

# UNIVERSAL NEWS



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## Pilgrimage to the Temple of Solomon

*So many problems made her question why she was born and if she was supposed to live that way.*

(Read Rosangela's story on page 6)



The Pilgrimage to Solomon's Temple is an opportunity for those who want to achieve the life God has envisioned for us. Look for a Universal Church near you and find out how to participate.



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**Bishop Edir Macedo**

**Look to Abraham**

**Reap prosperity today**



She faced three bankruptcies, and three failed relationships

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Watch our series at 9 PM ET on LFN

**KINGS**

THE DECEPTION



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**NOT TO BE SOLD**

## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Mount Moriah

If everything we asked for came easily and without sacrifices, we would never understand what it is to grow and mature as individuals and in our faith. This is why some things happen simply by praying and believing, and others require faith or total trust and dependence on God. Challenges we face test our faith to prove whether or not it is true.

Consider the Heroes of faith in the Bible. They didn't just pray and hope for miracles; they showed total trust and dependence on God. When God tested their faith by calling them to the altar, they didn't hesitate. They understood that their faith would be tested on the altar and that they would only receive the miracle they needed from the altar. They were not afraid to sacrifice and act in faith, no matter the difficulty. They obeyed the voice of God, and God honored them.

When we look at the story of Abraham, we see this clearly. On Mount Moriah, Abraham's faith and obedience were tested and approved when he did not deny to offer Issac, his son, on the altar. He trusted God would bring him back from the dead and fulfill His promise. This is why the Most High considered him the Father of Faith. He trusted God completely to the point of total obedience, and God fulfilled His promise in Abraham's life. Do you want to see the promises of God in your life? What has God been asking you to give on the altar? Do you have the same faith as Abraham? If so, visit a Universal church near you to learn more about the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land at Mount Moriah. If you obey the voice of God and come to His Altar, you will be blessed in all things, too.

## | 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!



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



### Bishop Edir Macedo

### Look to Abraham



"Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for I called him alone and blessed him and increased him..." Isaiah 51.2.

**W**hy does God tell us to look to Abraham? What did he do that was so important? What does God want to show us when He tells us to look to Abraham? I believe it was his faith, demonstrated by his obedience when God called him.

Abraham lived in obedience to the Word of a God, which he could not see, touch, or feel. He simply believed. God is spirit. You cannot see Him, touch Him, or feel Him. You can only believe that He exists and He rewards those who seek Him.

When God asked Abraham for his only son, Isaac, he obeyed and was willing to sacrifice him on the altar. Once again, Abraham's faith is shown through his obedience to the Word of God. When he was called, God had already told Abraham He would bless him. When he used his faith to the extreme, sacrificing his only son, God was forced to call out to him, swearing by His own name that all He had promised Abraham would be fulfilled. There was no need for such an oath because He is God; everything is possible for Him. The only thing that is impossible for God is for Him to lie.



The most significant aspect of Abraham's faith was his obedience. This is why God blessed him in everything and made him a blessing. Sacrifice is the shortest distance between wanting something and achieving it. God asks, but we decide whether or not to give and obey.

Those who believe will come with us because we are going to Mount Moriah. Those who do not believe will not come with us. Even those who do not believe will see miracles, but they will see them in the lives of those who believe. Do you want to see miracles happen in your life or the lives of others? I want to see them for sure.



### "I came from a broken family"

Louis came from a broken family, but through faith, he achieved liberation and built a family who together with Him serve the Lord Jesus.

"I arrived at Universal with problems in my family and health. My mother suffered a lot because of evil spirits that were at work in her life, and this caused me much sadness because I could not do anything to help her. For this reason, I became involved in an addiction to alcohol at just 11 years old. This addiction caused many

problems in my health, in my stomach and throat. I used to go to the hospital twice a week, with my throat covered and unable to breathe, due to inflammation."

When I arrived at the Universal Church, I put my faith into practice, and by participating in the meetings I was freed from addiction and cured."

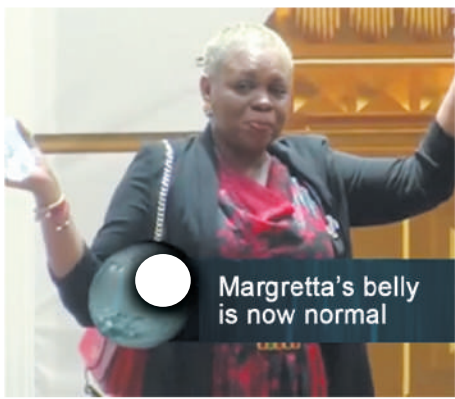
By seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first, all other things will be added. This is what the word of God says in the book of Matthew 6:33. That word was fulfilled in Louis' life, he sought God's will first and saw his life restored and blessed by God Himself. The curse of a broken home was destroyed.

"I persevered in my faith, pur-

poses, and vows for my life. It was at the Universal Church that I met my wife Elizabeth, who also came to the church because she was facing family problems. We got married, we had 2 children, a girl and a boy. However, although my son grew up in the church and participated in the Bible school and the teen force, in his youth, he began to distance himself from God and go down the wrong path. But again through faith, persevering in my vows and prayers for him, my son changed His ways. I achieved the transformation of our family.

Today I am freed from addictions, healed, and my two children serve God. Today I can say that my house and I serve the Lord!" he concluded happily.

- Luís Monteiro



Margretta's belly is now normal

## “She was sick, and her belly appeared as swollen.”

Within a week, I noticed my stomach had become distended and remained so. It resembled a pregnant belly, yet I wasn't expecting it. Experiencing intense pain, I began expelling strange fluids from my mouth. It was then that I received the diagnosis of stage four ovarian cancer, accompanied by the doctor's grim prognosis: a mere 10% chance of survival.

Through the power of faith, I stand healed today. Implementing the teachings of this ministry, I have reclaimed my health and conquered cancer. -Margetta



Picture of her belly before

## “She had asthma, chronic ear infection, and breast cancer.”

From the age of 6, I started battling with Asthma. I also had a chronic ear infection whereby a bad odor would come from my ear and blood, too. Cancer was common in my family; it was like a curse. I ended up being diagnosed with breast cancer. I was worried because I had children at the time, and I didn't want them to lose me. It resulted in me being depressed.

A friend saw my situation and invited me to the church. I accepted because I saw how sick I was with cancer. I started making Chains of Prayer and practicing what the pastor taught. The depression left me, and when I went to do a biopsy, the doctor told me that the cancer had disappeared. The ear infection and Asthma also disappeared. -Janet



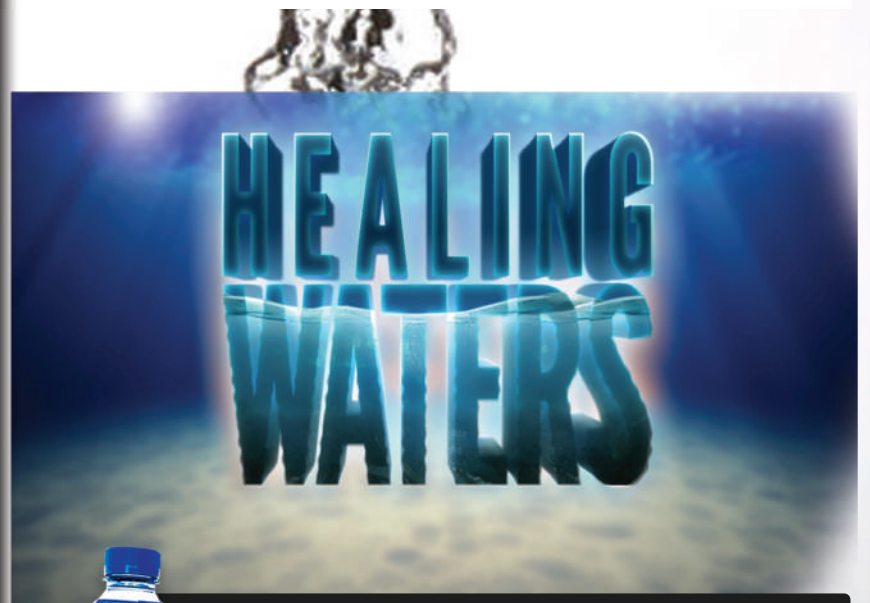
## “Healed from cancer and HIV.”

I smoked all kinds of drugs because I was trying to cope with my depression. It resulted in me being diagnosed with cancer, and my world fell apart right there. I felt alone, and to worsen my situation, I was also diagnosed with HIV. I had to be hospitalized and thought about killing myself because I didn't see a point in living anymore.

When I came to this ministry, I was welcomed and learned how to use my faith in the word of God for my healing. Today, my test results show that I am cancer and HIV-free.



Jimme holding his test results.



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



## “The back pain is gone.”

After lifting something heavy, I began experiencing discomfort in my back. I turned to God and the Blessed Water by drinking it and applying it to my back. Gradually, the pain started to diminish. Now, I am entirely free from pain!

**Faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead.**

*James 2:14*



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## THE GUARANTEE



**H**ave you ever bungee jumped? Probably not. Not many people are willing to put themselves in a position where their lives are in the hands of a piece of equipment. No matter how trained the instructor is, putting your life in someone else's hands can still be quite scary. If only life came with guarantees, surely there would be more risk-takers.

However, nothing is promised. Daily, we wake up and go about our day, only trusting that we will go to bed and do it all over again. This is Faith—believing in the unseen.

*“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved...” Jeremiah 17:14*

There is an assurance for those who believe in God. There is no question about it; when we throw our lives into God's hands, we believe He will catch us. It's as if we are walking around with this Bible verse written on our hearts.

When you call upon God for healing, believe He will heal you because He is the Healer. When you ask Him for salvation, believe in that salvation because He is the Savior. There's no uncertainty when it comes to believing in the word of God. Don't be afraid to give yourself 100%; His word guarantees that everything will be okay.

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			♥			

## LOOKING TO THE WORD

**D**uring law school, Naecio Mendes, currently a security agent, observed that Daniela Mendes, also a security agent, both 36 years old, was a young woman who thought about the future and attended a church, which attracted him. Their relationship began in 2011, and they got engaged, married, and had a perfect first year of marriage. However, after finishing the training course and starting his current job, Naecio got involved with people who began to influence him. “I stopped being a good father and a good husband, and I was thinking about separation,” he says.



It didn't take long for the betrayals to begin. Naecio, who attended a church with Daniela, considered himself saved and believed in the saying that “once saved, always saved” until, one day, Daniela decided it was time to discover the truth. She highlights what she did: “he was drunk, fell asleep, and blacked out. So I took his cell phone and looked through it until I found a photo of a person. The next day, I contacted her through his Instagram, pretending it was him, and I found out everything.”

I called and told him that I knew about the betrayal and sent him a folder with prints and photos as proof. Naecio relates about what happened from then on: “The pain was overwhelming when I heard it. I took the gun and went to a forest, seriously thinking about killing myself. A co-worker took the gun from my hand because he was worried. When all this happened, I realized I didn't know God, so I started reading and meditating on the Bible.”

Daniela explains how they decided to go to Universal: “He suggested we watch the movie ‘Nothing to Lose.’ I didn't know the history of the Universal Church, but I saw a commitment to souls, fear, and respect for God there. As we were getting ready to go to another church, I told him: ‘We could go to Universal Church,’ and he agreed.

After they started attending the Universal Church, they soon learned about intelligent faith, and the opportunity to manifest it on the altar in the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Mount Moriah, came up. Naecio saw it as a chance to leave everything he couldn't change by himself. “I said to myself: I will sacrifice my most precious thing. I wanted to sacrifice to God so that He could do something real in my life, and I said: ‘Lord, I'm going to marry you this day.’” So, they committed themselves, prayed, got baptized in water, and prioritized the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

In a sermon on the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25.1-13), she, as she says, heard God say to her: “Daniela, marry me. I will not betray you” and, on that day, when she gave up her fears, she received the Holy Spirit. Naecio also recognized that he could not change alone and was baptized by Him and shares his experience: “I can barely explain it, but I felt joy and peace like I had never felt before. From that day on, I changed completely,” he explains.

Since then, they have started to live a relationship of complicity, fidelity, and love and even renewed their vows, but it is the relationship with God that sustains this union. “I thought that, at best, God would take care of me, my children, give me peace, and help me overcome everything, but I never imagined that He would live in me, Daniela Mendes, 36 years old, a security agent. From the moment there was this real marriage with God, and we started to have this three-fold cord, everything changed; He transformed my husband and gave us what we have at home today. Everything changed from the moment there was this real marriage with God, and we started to have this three-fold cord working. The quality I most admire in my husband is that he now loves God more than me”, says Daniela. Naecio adds: “The most important thing in my life and my family is the Holy Spirit. It is He who guides everything.”

# What's happening at the Universal Church

## "I had absolutely nothing"



Emilia García is a professional with a degree in business. Still, some time ago, she experienced a moment of great anxiety because, even though she went out and searched for work, she could not get a stable job that would provide her with a good salary. In addition, as the days passed, her debts only increased.

"I didn't have a stable job, and sometimes I didn't even have money or food. At one point, due to the lack of money, I was forced to vacate where I lived. So, I moved in with a coworker. I thought that everything would be well, but it was there that I went through constant humiliation and shame due to my condition. I thought I'd at least get a plate of food, but I went to bed hungry many nights. I had absolutely nothing."

Emilia García was desperate. She did not know how to change her situation, and she felt disappointed with life and the fact that she was in that position even though she was a professional. She didn't understand why she was subjected to so much suffering.

"When I came to the Universal Church, it was as if the Pastor was speaking about my life. He said that God would always be there for all people regardless of the condition they found themselves in. I saw this as an opportunity to escape the economic failure I was stuck in. I took those words and believed them. I decided to take an attitude of faith on the Altar and let God guide me. I wanted my life transformed. When I climbed the Altar, I knew that change was coming because God was with me."

"Not long after, I got a stable job, began paying off my debts, and got a place to live. Today, thanks to the grace of God, I am now the business owner of a grocery store, debt-free, and I don't borrow anymore. Today, I am also happily married and have a family of my own. I have everything and am content, thanks to God and the power of the Holy Spirit. My life has been transformed."

- Emilia García.



Do you desire a change in your situation? Visit a Universal Church near you to learn how to take an attitude of faith to change your story. No matter how long you have been suffering from your problems, change is possible for all who approach the Altar of God. Find a location near you on Page 12.

## "I had resigned to live in humiliation"



Graciela resigned to accept her situation because her family was suffering from the same problem. But hope was revived within her after hearing the word of God and seeing the testimonies of others who overcame at the Universal Church.

"My love life was a humiliation, and my family was destroyed. I was married, but my husband would spend most of his time with his friends and in his addictions- which was separating our family. He didn't give any attention to me or our children. For me, this was humiliating."

"I believed in God, but I thought he was punishing me because all of my family had the same problem. My parents and siblings all suffered in their love life. My father physically abused my mom. And although my husband did not hit me, he was verbally abusive and offensive. He went out with other women, my friends. It caused us to fight and argue constantly. I didn't believe change was possible, so I resigned to living a life of appearance. From what I saw in my family, I thought everyone lived that way."

"I fell into depression and was afraid

of being alone with my kids, but it came to a point where we separated for three months, and I moved in with my parents. It was during this time my mom told me about Universal. I went with her, and I found hope in the testimonies for the first time. I started to believe my life could change, too. With the guidance of the servants of God, I began to fight. I did my purposes and made vows with God. I did everything with faith, believing God would help me, and gradually, my life began changing.

I understood that misery is not from God. But to see God's promises in my life, I had to obey His words and plan to receive. The result came after some time and was a process. My husband let go of his addictions and the wrong company he kept. He came to apologize to me, and we reconciled. Today, our marriage has peace and respect. I am no longer depressed. The Holy Spirit has healed and transformed me from the inside out. Our finances are blessed; we now have a house and cars. God has responded to my prayers.

- Graciela Ramirez



## The Caleb Group

Inspired by Caleb from the Bible, the Universal Church formed the Caleb Group to provide support and encouragement for those 50 years old or older. Through Caleb, we see that a strong mind and spirit strengthen the body and empower our faith, which leads us, regardless of age, to victories.

The group provides an excellent opportunity to make new friends who are just like family, who encourage your faith and push you to live life to the fullest. The group has monthly activities such as outings, festivals, picnics, arts and crafts, health and fitness workshops, community outreach, and more.

On Saturday, June 15th, the Caleb Group nationwide held its 7th edition of the event 'Pay attention to the Signs' to raise awareness towards the existence of violence against the elderly but, at the same time, encourage those suffering abuse not to stay silent. The members went out dressed in violet to march in the streets and encourage people to pay attention to signs of elderly abuse to ensure older adults get the support and protection they need and deserve.



Abraham was someone who dreamed of becoming a father and could have had another wife, but who chose to be faithful to a barren woman. Therefore, it is to be assumed that he was also honest, upright, honorable, fair and so exceptional that he stood out in the eyes of God. Surely God saw that if Abraham could be faithful to his wife, he would also be faithful to Him as a servant! Without hesitation, he accepted God's call, believed in His promises (Genesis 12), left everything behind, and left without a map and without proof that God was real. We can admire the greatness of faith and its results in Abraham's life during his one hundred years of communion with God, but we cannot forget that his first

attitude towards the Lord was his unrestricted obedience. We see then that sacrifice is the shortest and most painful way to achieve a goal. If God Himself had to sacrifice His Only Son and thus prove His belief in the salvation of many, how much more so do we concerning Him!

This is the chance to express your faith at the Altar and see God's promises fulfilled in your life. What is faith if not "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1)? Do you have Faith to look at Abraham and be part of his descendants? Give your dream to God and set out towards "the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10).



**B**ecause she could not find a reason to live, Rosângela Delfino concluded that the best thing would be to kill her son and then take her own life.

"My family lived in great poverty. We were six brothers and were always in a lot of difficulties because my father had a lot of addictions, and when he came home, he attacked us, broke everything, and beat my mother." To escape that reality, at a young age, she started drinking and didn't miss an opportunity to be outside the house.

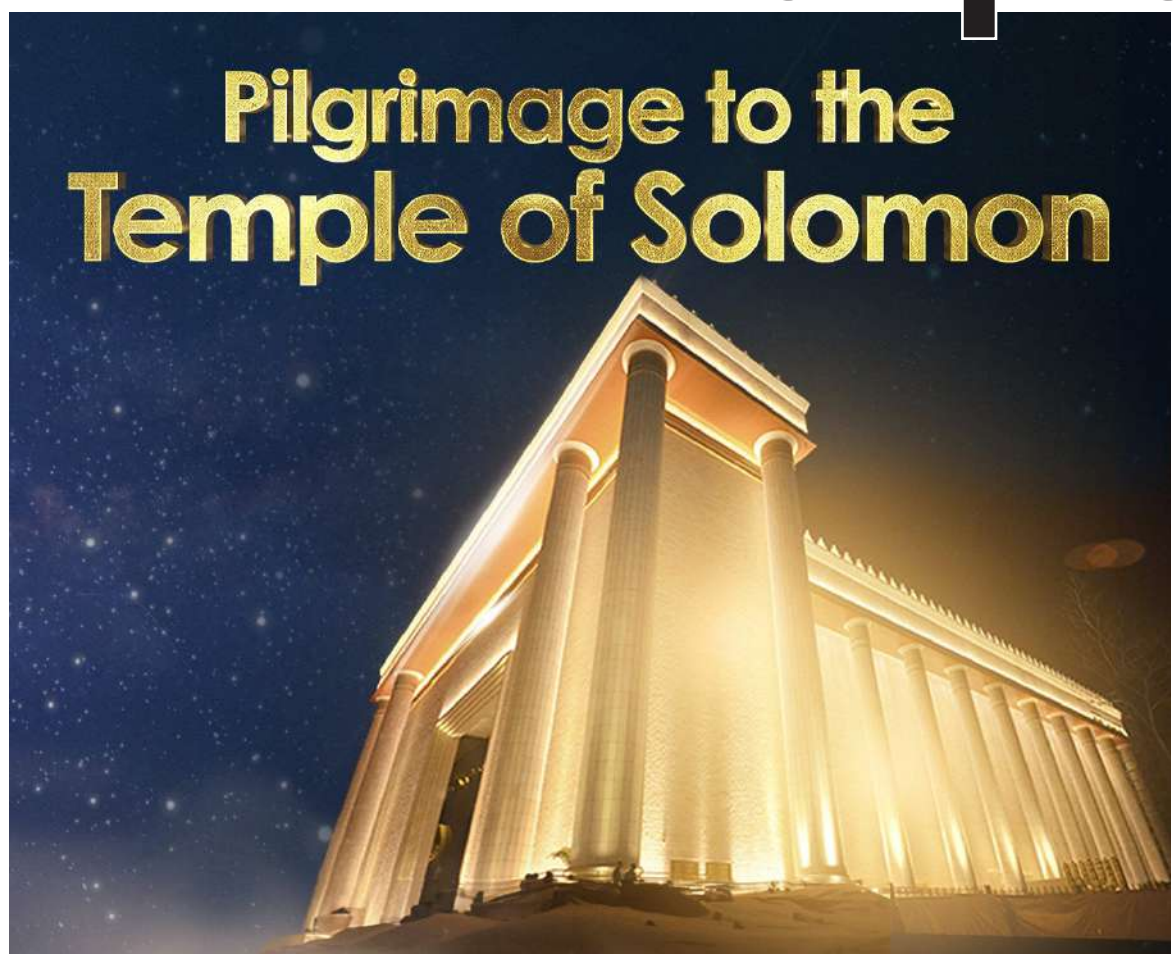
Having her parents' unhappy marriage as an example at home, she saw no possibility of having a successful love life. "I had a son and didn't stay with his father. I lived in several relationships with single and married men because I thought that since my mother wasn't happy in her marriage, I had no reason to get married either. And so I lived, as they say, 'out there' and 'pushing life forward,'" she says.

Until Rosângela's mother passed away, she lost the little she had and reached rock bottom. Financial difficulties increased, despite her being employed, as the company where Rosângela worked was in bankruptcy and could no longer pay its employees. So many

why she was born and if she was supposed to live that way, and she came to the wrong conclusion that the only solution would be to kill her son and then kill herself. This idea was so persistent in her mind that Rosângela could no longer sleep. Despite experiencing all this conflict, those who knew her could not imagine what was happening inside her. "I talked to people, laughed, joked, but inside me, I had no life", she reveals.

One night, while changing the TV channel, she came across a Universal Church program. In it, the pastor told people thinking about ending their lives that God wanted to take care of them. Reflecting on those words, Rosângela remembered that she had already been invited to a meeting at the Universal Church but had refused because of the prejudice she felt. She decided to call the friend who had invited her and let her know that she would go to church with her the next day.

R o s a n g e l a



## Pilgrimage to the Temple of Solomon

**"SHE CAME TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION WOULD BE TO KILL HER SON."**

problems made her question

**So many problems made her question why she was born and if she was supposed to live that way...**

remembers that when she arrived at the church, everything she heard was in line with what she was going through, so she sincerely prayed and asked God to take care of her because she didn't know what to do. She reports that the response was immediate: "At that moment, I felt a great peace. I left there feeling light. My problems were no longer so big, and God started sending people to help me."

As she attended meetings at Universal, Rosângela learned how to put God first in her life and decided to obey the Word of God, even when she had to contradict herself. "When I realized that my life was not having positive results because I did things my way, I changed course and started obeying the Word of God. There were things I couldn't do alone, and I asked God to help me be obedient. I ended my relationship with a married man and stopped attending parties.

I was baptized in water and forgave my father because I hated him very much. From that day on, I flourished even more. I started praying more, reading God's

Word more, and fasting more," she says.

The changes in Rosângela's life were evident, but what was still missing was what would seal all that transformation that began in her life: the baptism with the Holy Spirit. That was when the campaign of faith happened. "When I understood the purpose, when I saw people's testimonies, I understood what I would need to do to receive the Holy Spirit, that is, if there was no sacrifice on my part and if I didn't show God that I wanted Him, I would not receive Him. That's when I made the challenge to receive the Holy Spirit," she explains. She states that her request was granted three days after she fulfilled her vow at the Altar.

"On a Wednesday, I said to God: 'I need the Lord. If the Lord doesn't dwell within me and take away this self that is so bad, I don't know what will become of me. At that moment, I realized a great peace, and God spoke to me like this: 'I know what you are going through, and I will take care of you. You can rest assured. Let me take care of you, and I'll take care of you.' It was a great joy, and I left there a new woman. That Rosângela from before no longer existed. We begin to see the world with different eyes, and our feelings are those of God. We

start to look at people the way God does,” she declares.

The internal change in Rosangela’s life began to reflect on all areas of her life. She, who arrived at Universal without any perspective on life and

without even having completed high school, took a higher education course in physiotherapy and today uses her form action to carry out voluntary work with the elderly.

At the Universal Church, Rosangela

also met her husband, who passed away in 2020. She had a happy marriage with him for nine years. Unlike how she was when her mother passed away, after receiving the Holy Spirit, she says she is a strong person because God is with her at all times.

“I didn’t even know what I was born for, and today I know that I was born to glorify the name of Jesus,” she concludes.

## SHE LIVED “IN HELL” FOR MANY YEARS...



Since her adolescence, Flavia Azevedo has been dominated by suicidal thoughts, addictions, depression, and panic syndrome. She says that she lived “in hell” for many years. She reports that she lost her father when she was just three years old and that her grandfather maintained her house. However, when he and his grandmother separated, the family began to sink into poverty, which became even worse when he passed away.

Furthermore, since she was little, she faced spiritual problems. “Before I was ten years old, I was already a child addicted to masturbation, and then to pornography, and with the loss of my father and the lack of a male figure, I began to trust a close relative who tried to abuse me sexually.”

The relationship between Flavia and her mother was also not good. As a teenager, the two were always “distant”. She details the relationship: “There was a lot of fighting because she wanted the best for me, but I didn’t see it that way. For me, it was as if she always went head to head with me, and that made me angry.”

The situation got even worse when her mother remarried. Flavia’s stepfather used drugs and was violent and unfaithful. She then decided to live at her grandmother’s house, where she saw, several times, her mother would come and say that she “wouldn’t go back to that marriage.” But she always got back together and, angry with both of them, Flavia said: “When he kills my mother, I won’t go to her wake.”

To escape reality, Flavia, at the age of 13, began to maintain destructive friendships, had relationships with various people, and used marijuana to

“calm down and forget her problems,” which did not produce good results. “I started using so much that I had to go to the hospital twice, and alcohol consumption also became frequent. I came home drunk several times,” she says.

In an attempt to find direction for her life, Flavia attended religious centers, but instead of her problems decreasing, they increased. “I started having anxiety and panic attacks, depression and lost the will to live. Everything got worse with the end of a relationship with a person who faced the same problems,” she says.

At the age of 20, wanting to rekindle her lost relationship, she remembered the Universal Church meetings she had attended as a child when she accompanied her mother. “I went to ask God at the Altar for the person, but I realized I needed much more. Thus, the Word of God entered my mind and opened my eyes,” she highlights.

She recalls a struggle within her between satisfying her desires and the desire to do what pleased God. “It was a war inside the house and in me, but I sought God because I didn’t want to be who I was. I wanted to know the God I heard about and, with everything I was learning, I was freeing myself from the past,” she reveals. This freedom included overcoming feelings for the person she had a previous relationship with.

Flavia then heard about the campaign of Israel and saw it as an opportunity to achieve the definitive change and miracle she desired: the Holy Spirit. “This campaign became everything to me then; I dedicated all my days to it and went beyond what God had asked of me.”

She gave the Altar her interior and everything she had experienced until then, and, with perseverance in faith, she achieved internal change. “The campaign of faith resulted in the salvation of my soul and the change of life: from the old Flavia to a new Flavia, who is a daughter of God,” she states.

Today, she is free from hurt, addictions, and the desire to die,

and she is truly happy, has peace, and can help other people to live the same. “I became my testimony of what God can do, and even today, this campaign of faith is an opportunity for my life to continue at the Altar,” she concludes.



**Telegram app**

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**Showdown of Faith**



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**Showdown of Faith TV**

**Join Bishop Joshua and a group of pastors and Bishops in the Journey of Faith from Monday to Friday at 3 AM ET. Use these platforms to tune in for the prayer.**

**You, too, can participate in the Pilgrimage to the Temple of Solomon in July. Bishops and pastors from many countries will take your prayer request to the Holy place and raise a cry of faith on your behalf. Visit the Universal Church near you and learn more about it. See the back page for locations.**



## Universal Beyond Bars

*You are not Alone!*

### It felt like Rock Bottom was where I was meant to be...

**My name is Adriana; I was very rebellious, not in an aggressive way. But I would use drugs and sell them, I would drink, I would commit robberies, I was out of control. You will learn the beginning of it all.**

At the age of 23 years old, my doctor told me and my family that my heart was failing, and the doctor said I would only have about three to four years to live. So I told myself, if I lived until I was 28 years old, I might as well "live it up" and do what I want. I started smoking weed and went straight to using crack. I remember the people I used to smoke with told me to mix the crack with the weed.



I told them NO. I want the raw crack; I want the raw effect of crack because the weed would cut my high, and this was the spiral for me. At the time I was married, and one of many rock bottoms was when my husband had passed away, I was told to go to the morgue to identify his body, and instead, I chose to get high off crack.



Those who use crack know how difficult it is to function without it; the moment someone says

they would give you a rock, you take it with joy. The cravings were stronger than me. Whether it was to sell something, you would do whatever it takes.

You lose control of yourself, and when I didn't have the means to buy crack, I would start to commit robberies so I could sell the things I stole and buy the crack.

I never committed assaults in the street, but I would go to supermarkets, malls, and wherever store I could enter to steal, I would do so.

“

**After the drug wore off, I was left with the guilt, thinking: "Man, I don't have the right to do this." But it is one of those things that is so hard, to feel like I was nothing, that I had no value, or didn't serve a purpose for anything, and no one liked me, not even my family.**

Another difficult moment was when I left everything. I left my child, and my parents and I went to the streets; I lived on the streets for ten years, did drugs, and was completely lost, drinking and using crack. To my family, I was already dead, and to my mom, I had lied and told her, "Mom, I am going to buy pampers for the baby,"



and I never went back.

In 2012, I was arrested and went to prison. For me, it was a moment when everyone felt free to do what they wanted. I couldn't work in any of the firms there in prison, and I said to myself, "I must do something to satisfy my addiction." So, I started selling drugs in jail. My rock bottom was, if I could say, catching another case in prison. Those who are incarcerated know what I'm saying.

In 2015, I came to know the UBB, and this is where I learned to make decisions with God. I went on my knees one day and prayed and said, "God, if you deliver me from this sentence, I will never do anything wrong in prison."

I decided to obey and received a kit from the UBB: the Bible, care, and love. The assistants of the UBB helped me believe I could be someone better, bringing tears to my eyes. First, I learned to respect myself, and I stopped using drugs inside.

Each time the assistant counseled me, I learned something new and applied it to my life. I was released from prison in 2020 from prison. When I went to the church, I encountered many assistants who had helped me in prison. Today, I am filled with the Holy Spirit; I am a new Adriana.



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

The UBB is here for you! **We do NOT judge, we HELP.** Your ID # does not define you! Write your letter to Bishop Joshua, and request to be added to his E-Messaging List. He will personally read and reply to you! Be sure to include:

- First & Last name/ ID Number
- Facility Name
- Complete Address
- City, State, & Zip code.





# UBB Making a Difference!

## Overcoming Anger & Self-Awareness

Here at the Woodman Unit, we held our fourth Anger Management Class with the ladies, and there has been a great result. The ladies who have been attending the Anger Management course have been very open, receptive, and sincere in the class. Indeed, this is the beginning of having a successful time in this course. Why?

There is no way for a person to overcome themselves if they are not yet willing to be honest with themselves. How can they receive help if they are not sincere with their reality? There is no way. As these women did, the first step is keeping it real, or else this course would have been a waste of time because only those who recognize they need help can receive it.

Quick story. One of the ladies shared, that it has been a journey to overcome her anger, with many highs and lows. She explained that she had a moment allowing her anger to get the best of her.

But then she recognized her reaction of anger was not the way to go, and changed it. Through dependency and prayer on God, she has been able to find help overcoming her anger.

At the Lane Murray Unit, the Self-Awareness course is the next step for the ladies who have completed the Anger Management course. This sequential approach allows them to build on the skills and insights they have gained and to continue their personal growth journey.

Why? Once a person overcomes the root of many problems they have suffered, they can now be aware of themselves. It's like an onion; they are peeling the

layers. After they've overcome the outbursts and the anger, they can be more aware of themselves and dig deeper to understand themselves. There has also been much growth, and results for the ladies here in Lane Murray that have taken part in the Self Awareness course.



The ladies here in Lane Murray who have taken part in the Self-Awareness course have also experienced much growth and results.

It brings joy to the UBB to know that we are giving hope to those behind bars. We have been able to show light in their lives, and through the love of Jesus, we give each of them hope that "you can."

It has been fulfilling to see the transformation and the before and after. For you who read this, you can also have your after. Decide within yourself to "peel these layers" so you can have a fulfilled life.



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THE UBB EVERY  
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STAY LOCKED IN  
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 2pm with Pastor Edwin

**BREAKING THE SILENCE | 3pm**

**FIGHTING THE UNSEEN ENEMY**  
 4pm with Bishop David

**MOSES & THE TEN**  
**COMMANDMENTS | 7pm**

**KINGS THE SERIES | 9pm**

**LET THERE BE LIGHT | 12am**



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## Look now at the heavens, look at Abraham!

**Y**ears of faithfulness passed, and Abram prospered greatly, but his dream of having a son and the promise of being the father of a great nation did not come true. Over time, hopelessness came because even though he had God as a shield and a huge reward, his steward, Damascene Eliezer, was the one who would be his heir (Genesis 15.1-3). It was when, after Abram asked God this question, a singular moment happened. God invited him to leave his tent to reveal that the dream he dreamed of was small compared to what the Lord had prepared and, thus, He encouraged him, telling him, “Look now at the heavens, and count the stars, if you can,” and the Almighty soon reminded him that “so will your descendants be” (Genesis 15.5). Looking at the heavens, finally, “he believed in the Lord, and counted it to him for righteousness” (Genesis 15:6).

How many people yearn for something that, to human eyes, seems impossible to achieve? Some try hard to find a way or live bitterly because they never get what they want, but some see beyond this physical world, just like Abram. All he had was a promise and a vision of the starry sky, and yet he remained walking in the Presence of the Almighty and being perfect until the Lord made a covenant with him and changed his name to Abraham (Genesis 17.1-10).

There were 25 years of unrestricted obedience to God from his departure from Haran until Sarah conceived Isaac, and Abraham saw his dream materialized in her lap (Genesis 21.1-5). “It is always good to remember Abraham as a symbol of perseverance and patience, which naturally characterized his genuine faith. He believed against natural circumstances, as Sarah was sterile and, furthermore, her time to be a mother had already passed. That is to say, he believed when everything seemed completely lost.” This Abrahamic faith is the true faith. A faith capable of realizing not only personal dreams but, mainly, the means to achieve Salvation.

### *Stopping looking at your failures*

“My family is marked by financial bankruptcy, from my father to all his six children. Even with 28 years of ‘Christian faith,’ I faced three bankruptcies”, says businesswoman Wanderlene da Silva. She reports that her love life followed the same path: “I had three failed relationships. My big dream was to start a family, and, to that end, I got married at 18, and at 22, I was already separating for the first time, with a 4-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old daughter.”

Initially, she attended a denomination that paid for her

theology seminary, as she wanted to “fulfill missions.” However, she suffered from deep depression and nightmares and wanted to abandon her daughters. That’s how she arrived at The Universal Church; she was soon freed from all spiritual attacks and started volunteering there. “In 2008, I got married, and eight years later, we were getting divorced because of his infidelity,” she says.

She was still attending church, but she was not able to see what her true problem was. “I had resentment and mortal hatred for my ex-husband, I got involved in debts with loan sharks, and I had disagreements with my daughters. I even told God that I could not stand myself; I had become so bitter. I blamed everyone for my failures and exempted myself from blame. I thought I had the Holy Spirit but wasn’t even born of God. I only understood this through the preaching of a Bishop I heard one day,” she reports.

This Word he preached made her recognize her condition and the Holiness of the Altar. She always participated in campaigns and purposes of faith that the church held twice a year and obtained material blessings, but they did not last. “The Altar is Holy; therefore, the sacrifice needs to be sanctified, but how could that be if my heart was hurt and shredded with frustrations and resentments?” she reflects. It was when she looked only at the Altar and obeyed God’s call, sacrificed her relationship, did everything He asked of her, and sought the real baptism with the Holy Spirit.

“My ‘birth’ took 24 years! I asked God the reason for that pain, and He showed me that my life had been built around pride, arrogance, selfishness, resentment, and hurt and that it was being demolished. But I wanted to give myself to Him! I



“The faith of this hero of faith made him an example of obedience, trust, and patience, followed by all who are part of his descendants.”

felt so thirsty for the Holy. Then came joy, peace,” she details. Since then, she has focused on maintaining her relationship with God and being an instrument to follow Jesus. She also paid off her debts and has prospered, always helping her family and being a sponsor of the Work of God. “I don’t miss anything! The father has already given me my greatest treasure: The Holy Spirit,” she concludes.

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