

# UNIVERSAL NEWS



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## What could be behind your problems?

The reappearance of some situations may be the result of a spiritual background. Are you experiencing spiritual problems? It's time to seek help.



**“All my dreams were going down the drain and everything I touched went wrong.”**

(Read full article on page 7)



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**Bishop Edir Macedo**

**Why?**



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**HOW IS YOUR ATTITUDE AT WORK?**

Watch our series at 9 PM ET on **LFN**

# KINGS

THE DECEPTION



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**NOT TO BE SOLD**



## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Behind the problems

We often hear people say they've had a streak of bad luck. They start their day, and everything that could possibly go wrong happens. It's like a scene in a movie, except in real life. It doesn't raise alarms if it is a one-time occurrence, but if problems have been constant, there may be more to it than the eyes can see.

Unfortunately, for many, it's as if they have been unlucky their entire life and have had to deal with one misfortune after another. They can't seem to catch a break no matter what they do. Nothing ever goes according to plan and or works out. When things seem to be going well, bad things always happen. The car breaks down, they lose their job, the relationship fails, the family separates, they lose their home, they find out they have an illness, someone passes away, etc. It's just one loss after another.

Maybe you've always felt as though life was unfair to you and that a dark cloud is hovering over you wherever you go. Problems always find you, and you can't seem to shake it. But what if your problems are spiritual and caused by evil? Although there are many names that people have given evil over the years, at the end of the day, evil is still evil. But I have good news. The Bible says in John 10:10, "The thief (evil) does not come except to steal, kill, and destroy. I (Jesus) have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." Therefore, if you have fallen victim to evil, it is possible to break free with the help of God.

Continue reading and be inspired by the testimonies of others who found freedom through the power of faith and strong prayers. You can break this cycle! You, too, can write a new story! Visit a Universal Church near you this Friday for our service for deliverance and spiritual cleansing to learn how.

## | BEATING DEPRESSION |

Depression is a sadness felt in the deepest part of one's soul. It causes a great sense of hopelessness and exhaustion, such that a person loses the motivation to do anything, and some lose the desire to live. It is an illness of the soul. But who can heal the soul? No other than the Savior of Souls, the Lord Jesus, can heal a sick soul.

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 beat depression once and for all.

There are thousands of testimonials worldwide that prove a Chain of Prayer works. You won't regret it. You, too, CAN defeat depression!



**Bishop Edir Macedo**



### Why?

**W**hy am I going through these tough times? Why is my life a living hell, even though I believe in God? Was I born to suffer? Is this my fate, destiny, karma, or just bad luck? I don't hurt anybody. If I can't help someone, I stay out of their way and don't make things worse. But my life is still a disaster. Does God really exist? If He does, why isn't He helping me?

#### Answer

There are two masters in this world: the master of Good and the master of evil. Regardless of your religion, race, cultural background, social class, level of education, belief, or disbelief in God, everyone serves one master or the other. This much is true whether you like it or not or whether you believe it or not. There's no escaping it.

I was born a servant of evil, not by choice but because of my parents' ignorance. At the age of reason, I was introduced to the Master of Good. I was so intensely brainwashed by religion that until then, I hadn't noticed how lost I was. I sincerely believed that the church of "St. Whoever" was enough to keep me out of the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:15).

There are no words to describe those times. Only after my eyes and ears were opened could I look upon my Lord. I could now hear and understand His Word. An unexplainable joy overcame me. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry because of so much joy in my soul. I had never experienced anything like that before. A heavy burden was lifted from my soul, and that emptiness was filled with heavenly joy. I received a new



heart and, consequently, a new life. This is the work of the Lord of Light. His will is to create a new life, a perfect new life.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness," said the Lord Jesus. This means that whoever doesn't follow Him walks in darkness, which is why so many people complain about their lives being a living hell.

If a boss is oppressive, his employees will eventually become oppressed. If a boss is easygoing, his employees will serve him with pleasure. **Your life's outcome depends on who you serve. Those who want to change the course of their lives must first change their master.** You may even receive a miracle, but unless you change your master, everything in your life will continue to go wrong. May God's Spirit enlighten the minds of all those readers still serving evil!



### In search of a way out

went to buy poison because I wanted to end my life, but I did not have enough courage to drink the poison.

I used to pass in front of the Universal Church whenever I went to buy groceries. I heard people singing, so one day I decided to go inside to see if I could find help. I attended a service there and after the prayer, I felt like the heavy load had been lifted off my shoulders. After the service, I spoke to the pastor who advised me to engage in the chain of prayer on Fridays for my deliverance.

I took part in the chain of prayer and I believed that

God would deliver me from the nightmares and suicidal thoughts. I started seeing great changes in my life. I stopped having nightmares and suicidal thoughts. I attended the Wednesday and Sunday services. I understood that I had to develop my relationship with God because only He could transform my life completely.

Today, I live a fulfilled life and I am delighted. I sleep peacefully and I am no longer miserable. I am in the church with my children and we are blessed. I found true freedom in the presence of God,"

-Bridget.

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





**Today**

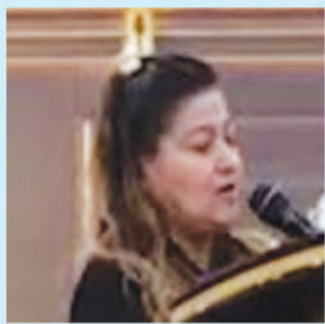
# "Her organs were failing, and she was in a coma."

My daughter had heart failure and also had brain surgery. She spent three months in a medically induced coma. Her kidney also stopped working, and she needed dialysis. Her organs were failing, and she was at risk of not being able to walk.

Due to the campaigns of faith that participated, in six months, my daughter was discharged from the hospital. Today, my daughter is a happy child, walks without health problems, and has a good life thanks to the power of God. -Samara



**Before**



# "Healed from an internal bleeding."

In 2022, I was in the hospital for one month. The doctors had found an abscess in my ovaries, and the sugar level was very high.

I was going blind. Last January, when I went to the hospital, there was internal bleeding, and they couldn't find where the bleeding was coming from. I could barely walk at the time.



I learned in the church that I should pray, and God would heal me. I persevered and drank the blessed water every day.

The last test I did confirmed that I did not have any bleeding, and I didn't need to take insulin anymore. I'm healed and happy. - Yvonne



# "My medical test results were all negative."

For over a year, I had been silently battling with depression because I spent six months taking different medical tests. I didn't even tell my children about my health battles, and I worried about the test results. I decided to use my faith in God with the Blessed Water; I declared my healing in Jesus' name. All my results came out negative and normal, and I am no longer depressed.

**Faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead.**  
*James 2:14*



# "Healed from Fibroids"

My stomach started growing as if I was pregnant due to fibroids. I was taking medications, but they weren't helping me. I had to use a stick to help me walk because I could no longer walk properly.

After using the Blessed Water by faith, I am healed completely.  
- Sonia

# HEALING WATERS



**RECEIVE THE HEALING WATERS THIS SUNDAY**  
at your nearest  
Universal Church





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## THE SOLUTION FOR DARKNESS



It is always best to start at the beginning to truly understand something. Even as children, we learned the basics first—the ABCs, if you will—because those were fundamental to our growth. Like everything else, whether starting a new job, project, or chapter of life, we always start at the beginning.

The word of God also has a beginning. It is the beginning of creation and the introduction of the biblical faith.

*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth. The Earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.” Genesis 1:1-3*

Why was there no form? Does God create anything void or dark? Of course not. However, that darkness was a result of the presence of evil. God hovered over the Earth, but He sent His light to wipe out that darkness. He provided a solution for darkness.

Perhaps today, you are living in darkness. You are facing a situation that makes your life feel dark and burdened. You can feel this darkness in your life, whether in your health, family, finances or inside. Just as God had a solution for the darkness in the beginning, He has a solution for the darkness you face.

When confronted using faith, there’s no problem you can’t solve. The light you are looking for has already been created. Where there is light, darkness cannot prevail. God, who made the heavens and the Earth, speaks life and light over your problem now if you believe.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

June 2024 Bible Reading						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						Genesis 12 ✓
Genesis 13 ✓	Genesis 14 ✓	Genesis 15 ✓	Genesis 16 ✓	Genesis 17 ✓	Genesis 18 ✓	Genesis 19 ✓
Genesis 20 ✓	Genesis 21 ✓	Genesis 22 ✓	Genesis 23 ✓	Genesis 24 ✓	Genesis 25	Hebrews 1
Hebrews 2	Hebrews 3	Hebrews 4	Hebrews 5	Hebrews 6	Hebrews 7	Hebrews 8
Hebrews 9	Hebrews 10	Hebrews 11	Hebrews 12	Hebrews 13	Habakkuk 1	Habakkuk 2
Habakkuk 3			♥			

## THE DOCTORS SAID NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH ME

*“Besides the depression, I had this health problem that would make me faint all the time, and no one could find out what was wrong with me.”*



I started having depression when I was in high school; I had no peace within me; I would always cry and hit the walls, and I desired to take my life because I wasn’t happy. I was going through a lot of problems at home with my parents, and I didn’t have a good relationship with my sister, so we were constantly arguing. Because of the issues at home and to find peace, being with friends was a way out for me; I thought I was better off with them than being at home. Even though I thought this was an escape, these friendships led me to the way I didn’t want to go. Friends influenced me to do other things that were not good, like cutting class. Because of my behavior at school and my record, I reached a point where I barely even graduated high school. Because of my record, it was hard to be accepted at the last minute at a school.

Besides the depression, I had this health problem that would make me faint all the time. I used to faint at home, at school, and at any time; there was a time when the paramedics had to knock down the door of my apartment to get in because I had fainted. I used to go to the doctors, and they would say I was fine and nothing was wrong with me. I even went to one of the best hospitals, and even there, they said nothing was wrong.

My mother was walking one day, and someone invited her to the Universal Church. She got interested, and she invited me. I decided to come with her, and from what I heard at the church, I started at-

tending the Chain of Prayer every Friday; I understood that the root of the problem I was facing was spiritual. After I began participating in the Chain of Prayers on Fridays, I started going on Sundays as well. I was then delivered from the thoughts I had of ending my life; I was delivered from the hatred and anger that I felt inside towards my parents and my sister. There was no more sadness inside, and I was also deliverance from all the health problems that I had.

As I continued coming and learning about the Holy Spirit and hearing testimonies of people who were baptized with the Holy Spirit, I wanted the same happiness I saw in them, and I started seeking the Holy Spirit. I got baptized in water, surrendered all my life to God, and received the Holy Spirit. I am now happy, secure, and grateful for what God has done in my life. I graduated high school and college and now have a degree and a great job. I have peace inside of me and want to live and enjoy the opportunities God has given me.

The change started inside of me, and it reflects on the outside. People around me see the changes that God has done in my life. I am just super excited, and I want to tell people what happened inside of me that there is a way out, and there is an opportunity because God has his arms stretched out for you. So don’t give up on yourself because God hasn’t given up on you.

Wiznelly Suazo



# What's happening at the Universal Church

## Miserable and Humiliated



My husband and I, along with our four children, lived in a one-roomed house in someone's backyard. There was no privacy. The situation was humiliating. We struggled financially because I was unemployed and my husband was the sole breadwinner. We could not afford our own home," said Frances.

As if her situation was not dreadful enough, three of her children suffered from epilepsy. Although she sought professional help, it did not change the situation. The children were still ill. Frances could not understand what was happening and had lost all hope.

"I was at home one day when the Universal Church members were out making house visits in my area. They

knocked on my door and invited me to attend services with them and I accepted. In the service, I listened to the preaching and received a prayer. I left the church feeling hopeful."

"The following week, I invited my children to attend the services with me. I engaged in the chains of prayers for my financial breakthrough and attended the Tuesday services with my children for their healing. I used my faith and believed that our situation would change.

She understood her problems were spiritual and decided to use her faith to combat them and fight for the deliverance of her family. This was when things started to change. In leaps and bounds, our lives started changing. I found a job. My husband and I managed to buy a beautiful and spacious house. My children were healed from epilepsy. Today, my faith is strong and I do not lose hope even when faced with challenges because God strengthens me," said Frances.

Can you relate to these testimonies? Are you constantly experiencing unexplainable events and setbacks? The cause of your problems may be something sinister. It's time to seek help and break free from this evil once and for all. On Fridays at every Universal Church, we have the Deliverance service for Spiritual Cleansing. Find a location near you on page 12.



## Conquering anger and finding peace

of God I would overcome them. Things started changing and I was healed, but I was still bitter. I asked God to give me the strength to forgive because I did not want to harbor hatred anymore. From then, I received the strength to forgive all who had hurt me in the past.

During that time, I made a vow with God for my finances, believing that God would give my husband and me the breakthrough we needed. God honored my faith. My husband and I were able to build our house. I also have a shop selling school uniforms which is doing well. My children are working and have their own businesses. I am now united with my family and I am no longer angry, short-tempered, or depressed. I have peace even when I face challenges. Without the Holy Spirit, I would be unable to do anything," said Kgomotso.

I was invited to attend services in the Universal Church and was counseled by an assistant. I was advised to participate in the chains of prayers for my healing. I understood my problems were spiritual and it was only with the help

## "I had cancer, my marriage was bad, I was struggling financially and wanted to die."



I wanted to take my own life.

I found the Universal Church through a television program and decided to visit. When I arrived, I felt at peace and strong. So I decided to keep going and my life began to change. I found the strength to get up each day and no longer wanted to take my own life. In the services, I heard about a challenge of faith and at that moment I said: "It's all or nothing, God either you bless me or I die here because there is no other solution, this is the only opportunity I have left".

After giving all of herself on the Altar, doors began to open and things began changing drastically in the life of Florina

Today, I'm healed, I don't have cancer anymore. I also opened my own business: a restaurant and bakery. Despite not having an education, I have conquered by the hand of God. The abundant life that God has given me through the vows of faith has allowed me to travel where I want, to eat and dress the best, I have 3 houses, I have 3 cars and my husband and I have purchased land.

The relationship with my husband was restored and is very good; we get along very well. We've been married for 32 years and it's like we're dating, we love each other and we're always with each other. Now my children are always looking out for me, it's a great blessing to have them.

Thanks to God, wherever I go, I am blessed, where I put my hand, God prospers. But there is nothing greater, nor is there greater richness than serving God and having the Holy Spirit, because He gives me peace and joy; the Holy Spirit is the greatest thing I have in my life."

-Florina Lopez

Everything was going wrong in the life of Florina. She had many problems with her health, finances, and family. But she did not know that the root cause of these problems was spiritual.

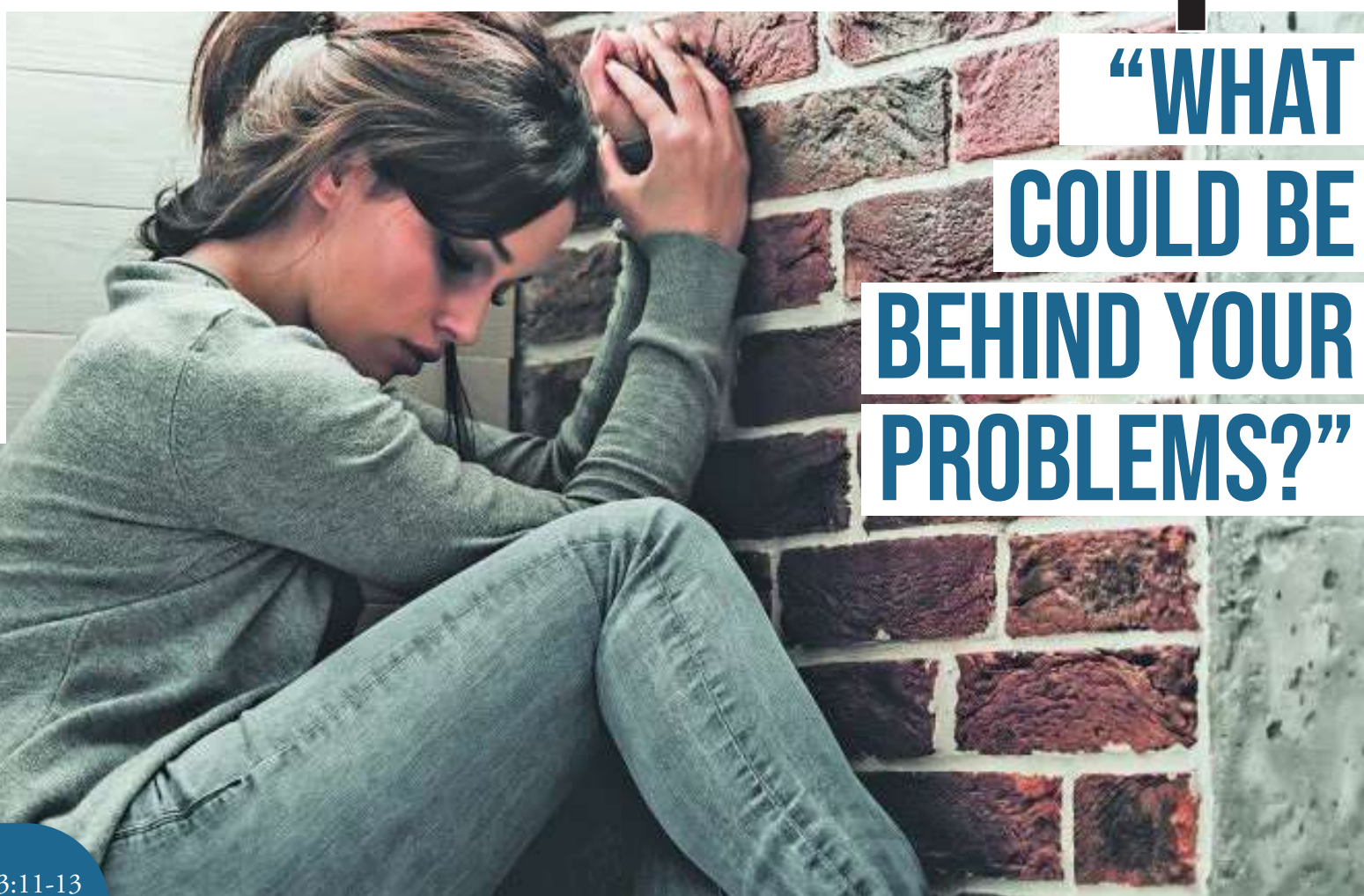
"When I was little, I remember my father getting sick and visiting a witch doctor, who did some work for him at home. It was around this time that when my suffering began, I started having nightmares and lived in fear. As I grew older, the problems only increased and at 16, I was abused and had my son. I was very unhappy."

"When I met my husband, I thought I would finally be happy. At the beginning of our marriage, everything was great but after a few days, the health problems began. Everything I ate began to hurt me and I began to have headaches. When I went to see the doctor, I was told I had cancer.

The pain I felt affected everything, especially my marriage. I wanted to be alone and told my husband to leave me. When he finally left, I lost all hope. I didn't believe in marriage anymore. Financially, I couldn't afford to pay the rent or buy food, so I collected cans in the street with my children and, without realizing it, I became a beggar. I stopped bathing, I smelled really bad, and I even slept on mattresses collected from the garbage. I felt destroyed, like garbage; that I was worthless. I believed that life was unfair. With each passing day,







**“WHAT  
COULD BE  
BEHIND YOUR  
PROBLEMS?”**

The Bible shows in Luke 13:11-13 the story of a woman who had been bent over for 18 years. It was almost two decades in which she only saw the ground. All that woman needed to get rid of the problem was to meet Jesus. He straightened her body. The dialogue that the Lord Jesus then had with the prince of the synagogue, who questioned him about the fact of performing healings on Saturdays, leaves no doubt as to who was behind that suffering. “So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” (Luke 13.16)

Compared to today, many people like that woman are facedown. They don’t see areas of their lives, such as their financial life, for example, taking off, even if they wake up early every day, have changed cities and professions. Others have been searching for a cure for a long time; they have tried treatments with the best specialists in the country and even outside of it, but no medicine can restore their health. And some still have been married three or four times and are not happy in love at all. What would be the real explanation for this?

Many problems happen because they have not freed themselves from the spirit that caused this evil. In these situations, a spiritual battle occurs and it is necessary to be allied with God to arm oneself. The war is not against people, but against spirits. When the spirit causing the problem is removed, the problem is consequently resolved.

## ANXIETY ATTACKS STARTED TO HAPPEN DAILY...

**A**t the age of 11, the fights and situations she experienced at home led Alanis to seek refuge in friendships. As she didn’t yet have a defined personality, she let herself be carried away by what her supposed friends had to offer her.

“I discovered alcoholic drinks, tried drugs, smoked cigarettes, and started spending time with boys. It was reflected in my behavior at home, as I became a rebellious daughter. I skipped classes, lied, and hid things from my family, who began to lose control over me,” she says.

On the outside, Alanis had a busy life, full of new things and a dose of independence, but her problem intensified when night fell. “When I went to sleep, I felt uncertain about the future. I thought I would never be someone in life,” she says. Another situation tormented her during the early hours of the morning. Despite being very young, Alanis already had a relationship with an older boy who cheated on her. “This situation generated a lot of frustration. I often compared myself to others and felt inferior, and complexes emerged.”

In addition to anxiety manifesting itself in Alanis’ thoughts, it also manifested itself in her body: “I spent the morning crying, my heart was racing, my chest hurt and I was shaking a lot. I had an intense fear of tomorrow.” For a long time, Alanis tried to hide what she was experiencing. Still, the symptoms of something that wasn’t right became more visible: “Sometimes, in class, I asked the teacher to leave because I didn’t feel well. I was shaking from head to toe.”

Anxiety attacks started to happen daily and with more intensity. “I, who was used to going out with my friends, no longer had the energy to do so. So, I started staying alone in the room. I missed a lot of school and my mother said I couldn’t study. That’s when I left classes for a few

**“At that time, in addition to anxiety, I had already developed depression, panic syndrome and was self-harming.”**



weeks,” she highlights.

“At that time, in addition to anxiety, I had already developed depression, panic syndrome and was self-harming.”

Faced with this situation, Alanis’ mother, who was already familiar with the work carried out by the Universal Church, turned to faith. Alanis tells how she reacted to her mother’s initiative: “I didn’t show interest at first, but, little by little, I went with her and went through wanting to know more about God. Then, I met the Youth Power Group, and they told me about my suffering. I decided to obey everything and saw the result,” she says.

Alanis gave her anxiety to God: “I



was baptized in water, I was set free from all negative things and sought my Meeting with God at the Altar. As I changed, things changed too.”

Today, I am free from anxiety, depression,



## ALL MY DREAMS WERE GOING DOWN THE DRAIN AND EVERYTHING I TOUCHED WENT WRONG.

Fabrício says that his suffering began in childhood. “My mother’s pregnancy was unwanted, as she had a relationship with a married person. We lived with my grandmother, who raised me, and after a few years, my mother got married and took me to live with her. But at that moment, I found myself alone,” he says. Near the family home, there was a football academy; from there, his traumas intensified. “One day, I went to play in place of a child who had been absent. There, when I was eight years old, I suffered sexual abuse.” He remembers: “Someone used to give me a drink saying it was soda, but today I know it had alcohol in it.”

Fabrício claims that, at the age of 12, he began to get drunk and, soon after, became involved with drugs. “I started using marijuana, snorting ether and benzene, and injecting cocaine into my veins. There was a time when I was hospitalized because of drinking, I had hallucinations at home, and I even lost my job.” He highlights that his situation was reaching rock bottom: “All my dreams went down the drain, and everything I touched went wrong. It wasn’t one or two things; it was everything.”

He then decided to change cities to no avail. The problems went with him. “I met someone and got married. I started drinking less, I was employed, and we had a daughter. So I thought my life would get better.” But an

and everything bad for me. Before, I was afraid because my life was in my hands, but when I gave it to God, I no longer had any reason to fear. Today, I know what it is to be truly happy,” she concludes.

extreme situation happened: “One day, when I noticed that my wife was taking too long in the shower, I knocked on the bathroom door. When she didn’t answer me, I opened it and saw the scene: she had committed suicide with a shoelace. My whole past came to light because I thought I wouldn’t have any more problems,” he describes.

Trying to deal with all the internal conflicts, Fabrício met Yandra. He had a relationship with her that was full of aggression. Two and a half years ago, they arrived at the Universal Church and began understanding the background of so much suffering. So, the change was immediate. “We arrived with an open heart, and we cried the entire meeting because of so much sin, because of so many problems we had. We left there amazed because we saw that there was a solution.”

He describes what he did to stop suffering: “I repented of everything, I was baptized in water, and I understood that I needed the Holy Spirit. When I received Him, the emptiness left me, and the certainty came that God was with me,” he concludes.

**"There was a time when I was hospitalized because of drinking, I had hallucinations at home, and I even lost my job."**

## 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.





# Universal Beyond Bars

*You are not Alone!*

The pain at Home

## Led me to the Streets...



a lot of internal pain and suffering. I was so angry because my father would most of my childhood would neglect the needs of the family to fulfill his addictions. So, if we needed food, or he needed drugs or alcohol, he would choose his addiction over us. In the house was a literal hell, and I would say this all the time it would be better to be on the street than to live inside of that house.

This is where I was “invited” to start using drugs, I would smoke cigarettes and dip into a little marijuana. I was about two years addicted to marijuana and cigarettes. I preferred marijuana because it had a stronger effect, I made other friendships, and they were drug users, but they used stronger drugs like cocaine and trafficked drugs. **Of course, by association I started using cocaine, hashish, and snorting strong scents to get high, I was involved deeper as the days went by.**

**So, by influence, I got involved in drug trafficking, I was told as you are using the drugs you need the money to sustain your addiction. I was selling marijuana, crack rocks, cocaine, etc. I thought of myself as a monster truly. Even my family, those that known me in the neighborhood since I was a child, and even those far from me who had an encounter with me considered me a monster as well.**

Until one day I met a boy who was also in drug trafficking, he was a very dangerous guy, and really, he was like the devil. I had a confrontation with this guy, and he said to me he would kill me, and I questioned, “Why do you want to kill me?” he said to me look, I have these weapons to kill you with because you snitched on us, that’s what this other guy told me. I said to him, “What? Did I snitch? That’s false.” I was angry, this man had my head hot. I took this opportunity and I said, “I will kill him.” I wanted

**M**y name is Jhonathan, I am 28 years old. I started very early in the life of drugs, crime, and life on the street. I experienced at a young age

respect, I wanted to be accepted by those around me. I executed my plan and committed this homicide, I left him in cold blood, some others and I threw about 10-15 stones at his head and left him there to die.

We left running on the same day at night the police came after me I tried to run, I ran from one city to another and the police still came after me, it was late at night, and they managed to catch me. I was sentenced to prison, and when I got there, I was desperate not only because I was incarcerated but wasn’t able to get in contact with my family until about a week later when I had my first visit.

“

**I remember my mom came to see me, and with her, she brought the greatest present for me, it was a Bible, and, in the Bible, there was a pamphlet, that had seven passages speaking of forgiveness, and I read everything. When I read one by one, I concluded that God does not judge me, for what I did or did not do, but if I decided to let go and surrender my life to Him, He would change my life.**

When I finished reading, I made a prayer and said, “Look God I don’t even know how to speak right. But what I did was terrible, not only the homicide, but how I treated my parents, everything I have done until now should condemn me to hell. But I am seeing Your word it says You forgive. But for me to receive this forgiveness I surrender.” I was by myself at that moment, and I didn’t have anyone with me physically speaking. But the Bible I held so close in my hands was everything it was sufficient for me. There I had God with me, when I opened the Bible, I heard the voice of God.

**It was not easy for me, every day I heard many negative voices, and thoughts of accusation, but whenever I would open the Bible to read it gave me peace, I remember it happened that there was a situation in the prison, and the officers put us on “lock down,” and they said you guys will not go outside today, you’re going to stay stuck inside, and you can only watch the TV program of the Universal Church. Today I thank God for that, it was His way of reaching me once again in prison.**

That day I saw the program of Bishop Macedo, it was

the greatest thing for me. When I took part in that service, Bishop spoke about two things; forgiveness and surrender, and really, I surrendered, it was a moment I remembered looking down and started to cry like a child in prayer, and I even told God to leave me here in prison, do not take me from here until I change, and give value to You.

**Afterward, I had joy in me, and I looked up and stopped crying and started laughing, it was a happiness I never had. The other guys looked at me like I was crazy, they wondered how I could be there laughing, but I told them, “From this day forward my life changes.” That was the day I knew God and received the Holy Spirit. Although I was not in the church and had not been baptized in water yet, the Holy Spirit came upon me.**

Why? Because my surrender was true. I understood, that if I am truly sincere, not only with words or my prayer, but my surrender. To open my hands with everything, not worrying about what God will or won’t do, everything will change, and I gave my body soul, and spirit. I saw the fruits of the Holy Spirit in me, I stopped lying, I no longer had vindictive or evil thoughts, and I had no more sadness. Funny enough the place that should’ve made me worse made me better.

**After about 40 days I had the opportunity to go before the judge, I explained everything I did. I confessed. It was a chance for me also to apologize to the family, and when I left there, I spoke to my mom and said, “Mom I need to go the church, and thank God, to honor Him for what He did for me.” God blessed me, I was released. Not long after I was able to start working, I met my wife and she is a woman of God, I was blessed me with my Helper. I have a blessed family, and above all this that God has done I thank those who directly or indirectly helped the church be able to go into prison, my life was saved because of you, and may God bless all of you, because today I am a man of God filled with the Holy Spirit.**

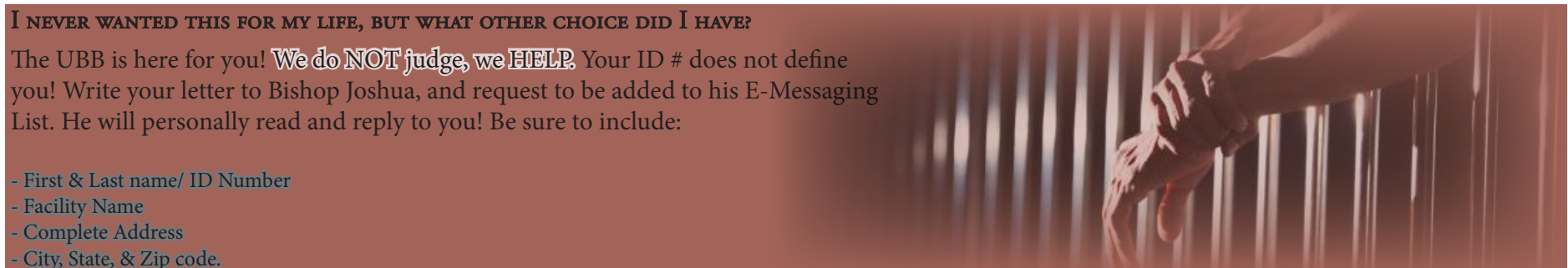
Jhonathan & his wife



### I NEVER WANTED THIS FOR MY LIFE, BUT WHAT OTHER CHOICE DID I HAVE?

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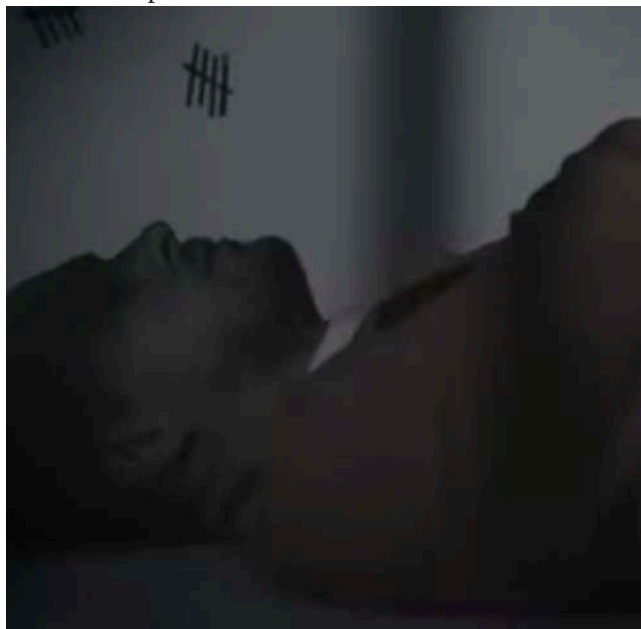


# Why Do I have so Many Problems?



**G**od will never prevent us from facing daily problems. He did not prevent Daniel from being thrown into the lions' den, but He closed the lions' mouths. He did not prevent Daniel's friends from being thrown into the fiery furnace, but He did not allow even one strand of their hair to be burned.

Those who want to have riches should be prepared for persecution. Those who think that to follow Jesus is to be free from problems are mistaken.



Those who think that to be filled with the Spirit of Peace is to be free from problems are also terribly mistaken. The peace of the Holy Spirit is inside of us, not on the outside. Regardless of our spiritual or physical blessings, problems will always exist.

They are a part of life whether you have God or not. Here on earth, the problems will never end, but one thing is certain: God has given us weapons (His word, His Spirit, and Prayer) that are powerful enough to overcome any problem, and we should rejoice in this.



The apostle Paul said to the Christians who lived in Rome, the capital of sin:

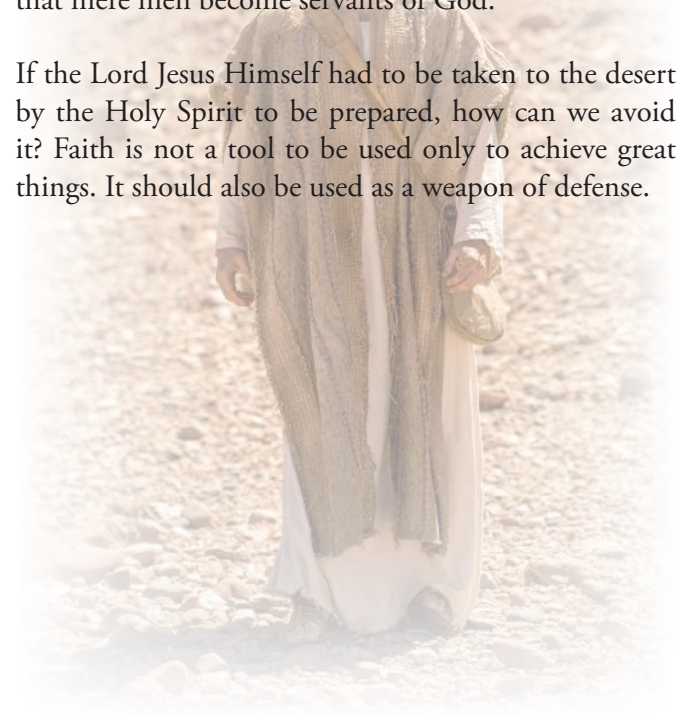


And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance. Perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:2-4

In other words, we should rejoice in our daily problems in the same way that we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Our daily problems teach us perseverance and encourage us to use our faith and keep our hope. This is how supernatural faith materialized. It's in the desert that mere men become servants of God.

If the Lord Jesus Himself had to be taken to the desert by the Holy Spirit to be prepared, how can we avoid it? Faith is not a tool to be used only to achieve great things. It should also be used as a weapon of defense.



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**LET THERE BE LIGHT | 12am**



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## HOW IS YOUR ATTITUDE AT WORK?

Some believe that workers only value the financial benefits when they establish relationships with a company, and, for many, this may even be the only objective. However, in addition to these advantages, people have been looking for workplaces where the environment is healthy and motivating. In this aspect, good working relationships are essential.

Paula Neves, 41 years old, human resources manager, knows how important it is to have a healthy work environment. “When there is a good relationship between colleagues and superiors, communication flows better, resulting in more effective teamwork. The benefits of good relationships at work include a more positive organizational climate, greater well-being of workers, increased productivity, and reduced stress in the workplace”, she explains.

She also gives examples of what can harm relationships at work: “lack of effective communication, personality differences, lack of respect, between others. Gossip and disputes are also common and can generate conflicts and distrust, which negatively affect team dynamics and the overall performance of the organization,” she says. Paula explains that there is no specific step-by-step guide. Still, there are tips to promote healthy relationships: “communication, openness, empathy, mutual respect and collaboration from all. Promoting a culture of respect, open dialogue, constructive feedback, and teamwork is important. It is essential that employees know how to deal with conflicts in a mature matter and always look for a solution to solve the problem. It involves a combination of effective communication and mutual

respect”.

According to her, cooperation and good humor help to strengthen working relationships. “However, it is important to remember that good humor in the workplace must be respectful without going over ethical limits or offending anyone. Social gatherings and integration events also help, and activities such as team lunches and volunteer programs, for example, can help colleagues get to know each other better outside of the work environment,” she details.

Paula highlights that clear and respectful communication between team members is essential to strengthen their bonds. Furthermore, the company’s institutional mechanisms can contribute to a safer work environment: “Compliance plays a fundamental role: it generates trust, establishes ethical standards, promotes transparency, reduces risks, reinforces values and promotes individual and collective responsibility.” Access channels between sectors are also important.

“They promote a good, more effective relationship in communication within the institution, as they offer the best coordination and interaction between sectors, facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge, and reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings and conflicts. However, when poorly managed, they can cause miscommunication or delay the work,” she warns.

When systems fail, she suggests identifying the cause of

the failure. Problem, reevaluation, and improvement: “It is extremely valuable to talk in person to resolve problems, despite the availability of several digital communication

channels.”



Therefore, each worker plays a vital role in building a healthy work environment.

“Everyone can contribute to a positive relationship, such as being friendly, having constructive communication, actively collaborating, showing recognition and gratitude, and being open to new experiences,” she concludes

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