH

stance abuse.

I knew I had to make a change. Although I managed to quit cigarettes, I could not break free from my dagga addiction. Being addicted made me feel foolish, and I experienced physical and mental discomfort. One day, someone asked if I could sell dagga at school, and I eagerly agreed, thinking it would be an easy way to support my habit. My life began spiraling out of control, and even after finishing school, I continued smoking while looking for a job in Johannesburg; having money made it easier to fuel my addiction.

Unfortunately, when I got married, I could not fully support my family, and my marriage was in jeopardy due to my addiction and excessive drinking. I was on the verge of destroying everything precious to me.

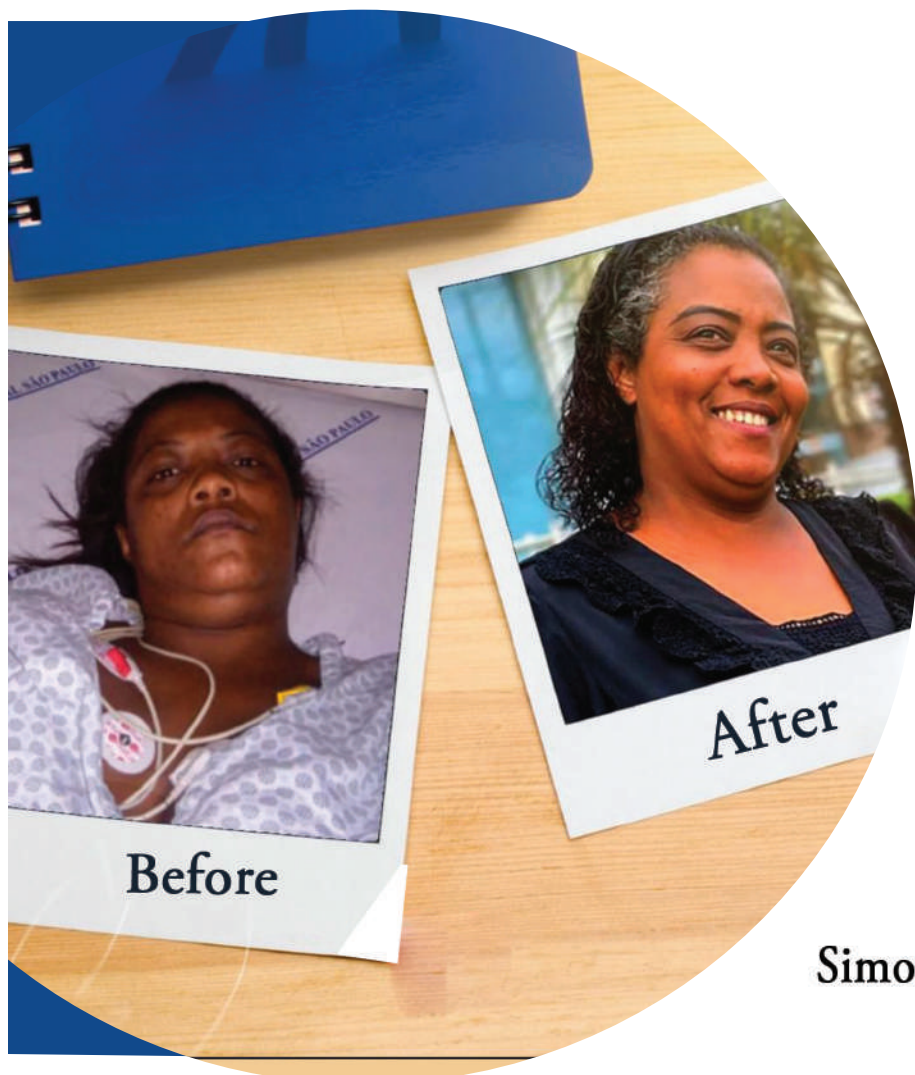
However, everything started to change when I began attending

services in the Universal Church. I was determined to make a change. Stepping into the church, I felt an overwhelming sense of amazement, realizing it was the right place for me.

From that day forward, I became a new person. God helped me to overcome my addictions, and the pastor advised me to regularly attend church services, praying for my spiritual well-being and deliverance. I clung to the Word of God and started attending Wednesday and Sunday services for my spiritual development. My faith became the driving force behind my transformation.

My family is now a blessing, and I have achieved things I once thought were impossible. I could send my children to university, and my marriage got restored. I realized God was waiting for me to change before taking over my life. By using my faith, I was able to turn my life around for the better," said Thabo

DIVINE WATER



FREE FROM TUMORS IN HER THYROIDS.

At 36, Simone faced a significant challenge when she suffered a stroke. The following year, she had a heart attack and, at 38, was diagnosed with two thyroid tumors.

During her treatment to remove the tumors and chemotherapy sessions, Simone experienced deep fear. In addition to the physical pain, she felt a deep anguish in her soul. At that moment, in the hospital, Simone turned to her faith and cried out to God. On the same day, something remarkable happened - surprisingly, her health got restored, eliminating the need for surgery.

Simone's experience demonstrated how her faith played a significant role in her recovery.



MY SON AND I USED TO SUFFER FROM ASTHMA.

My son and I suffered from asthma for about five years. I went to the doctor and got prescriptions and an inhaler, but nothing helped. I'VE SEEN MIRACLES IN EVERY AREA since I came here and drank the Divine water. Today, we are both healed! **Alisha, NY**

If you have received a challenging diagnosis, exercise your faith.

The Universal Church warns that you should never ignore medical treatment.

DIVINE
WATER

Learn to apply your faith in order to face your challenges!

**GET YOUR DIVINE WATER
EVERY SUNDAY**

at your nearest Universal Church



|Message|

BISHOP JOSHUA

LIFE OF DRY BONES



In this world, everyone is worried about what people think or say of them. People even kill themselves or go into a state of depression because of what others say of them.

But when you have God inside of you, even though people say things about you, it doesn't matter. You don't live by what people say or think of you. You need to believe in God and what He says and also believe in yourself. But when people are just "dry bones," they melt when people speak badly of them. They fall apart because what was said brings pain to their soul.

The Bible says God brought Ezekiel to a valley filled with dry bones; And He said, "Son of man, can these bones live?" Ezekiel 37:3

Then He told him, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: 'Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.'" Ezekiel 37: 4-5

The Lord told him to prophesy to these dry bones; he did so, and those bones received life. But they were still missing one thing. What was that? They were missing the Spirit of God because the body without the Spirit is dead. Only after breath (the Spirit) entered them did they have life. And it is no different today. You can conquer everything in the world, but without the Holy Spirit, you are dry bones.

God wants to breathe life into you, but you must sacrifice all of your life for all of Him.

May the God of the Bible Bless You.

SEP 2023							Bible Reading		GENESIS	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT				
					1	2			Ezekiel 1	Ezekiel 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			Ezekiel 3	Ezekiel 4
									Ezekiel 5	Ezekiel 6
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			Ezekiel 7	Ezekiel 8
									Ezekiel 9	Ezekiel 10
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			Ezekiel 11	Ezekiel 12
									Ezekiel 13 & 14	Ezekiel 15 & 16
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			Ezekiel 17 & 18	Ezekiel 19 & 20
									Ezekiel 21 & 22	Ezekiel 23 & 24
									Ezekiel 25 & 26	Ezekiel 27 & 28
									Ezekiel 29 & 30	Ezekiel 31 & 32
									Ezekiel 33 & 34	Ezekiel 35 & 36
									Ezekiel 37 & 38	Ezekiel 39 & 40
									Ezekiel 41 & 42	Ezekiel 43 & 44
									Ezekiel 45 & 46	Ezekiel 47 & 48

HE DID MORE THAN 300 TESTS , BUT THERE WAS NO DIAGNOSIS

"The doctors said I would die that week, but God gave me life."



It all started with discomfort in my abdomen. I was working on that day, and because I was feeling bad, I sought medical help, but as nothing was diagnosed in the first exams, I was told to go home. The pain continued, and I started losing the movement of my body. My belly started to get big, and I began to have problems breathing.

I returned to the doctor, who said my belly had a large volume of water, so I had to be hospitalized for further examination.

The pain increased daily, as well as the anguish of being away from home and family. The medical team comprised more than 20 doctors and did more than 300 tests, but still, they could not find what was wrong with me. They said they would lose me at any time. I even heard from one of the doctors that I would have to drain the water from my belly every 15 days until the day I died.

On Father's Day, the doctors called all my children for a meeting at the hospital. They told them that that was the last Father's Day they would celebrate with me and that

there was no solution for him. They made snacks for me to celebrate with my kids, but I was so bad that I could not stay for 20 minutes. They told us to take advantage of that day because I would not live to see another week;

that was the last week for me to live. Then I started to feel so bad that day, and they thought that was my last day.

My wife was going to the Universal Church, and despite all the negative news from the doctors, she main-



tained her faith. She participated in the chains of prayers and believed that God would do the miracle in my life, that He'd take me out of that death bed. As she continued praying for me, God did a miracle in my life, and today, I am completely healed. There's no more water in my belly, I can breathe normally, and my health is restored.

Carlos

SUNDAY GATHERING OF FAITH AND MIRACLES IN HARLEM, NY

AMC MAGIC JOHNSON THEATRES



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

Pastor Luiz opened the service by praying for the attendees who walked through the "Sanctuary of Deliverance" to be delivered from "the Valley of the Shadow of Death." He prayed that the Attendees would be delivered from any problems or situations that surrounded and oppressed them and left them feeling helpless. Bishop Carlos prayed for the Attendees, asking God to deliver them from any illness/diseases in their bodies that were causing them anguish and torment. He declared the healing of the Attendees from health problems, depression, anxiety, doubts, and generational curses in the name of Jesus.

Water Testimonies

Mr. Tyrone testified that before drinking the "Blessed water," he was diagnosed with a heart condition wherein his heart was functioning at 15%. His Physician advised him that if he were to fall, he could die from the fall. After drinking the "Blessed water," his heart is now functioning at 53%.



Ms. Margarita testified that before drinking the "Blessed water," she would experience aches and pain all over her body, which was attributed to her aging. As such, she was not prescribed any medication. She testified that after drinking the "Blessed water," the pain she experienced began to dissipate over time.



Ms. Elsa testified she had experienced an asthma attack, leading to her hospitalization. She noted that she had been diagnosed with asthma since she was three (3) months old. But since drinking the "Blessed water," she has not experi-



enced any more asthma attacks.

The pastor then instructed the Attendees to drink the "Blessed water," three (3) sips daily in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prayer for Family

Pastor Luiz prayed for the Attendees and their families that they were delivered from what issues they were facing in their lives.

He reminded the Attendees that next Sunday, September 3rd, 2023, would be the first Sunday of September. As such, all the children would be consecrated along with their school supplies, asking God to protect them and guide them in this new school year.

The Message

"Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" Matthew 6:25.

Pastor Luiz urged the Attendees not to worry about the future because worrying can bring about illness and sickness and lead to suicidal thoughts. As people meditate on their problems, it leads to stress, depression, and physical ailments. He asserted that the people of this world seem more worried about their physical appearances than their Spiritual lives. He pointed out that people are more concerned about their bodies, which will eventually dissipate and disappear, and not about where they will spend eternity after they leave this world.

If we were created in the image of our God and only a little less than an angel, doesn't this mean that we have value before Him who created us? If He made us and we were His children, why would He not provide or supply the needs of His children? **"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Matthew 6:26.**

He reminded the Attendees that worries can lead to bad decision-making because one will make decisions out of desperation. We should keep only one thing in mind: our salvation/soul.

Pastor Luiz reminded the Attendees that our Lord intended us to live for

eternity. Still, sin shortened our life span, which separated us from God. Thus, scientists will be unable to change human mortality on Earth because of sin. Still, we can obtain eternal life once we are in the Kingdom of Heaven. **"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body so that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." Philipians 3:20-21**

The pastor asked the Attendees which Kingdom they would choose, the Kingdom of Earth or the Kingdom of Heaven/God. In the Kingdom of Heaven, we will have a body that never dies or grows old as God intended.

We must concentrate on obtaining our salvation to ensure we can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. So we should not worry about material things because our Heavenly Father already knows of our wants and needs and will provide for us. **"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things, the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:31-33**

Then he called to the altar all the Attendees who were losing sleep over a problem they were worried about and all the Attendees who wanted to learn how to lean on God and seek his Kingdom. He prayed for them, asking God to remove the worries from their mind. He prayed to God for their salvation, to be in the presence of God and remain saved every day so that they can continue with God.



New Attendees

Ms. Celine was visiting New York from France with her friend. She decided to attend the Sunday service after being invited that morning. She noted that attending the service was a

great experience for her. In addition, she was leaving as a new person. She said she was "Thankful" for the invite she received that morning.



Mr. John Watson was invited to service today after being evangelized yesterday on 125th Street by an Assistant. He noted that he enjoyed the service a lot and was leaving with the message that he should never give up because God is Great. We also must keep our Faith strong.



Ms. Laveta Moore was invited to service Sunday by her sister-in-law, a member of the Universal Church. She asserted that she enjoyed the service. She was leaving with the message not to worry and to place her problems in the Hands of God instead. Our God will take care of us since he is a healer and deliverer.



Ms. Dominique was invited to church Sunday after being evangelized by a choir member on 125th Street. She enjoyed the service and was leaving with the message not to worry but to put all your worries in the hands of the Lord.



For More information on how you can join us for our next gathering, you can give us a call at 1(888)332-4141

THE DAY OF PROPHECY IN THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

SUNDAY, SEPT 10 AT 10AM AT YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSAL CHURCH



"I STOPPED BREATHING FOR 36 MINUTES."

On a Saturday, Maria received a call informing her that her husband, Pedro, did not feel well when he arrived at work. "I was at a Universal Church, participating in the impossible meeting service, and went home.

I was about to enter the apartment when I got a call from Pedro's work. They told me they were stopping by the house to take me to the hospital. Desperate, I asked if he had died", says Maria.

Pedro arrived at work around 7:40 in the morning that day. He only had time to go to the cafeteria and put his backpack on the floor. Then he passed out. There were 36 minutes without cardiorespiratory activity. "His colleagues

gave first aid, but he didn't respond," describes Maria.

Only the professional team from the Mobile Emergency Care Service managed to revive Pedro (a defibrillator was used), and they took him to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the nearest hospital. It is worth remembering that the couple sacrificed at the Altar in the week of the event as a sign of their faith. It was the time of the campaign of faith. Even with the incident with her husband, Maria kept her word. She entrusted her dependence to the Altar and her whole life. And, as the Altar leaves no one unanswered, what happened in the following days only strengthened their faith even further.

Pedro was admitted to

the hospital at 08:30. At 11:30 PM, he was still unconscious, and the doctors spoke to Maria about the diagnosis. The medical report found that Pedro had died due to a cardiorespiratory arrest resulting from ventricular fibrillation, atrial fibrillation, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Maria remembers that, in the past, Pedro had already suffered arrhythmia, but that, as his state of health was in perfect condition, what happened surprised

The second doctor also said that she had nothing else to do, as he had been out of breath for more than 5 minutes and that reversing the condition would be difficult. He would be vegetative if he survived...

everyone. "At first, the doctor said that there was no other way and that, probably, the devices would be turned off. The team stipulated a period of five days to a week for some reaction," she says.

On the second day, however, they instructed Maria to sign the papers for organ donation. "The second doctor also said that she had nothing else to do, as he had been out of breath for more than 5 minutes and that reversing the condition would be difficult. He would be vegetative if he survived, but I said my faith in the Lord Jesus would heal him. I heard that it wasn't like that, that God helps, but that his case was severe and that it would be impossible even for God. Yet, I did not back down from my faith. I knew God would heal him."

Maria continued acting on her faith, asking God for her husband's healing and going weekly to meetings. She also took the blessed water consecrated every Sunday to the hospital.

With that water, in an act of faith, she anointed the machines, the bed, and the entrance to the room so that God could use the medical team and obtain the response of faith.

Pedro survived 12 days with the help of devices. He only woke up on the 13th day. Then, the medical team urgently implanted a pacemaker to regulate his heartbeat. Medications were also used to treat heart failure.

On the 15th day, Pedro was discharged from the ICU, returned home, and continued receiving the necessary care. The orientation was for him to have a medical consultation with a general practitioner every two and four months. Every six months, it would be necessary to readjust the pacemaker.

But the following month, he had to return to the hospital and was rushed into the hospital as an electrode had come loose. "The doctor even said that redoing the operation

THE DAY OF PROPHECY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 10 AM

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!... So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. Ezekiel 37:4,7

The Bible shows us when God spoke to the prophet Ezekiel, who saw a valley of dry bones. In the vision, Ezekiel realized that the Spirit of God was accomplishing a mighty restoration of the people of Israel. Maybe your life is like this valley (no hope, no perspective). If you want to achieve this life transformation from God, participate in this special meeting.

All Universal Churches will become this 'valley,' where whoever is 'dry

bone' and comes will receive this prophecy that will get him out of this situation of 'dry bones.

"You who says like this: 'I want to live again. What I have is not life. The marriage I have is not life; it is death. My health and my financial life are dead; they are very dry. This Great Day of Prophecy is for you. And we will prophesy what God told us to prophesy for you: life, healing, that what is impossible will happen in your life.

When Ezekiel spoke the Word of God, there was a stir, and the bones came together. "God is going to make those pieces come together, and He is going to make everything new as if you were never broken."

Do not miss this great day of prophecy! See the back page for locations.

would be more difficult than the pacemaker placement surgery," he says.

Emergency and risky surgery was performed and lasted almost three hours. Maria remembers that she was fasting and praying for everything to work out, and that's what happened.

After readjusting the device, the doctors finalized that Pedro no longer needed to use the pacemaker. "The doctor said that Pedro's heart was as new as his and mine," recalls Maria.

It is worth mentioning that he consumed around 220 pills per month.

For Maria, faith was fundamental for restoring her husband's health. "Without faith, we cannot move mountains. We have to believe in the supernatural, what God left us in His Word. Just enjoy that faith and persevere," she says.

Pedro narrates the episode as a moment when he

glimpsed the power of God.

"I dropped dead, that's the word. I stopped breathing for 36 minutes, but as I believed, and still believe, that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the life that only He can give us prevailed," he concludes.

"I dropped dead, that's the word. I stopped breathing for 36 minutes, but as I believed, and still believe, that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the life that only He can give us prevailed", he concludes.

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.

RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE

When did things get so bad? How come I never said no? Why did I allow myself to fall so deep? What happened along the way? Do you ever find yourself asking these questions?

Thinking about what you could have done better, when did things become so complicated? You gave space to one thing, and that one thing was the cause of your downfall. Every time you try to find happiness, you can't catch a break.

There comes a moment of peace, and you can breathe again. Then things go south, and once again, you find yourself running away from what seems to be a never-ending circle; you run and run and run.

You see a moment of refuge, yet again you can "breathe." It almost feels surreal, finally a moment of rest.

When you least expect it, you find yourself running for your life again. Running away from the law, the lies, the addiction, and the drama, you don't know where or who to turn to. It feels like you're running to a dead-end street with no one to rescue you, no one to hear you crying for help. It's just you and your thoughts, and it's like no one is there for you to share them.

How can it be? Why can't you ever catch a break? Why does it have to be a constant marathon to find peace? Will there ever be calm to this storm?

You do your best to find the silver lining and convince yourself that things will get better; it must. Of course, you deserve it. You're not the same person you were some years ago; you're a changed man/woman. Let me tell you a story about a man named David. He became a king, and many of you know him as King David. He spent his life running, first from his older brothers who envied him, to King Saul, to his son who was trying to kill him. David's life was like this marathon, running,

running, running, and when he thought he would find peace, a notice came that made him flee from the little comfort he had.

He lived the life of a fugitive, running from here to there to seek refuge. Maybe you who read this can relate; you are seeking to find shelter, and it is never found. One of the most extensive consequences King David had to pay for was his infidelity with Bathsheba, his soldier's wife, not to mention plotting to have his soldier killed because she was with child, and this caused him to suffer a lot.

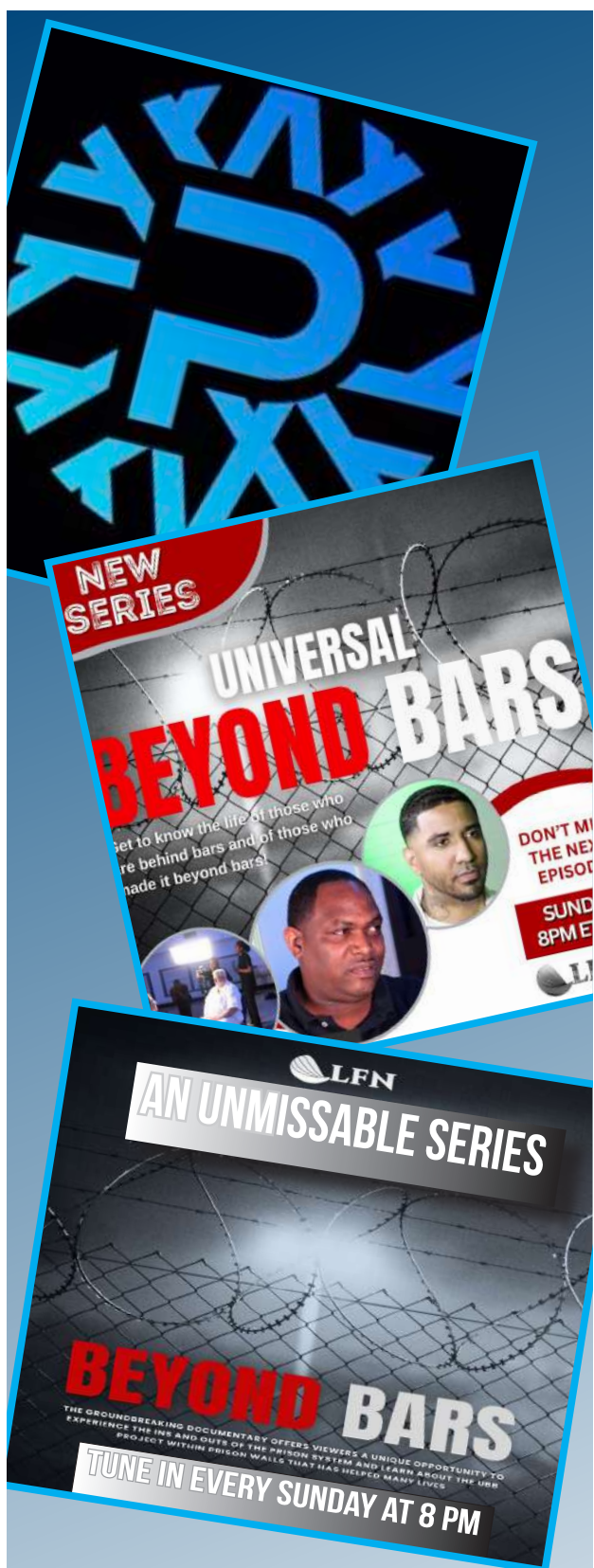
Although forgiven by God, King David paid the price, which was a high one. But his Sincerity led him to find mercy and grace in God's eyes.

The point is this: Your Sincerity will lead you to find mercy in God's eyes and find true refuge.



KING DAVID SAID, "SINCERITY AND TRUTH ARE WHAT YOU REQUIRE; FILL MY MIND WITH YOUR WISDOM. REMOVE MY SIN, AND I WILL BE CLEAN; WASH ME, AND I WILL BE WHITER THAN SNOW." PSALM 51:6-7

You will only stop running when you are sincere and truthful before Him, seek His wisdom, and let Him fill your mind with knowledge. When you place God in your life, no longer will you have to be a fugitive; on the contrary, you will seek refuge



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UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

You are not alone

I TOLD MYSELF, "IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN TO ME..."



SILVIA AS A CHILD

I had a good childhood until the age of 15 years old. My mom found out that my father was being unfaithful to her. My mother wanted to separate from my father, but he did not accept to separate from her. I had my mother from night to-day taking care of me, but I told her that if this didn't stop between her and my father, I would leave the house because I was tired of the fights and just wanted a family.

By the age of 20, I got married, and by 22 years old, I had my daughter, but my husband and I were not well. I told myself I would not live in the same shame that my mother lived, and immediately we separated; it was from night to-day. After 5-6 years of being single, I came to know my second partner, but he also betrayed me. As I promised myself, I would leave, and I did.

Then, I met someone at work, and he came to live with me in one month. After nine months with this guy, he introduced me to crime, and I had no way out.

*My children were young,
and my son spoke to me;
and said, "Mom, don't
worry, when I get older, I
will kill him."*

My husband and I used drugs together and sold drugs together, we always walked armed; we had a point-40 pistol.

We formed an armed assault at a bank, my husband and I, and a couple of others, but this was one of the crimes that, from there, we were arrested and sent to jail. The penny dropped.

The worst thing a mother could imagine is looking at her life and the life she built for her children. Everything my mom went through I faced, and the following Sunday after I was incarcerated was Mother's Day. But I told myself I had no more place here on earth; I wanted to die because here was the end. I was in prison. There was nothing else I could do, so I prepared a string to hang myself after I received the visit from my mother and daughter.

When my daughter came in, she ran and hugged me and had a book in her hand. She said to me, "Mom, today you are here, and I could not bring you another present; this is all I could give you, but a woman outside gave me this book and said I could give this book to you. Read it, Mom, because the one that wrote this book was also in prison, and God helped him overcome, and you will overcome too, Mom."

I received the book from the founder of the Universal Church, which was called "Nothing to Lose." That day after the visit, I went to my cell, ready to fulfill my plan to hang myself. I was waiting for my celly to fall asleep because she would not allow me to commit such a crime before her eyes, and she always fell asleep early.

However, on this particular day, she would not go to sleep; she stayed up the whole day, watching the inmates go for their visits on Mother's Day. The only thing that came into my heart was, "read the book."

I was hesitant at first to read this book. I often picked it up and put it down until I picked up the book, and it never left my hands. When I read this book, I received spirit and life! I never imagined I could've received so much from one book, the desire to live, from one person.

“

Everything written is what I was living, but I received the word of God through this book. I prayed to God and asked Him if He gave me this one chance. I will no longer walk in my plans but do what He wants for my life, and I will do everything differently.

The following Saturday, I met the UBB inside the prison. I was so grateful; from that day, I never missed the meetings. I was cleaned from the anger, sadness, and grudge.

I was reading God's word and obeying the teachings of the UBB; there was a change in me. I was physically in jail, but my spirit was not in jail. I said to myself, it does not matter how long I will be here, but I will go straight to the Universal Church the day I leave. I decided to get baptized in the waters, to let go of who I was, and in jail, I was baptized in water.

Shortly after, I was released and went straight to the Universal Church. During this time, I heard about the

Holy Spirit and would pray. And speak to God. I would pray to Him. I was seeking, and that Saturday, I prepared myself. I was listening to the Bishop on the radio, and he said, "Look, today you're going to sleep well because tomorrow you will receive the Holy Spirit!" I took this for myself and said, "Tomorrow."

I remember when seeking the Holy Spirit, I told Him, "Here I am, Lord; if You see I am worthy to receive You, I am here." This day, I received peace as if it were a hug, and HE told me, I am with you, my daughter. I knew I was no longer alone; I had no more fear and no longer wanted to do wrong or harm anyone. After this day, I had the pleasure of speaking life to others; I had the joy of telling others what God did to me.



SILVIA AND HER DAUGHTER.

My children today have the same joy I have; we are all in the presence of God, and we can laugh now and say, "Look how this home has peace." It was something we never had before. I tell you that read this testimony, your life has a purpose, Don't give up; seek Him, and you will find Him.



SILVIA WITH HER CHILDREN.

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WHAT IS MISSING FOR YOUR LIFE TO BE COMPLETE?

Octavio Ferreira, architect, 41 years old, and his wife, Renata Ferreira, 37 years old, experienced failures in all areas of their life, such as company bankruptcy, debts of \$500,000, lawsuits, illnesses, including depression, addiction, and marriage on the verge of divorce.

Octavio reports that for a long time, he attended some religious denominations but says that he did see his life change, "They just preached, but they didn't teach us how to put in practice the word of God," he says.

His wife was of another religion and paid for rituals to achieve success. However, she only got more problems. "It just messed

up my life even more. I saw figures and heard voices; I was afraid to be alone and in the dark. I was always sick. My marriage was a failure, but we pretended we were happy around other people. I was jealous, possessive, controlling, nervous and impatient. I felt an emptiness inside me and an anguish. Nothing fulfilled me." That's when they went to The Universal Church. Renata was cured of her illnesses, but for two years, she attended, at the same time, meetings at The Universal Church and the religious temples until she understood Who should be her priority and also her husband's.

"I really enjoyed going to The Universal Church, but at the same time, I wanted to please my mother because we went to the religious center together every Monday. It was that bond I still hadn't cut. So, I had to make a choice: I chose to obey God's Word and abandon every belief I had. I gave my life completely to God, without fear or restrictions," she reveals. Octavio followed the same decision: "I sacrificed my will and my desires and placed myself at the disposal of God. I heard His Voice and obeyed," he says. They were soon baptized with the Holy Spirit, and the fulfillment they had sought for so long began to happen. It first occurred within them: they were no longer weak and without peace. With their interior in order, the exterior blessings also emerged through the faith they learned to exercise. Renata was healed, the marriage was restored, the debts were settled, and they opened four companies. The couple considers that depending on the Altar means relying on God: "We do everything thinking about the Altar. We always seek to serve the Altar because our victories come from there. Today, we have the Holy Spirit as a priority



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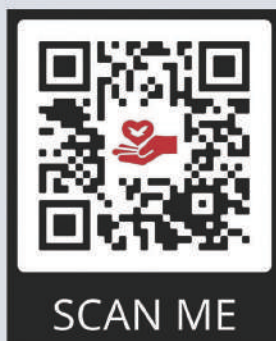
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