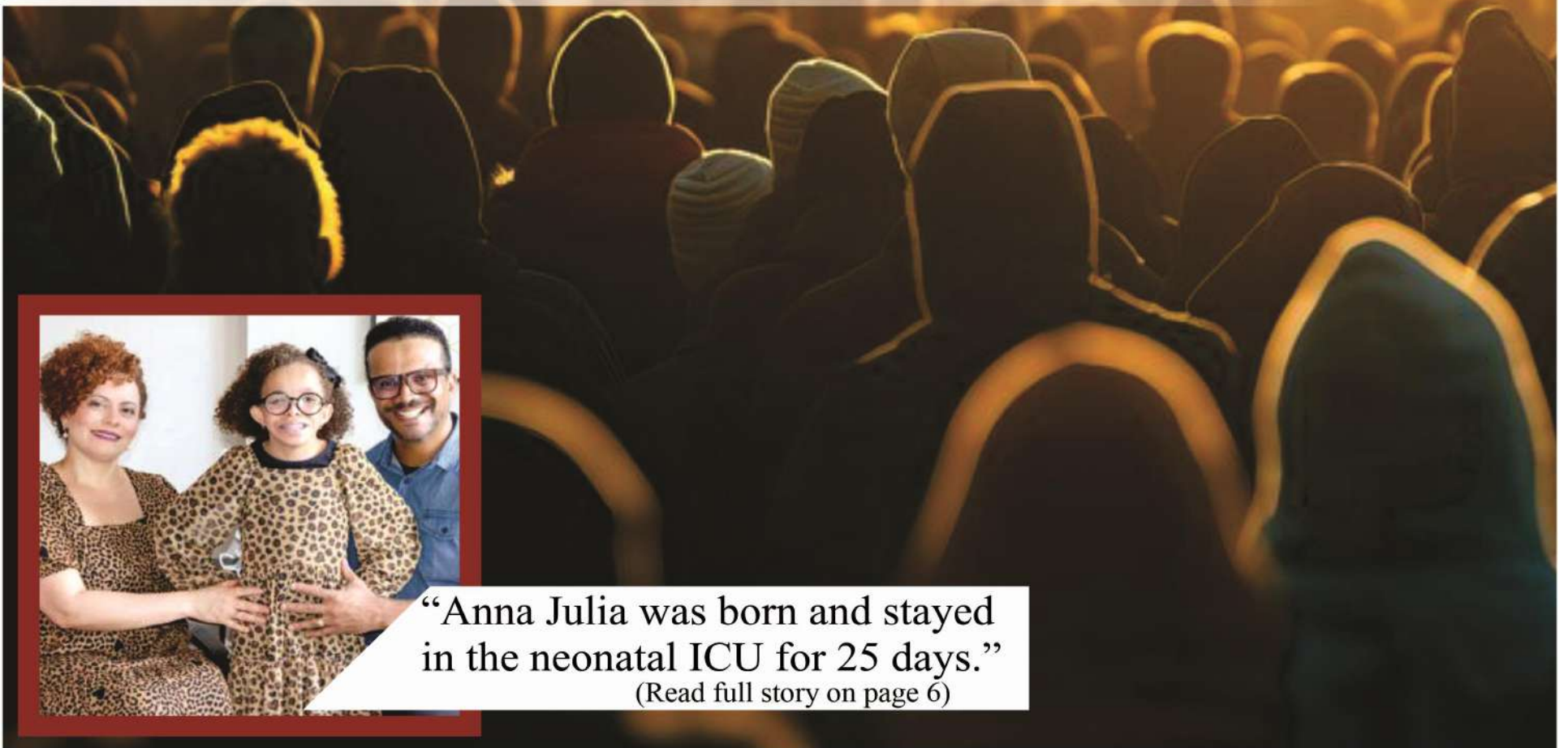




# SUNDAY

## GATHERING OF FAITH AND MIRACLES

*Many think that changes are impossible or miracles don't exist, but God's Word proves otherwise. Would you like to experience a life transformation? Come and see!*



**"Anna Julia was born and stayed in the neonatal ICU for 25 days."**  
(Read full story on page 6)



Page 2  
**Bishop Edir Macedo**

**The size of Faith**

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

# KINGS

THE CHOOSING

**"Her skin was rotting, and flies followed her because of the smell."**



Page 3 **Miracles Exist**





## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Gathering of Faith and Miracles

Are you in a situation that seems impossible to change? Are you facing a problem that only a miracle can solve? It is very easy to feel discouraged when faced with setbacks. When we receive bad news, it can feel like the world is falling around us. Many people tend to lose hope that they can recover and be healthy, that their family can be restored, that they can have happiness in their love life or can beat their addiction(s), etc.

Maybe it has been your case. You don't believe in miracles anymore. You are hopeless because nothing you try seems to bring the desired results and answers. But God's Word and the modern-day testimonies here at the Universal Church prove otherwise. Miracles do exist, and all that is required is a manifestation of our faith.

In Psalms 50:15, God said, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." God promised to deliver those who call upon Him in their troubles so that they would glorify Him. He wants you to do the same for you. What has been troubling your life? What has been causing you to be overwhelmed and hopeless?

Join us at a Universal Church near you on Sundays at 10 AM for our Gathering of Faith and Miracles. In this Gathering, a powerful prayer will be made to God for an urgent miracle in all areas of your life. You will also have the unique opportunity to connect with God, be empowered, and learn step-by-step how to use your faith to achieve what you desire to see in your life and your family's life. All are welcome regardless of age, gender, background or beliefs.

## | BEATING DEPRESSION |

Depression is sadness felt in the deepest part of one's soul. It causes a great sense of hopelessness and void, 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.

Every Sunday, the Universal Church opens its doors to those seeking help to beat depression. If you're feeling lost, we urge you to visit a branch near you today. By joining a Chain of Prayer and attending a prayer meeting for seven consecutive weeks, you'll receive the power of prayer and practical steps, counseling, and spiritual support. You're not alone in this battle.

There are thousands of testimonials worldwide that prove a Chain of Prayer works. You have the potential to be the next success story. You, too, can conquer depression!



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



**Bishop Edir Macedo**



### The size of faith

Jesus censured the disciples' little faith before the great tempest (Matthew 8:26). Again when they lacked the faith to set a boy free, He said to them, "If you have faith as a mustard seed [...] nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

How can we measure faith? **How big must my faith be for me to achieve my dreams or conquer the promises of God?**

The Lord compared the size of faith to a mustard seed because, among the rabbis, the mustard seed was commonly used to illustrate something very small. The size of a mustard seed is about the diameter of human hair, but a mustard tree grows up to 5 meters tall.

An act of faith pleases God. When Jesus saw a widow place everything she had on the altar, He considered her offering more valuable than all the other offerings put together.

Quantity is not a synonym for quality, especially regarding faith. The rich offered what was left over, representing their "leftover" faith.



But the widow gave all she had. In other words, she deposited all her faith in God's provision; she would depend exclusively on the Almighty. This quality of faith draws God's attention and shows its size.

The size of our faith is directly related to how dedicated we are to God because faith is an attitude of total dependence on God. The more we depend on Him, the bigger our faith is. The less we rely on Him, the smaller our faith is. Unbelief means independence from God. The more independent from God a person is, the more of an unbeliever he becomes.



### "Breast Cancer diagnosis left me in a terrible state."

Learn the story of Eliana, who was diagnosed with breast cancer but, through faith, got cured entirely.

While doing a breast self-exam, I discovered a lump in one of my breasts and sought medical help. The doctors told me nothing was wrong and that I didn't need to worry. I followed the doctor's advice for a while and didn't seek any more help," she said.

At that moment, Eliana felt relieved. Hearing the doctors' news that nothing was wrong brought her some relief. After all, no one wants to receive a

bad diagnosis, but this relief didn't last long for Eliana.

"Time went by, and at a certain point, I noticed that the lump had grown, and it started worrying me again, so I went back to the doctor. After some tests, it was then that I was diagnosed with breast cancer. When I received the news, it was tough because the doctors had previously said that I had nothing and that I didn't need to worry, but my condition was serious; it had grown. So I started treatment immediately," she said.

After the doctor's mistake, Eliana shared the entire situation she had been through with a friend and was surprised by her reaction. "I shared my concern with a friend. I expected her response to be one of sadness, and I was just looking for emotional support. However, her attitude surprised me when she handed

me a bottle of the blessed water and said I could be cured. She gave me so much faith and confidence that I accepted the water and began going with her to the Universal Church meetings she attended on Sundays.

In just a matter of a few weeks, I was healed. I didn't even need to complete the treatments; I was 100% cured of cancer. The doctors didn't understand how, but it was all due to the living God I chose to follow; He healed me. In addition to the lump, I had a fractured neck due to an accident I had in the past. I was unable to do regular movements and had a pain that started in my neck and went straight down to my leg. **By participating in the Gathering of Faith and Miracles, I was completely cured, to the honor and glory of God,"** she concluded happily.



## “THE SORE WAS WORSENING.”



My foot got sore while I was at work, and it was so bad that I had to see the doctor three times a week and stopped working. I was ashamed of traveling because the smell of my foot was awful. When I decided to return to work, my foot got worse, as though all my medical investments were in vain.

I came to this ministry with suicidal thoughts. I even had to stop working. I started using my faith as I learned in this ministry.

Today, I'm totally healed. I can sleep well; I'm not in pain anymore. -Tiffany

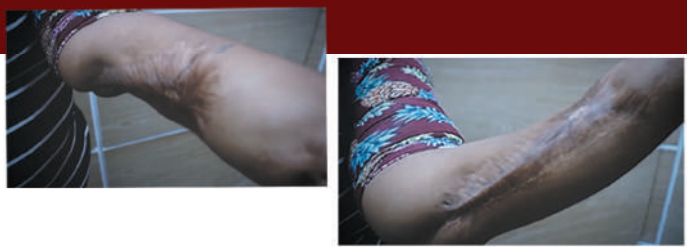
### AFTER



### “I TOOK 70 PILLS AND SHOT MYSELF.”

I was constantly fighting with my husband, and the problems became unbearable for me. I didn't want to live anymore. First, I tried ending my life by taking 70 pills, and not being satisfied, I took a gun to shoot myself in the belly and ended up shooting myself in the arm. I was hospitalized for 42 days and had six surgeries. That is when I remembered this ministry and started coming.

My life is wholly transformed today. I am very happy today; my marriage is wonderful, and I have the peace of God inside of me. -Davekay



This is the damage Davekay did to her arm.

### “HER SKIN WAS ROTTING, AND FLIES FOLLOWED HER BECAUSE OF THE SMELL.”



My skin was deteriorating. My body was covered in wounds and fluids were coming out of them. I lost a lot of weight and was very skinny. Wherever I slept, my skin would stick to the bedsheet, and the pain was severe. Even taking a bath was very painful. Flies followed me because of the horrible smell of my wounds. My husband even took out loans for my treatment, but the doctors couldn't help me. That's when I asked my sister-in-law to take me to this ministry.

These are pictures of Marcela, suffering with the undiagnosed skin illness.



I used my faith in the Blessed Water, attended the Sunday Gatherings, and completely surrendered my life to God. Over time, my health was restored completely, and most importantly, I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I am a miracle. -Marcela

# HEALING WATERS



RECEIVE THE HEALING WATERS THIS SUNDAY  
at your nearest  
Universal Church





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## WALKING IN THE LIGHT



Consider this: Can light and darkness coexist? The answer is a resounding no. Where there is darkness, light will always prevail. Yet, many attempt to blend these two forces, but one will inevitably triumph.

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”** (John 8:12)

At this time, Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees, those who were self-proclaimed to be holy, but in action, they were living in darkness. There is no living in light and living in darkness. It has to be one or the other. Even today, many refer to themselves as “born-again” but walk in a life of darkness. Still, the Lord Jesus clarifies it in this verse.

The darkness represents this world—filled with easy pleasures, money, and everyone trying to get ahead by any means necessary. You don’t have to be a part of it. Jesus promised that whoever follows Him will have the light of life. Imagine light being with you wherever you go.

With Jesus by your side, there is nothing you cannot overcome and no obstacle that can halt your progress. His light will always guide you.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

August 2024 Bible Reading						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Judges 1 ✓	2 Judges 2 ✓	3 Judges 3 ✓
4 Judges 4 ✓	5 Judges 5 ✓	6 Judges 6 ✓	7 Judges 7 ✓	8 Judges 8 ✓	9 Judges 9 ✓	10 Judges 10 ✓
11 Judges 11 ✓	12 Judges 12 ✓	13 Judges 13 ✓	14 Judges 14 ✓	15 Judges 15 ✓	16 Judges 16 ✓	17 Judges 17 ✓
18 Judges 18 ✓	19 Judges 19 ✓	20 Judges 20 ✓	21 Judges 21 ✓	22 1 Timothy 1	23 1 Timothy 2	24 1 Timothy 3
25 1 Timothy 4	26 1 Timothy 5	27 1 Timothy 6	28 2 Timothy 1	29 2 Timothy 2	30 2 Timothy 3	31 2 Timothy 4
			♥			

## THE FARCE I COULDN'T HIDE



I was going to church for many years but had no relationship with God. From a spiritual point of view, I considered myself a fraud. I wore a mask, and I was a character within the church. I would answer people, ‘Yes, ma’am,’ ‘Yes, sir,’ I would smile at everyone, pretend to pray in meetings, and get involved in all the activities in the church. Still, I never fulfilled the vows that I vowed. It was all part of the character I created for myself.

No one knew the real me. I was an utterly disturbed person; I had horrible nightmares, felt hatred, and enjoyed watching videos of people being murdered and horror films that showed blood. Many times, when I felt empty, I would bite myself and hit myself in places that no one could see. However, to those close to me, I showed the persona of a good person who went to church.

I discovered the Universal Church when I was a child, and, as a teenager, I was more interested in friendships, not God. I had surgery in which I had 20 pins inserted in my spine and, in addition to the emptiness that I didn’t know how to deal with, I also had an inferiority complex, so I tried to fill myself with friends, music, and TV shows. However, no matter how hard I tried, nothing worked. It was all just a momentary pleasure.

In college, I met my husband and put my faith and trust in him. I thought he would change my life. We had an unstable relationship, but we decided to get married. I was married and had friends and

family, but I still felt extremely alone. I started not sleeping well and had thoughts of suicide. In truth, I didn’t understand what I needed because, in my religious mind, I had God since I attended church. However, I felt great pain and loneliness all the time. I was cold, manipulative, spiteful, proud, sad, and empty.

One Word made me open my mind, and my mask fell. I started to pay attention to what I heard from the altar. I exposed what I was before God: that proud

person who thought she already knew everything because she had spent much time in the church.

The change in attitude led to a transformation. When I received the Holy Spirit, my interior was filled, and I discovered that I always had someone with me: Jesus. I was no longer alone, and I had peace within me.

God changed everything in my life. He restored my marriage, which was on the verge of divorce. Through my testimony, my husband converted and received the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, I have more than enough to live.

Quétinin Andrade

**If you can relate to her story, remember that the same God who set her free from emptiness is here for you, too. Come seek the Spirit of Truth in your life this Sunday at 10 AM at a Universal Church near you.**

**I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:18**



# What's happening at the Universal Church

**"Cocaine addiction took away my will to live."**



James Biccas became addicted to cocaine after his first use, and this addiction almost ended his life. Through faith, he was freed and built a blessed family.

I was introduced to cocaine and cigarettes for the first time when I was 14 at a Halloween party. I got hooked from then on. It was like love at first sight; I would drop everything to snort and smoke! Cocaine was my love; I was in love with it, and for a while, it became part of my routine. But it started to hinder my social life. I could no longer socialize with people who didn't use it, and as a result, I became lonely, depressed, and had thoughts of suicide," he said.

Many young people have lost their way on the path of drugs. They start out experimenting just to please those around them, but then they find themselves trapped in addiction. This is the world's deception and the spiritual forces of evil. The drugs get their attention, and at first, it even seems good, but later, they suffer the consequences of pain and suffering.

"I remember one weekend, I started snorting on a Thursday and only stopped on Sunday. At that time, I lived alone in an apartment on the 3rd floor. All that came to my mind was, "Jump off this balcony and end it all, end this pain," because there was a huge void inside me. Although I had my parents' love and friends, I was in college and thought I lacked nothing, I didn't know God," he said.

Human beings are constantly dissatisfied. If they have money, they

lack a happy marriage; if they have a marriage, they lack children, and so on. They continue searching for total and complete fulfillment. However, there is a space inside man that only the Holy Spirit can occupy and fill. The lack of the Lord Jesus causes this void.

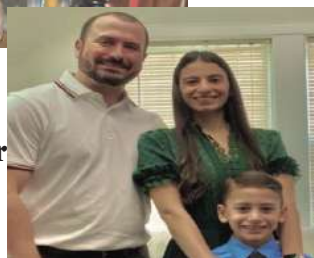
"My mother was attending the Universal Church and always spoke about Jesus to the family. My father eventually began going to the church, and the change started in their lives, and I noticed it. At that time, I was living in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and I decided to start attending the Universal Church. I accepted the strongest dose, God's Word; I started obeying everything said, and the great change began. I noticed after a while when I smelled cocaine and cigarettes, I felt sick to my stomach, and I started to feel disgusted. I thought, how could that have happened? One day, I was in love with cocaine, and the next, I was disgusted by it! That's what God did in my life. He gave me a stronger dose!

Today, I no longer have addictions to cigarettes or cocaine; I don't have depression or thoughts of suicide. I am free, and the Holy Spirit has filled the void! Today, I am a man who is very grateful to God and the Universal Church. I have a blessed family. I have a wonderful wife and son, and we are all God-fearing. Today, my wife and I are part of this great work that God instituted through the Universal Church. We serve Him with pleasure and great joy, and I encourage you to attend the Sunday services for a total change in your life," he concluded happily.

- James Biccas



**After**



**"I sought refuge in parties and drinking."**



Shirley's life was a true spiritual battlefield. She had problems with alcoholism and felt a strange negative force violently squeezing her neck at night. Shirley almost gave up on everything, but today, she tells us where she found the strength to overcome that dark moment in her life.

"When I was a teenager, I started going to parties where everyone seemed happy with drinks in their hands. I wanted to experience that 'happiness,' so I started drinking too and began to drink a lot. Although I felt 'happy' when I was drinking and partying, as soon as I got home and put my head on the pillow, I felt a vast emptiness inside me.

I thought a relationship could fill that void, so when I met someone who seemed like my perfect partner, I decided to leave home and start a family. It was hard for my parents to see me go, but although they were very sad about it, they respected my decision. We moved in together and had a daughter. Still, unfortunately, that relationship ended after four years when he cheated on me. My dream was to have a family, so my world fell apart when I had to move back into my mother's house with my daughter.

I once again sought refuge in parties and drinking, but nothing could fill my emptiness. The anguish I felt in my heart was so great that I began to think of ways to end my life. Nightmares also plagued me. One night, I had a dream so real that I felt as if someone was literally strangling me."

I became so ill at that time that I felt I had no strength to fight for myself, but I am very grateful for my mother because she fought for me. She was a true strength!" Shirley believes that her mother's faith was a fundamental factor in ensuring that her story did not have a tragic end. "Every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, she was at church praying for me, and I am sure that God answered her prayers because one day, I was thinking about my

life, and I remembered that I used to attend the Universal Church with her when I was a child, and how much better my life was back then. It seemed God Himself had placed that memory in my mind, and since I could no longer bear so much suffering, I decided to go back to church. I was very well received and instructed to participate in the Chains of Prayers for a new life on Sundays at 10 AM.

I learned that to live a new and blessed life, I needed to turn my back on everything detrimental to my spiritual well-being. In my case, this included alcohol and certain friendships that did not add anything to my life. It was not easy because I was very attached to my old lifestyle. Still, I continued to attend meetings faithfully, and each session gave me the strength to stay focused until I finally overcame all my inner problems. If it were not for God, my mother's intercession, and the work of the Universal Church, I believe I would probably not be alive anymore. But fortunately, today, I am completely the opposite of who I was before. I am free from deep sadness, drinking, and all the negativity that surrounded me. Today, I am happy to be alive!"

- Shirley Das Neves'

Do you feel like giving up? Don't throw in the towel just yet. It is possible for your life to change. To learn how you too can overcome your challenges visit a Universal Church near you this Sunday for our Gathering of Faith and Miracles at 10am



**It's not an ordinary day**

Sunday is not just another day in the week; it holds a unique and significant place in our lives.

Many take it as an ordinary day since it began to be seen only as part of the weekend preceding Monday. However, there are many reasons to consider that God is present in it. Because of this, the meaning of Sunday is being lost. Many people turn to God when emergencies arise but neglect the need to put Him first before the challenges of everyday life arise. That is why Sunday exists: to hear the Voice of God before anyone else, to gather with those who also care about putting Him first, and to honor and seek Him. Sunday is a day to strengthen our spiritual life and the faith to build and establish achievements. In this sense, there is every reason to consider that God is present on this day, and we can find Him in His House. Thus, when Sunday becomes the Lord's Day, it actually becomes the "day of days" because God is there. It is a holy day to sanctify all the others.

When people dedicate the first day of the week to seeking God, they honor Him. The understanding of the first disciples was this: let us dedicate the first day of the week in allusion to the resurrection of our Lord and also in honor of Him, just as He taught us that we should, first of all, seek the Kingdom of God and, thus, all things will be added to us (read Matthew 6.33). Begin your week in the presence of God; treat the first day of the week and the first hours of that day as a moment of the Lord.

**Open doors**

The Gathering of Faith and Miracles happens on Sundays in all Universal Churches. It is marked by prayers for the health of the body, mind, and soul and teachings for families and couples. Please read these testimonies and see what's happening in this ministry on Sundays To find the Universal Church closest to you, see the addresses on page 12.



**EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 AM**

<p>-Thainan</p> 	<p>-Quintin</p> 	<p>-Raissa</p> 	<p>-John</p> 
<p>I was <b>suicidal, depressed, had bulimia, &amp; anorexia.</b></p> <p>I came and now I want to live!</p>	<p><b>Addictions to cigarettes &amp; marijuana</b> took over.</p> <p>Today I don't have any addictions!</p>	<p>I was <b>molested</b> at a young age, which led to <b>drug</b> use.</p> <p>I was shown a way out of my painful past!</p>	<p>I <b>sold drugs</b> and had <b>depression.</b> I wanted to <b>die.</b></p> <p>I live a clean life happy and successful!</p>

These are real people who received real changes by coming and using their faith. You can see changes in your life as well!

Take your prayer request to the Universal Church near you

**“I always had fear and anguish within me.”**

Real estate agent Dayane Lima had a childhood marked by her parents' absence, who separated when she was two. At the time, they left her with her maternal grandmother. A few years later, her mother got involved in another relationship, and she saw the opportunity to have a father. However, she had a sad surprise: the person her mother had been involved with tried to abuse her.



Traumatized, Dayane began to feel repulsed by men and struggle with loneliness, as she says: “I always had my grandmother and my family to give me food and material things, but I didn't even know what was like to have affection, attention, the care of a mother and father.”

At the age of 16, she arrived at the Universal Church, and, as she says, she began to understand the origin of the fear and anguish she felt when participating in the meetings: “I understood that the emptiness I had was because of the lack of the Holy Spirit.”

With this understanding, she desired to have the Presence of God and, during her prayers, asked Him to show her what she needed to do. “He showed me what I had to let go of, how to let go of my hurt towards my mother. So, she and I talked and told her I forgave her for her absence. Then, my heart felt light, and I understood the secret. I forgave, and a good feeling began inside me that I didn't have before.”

That relief was just the beginning of the shift toward baptism with the Holy Spirit. Dayane says she participated in the

Gathering of Faith and Miracles to eliminate the anguish. She stopped questioning why she had experienced those situations in the past, blamed herself for them, and decided to start a new life by being baptized in water.

After giving herself to Jesus, Dayane was able

**“I always had my grandmother and my family to give me food and material things, but about affection, attention, the care of a mother and father, I didn't even know what that was.”**

to receive the Spirit of God. “I began to seek the Holy Spirit with all my strength, and then He came, and I received great joy,” she recalls. She says that she heard the Voice of God: “He said to me: ‘Daughter, you are no longer alone. You didn't have a father to take care of you and love you, you didn't have a mother to protect you, and you were alone your whole life, but I'm here to give you everything you need.’” Upon hearing these words, she said she immediately felt peace.

Today, married and with two children, she highlights how much her life depends on the Spirit of God: “I consult Him in everything I do. The Holy Spirit teaches us to forgive, love, and look at people as He does.”



# “Anna Julia was born and stayed in the neonatal ICU for 25 days.”

Ricardo Coutinho arrived at the Universal Church in 1995. He said that when he observed his mother's transformation, who used to worship idols, he thought, “This is the God I need to serve.” Soon, he embraced supernatural faith, took it seriously, and got baptized in water. He attended all services, obeyed everything he was taught based on the Word of God, and incessantly sought the Holy Spirit.

He gained his most precious asset at a night vigil: “That joy took over my heart. It was as if an eraser had passed over me, and that love came, the certainty that from that day on, my life would be completely different, and that's what happened. After the baptism with the Holy Spirit, as I was young, I focused on studies and work until I met my wife, Luciana.”

Fulfilled, the couple decided it was time to have a child. But, even during pregnancy, the challenge of being a father began. In the fifth month, Luciana and Ricardo discovered that their daughter had a physical problem. He knew that, even with the Spirit of God within him, struggles come, and he decided it was time to exercise faith and practice what he and his wife had learned. “It even sounds like the testimony of Bishop Macedo when his daughter, Viviane, was born. I called my wife to pray, and we were on our knees and said: ‘God, everything is for Your glory, not mine. If this is happening, I am sure Your Name will be glorified in the future,’” he recalls.

Anna Julia was born and stayed in the neonatal ICU for 25 days. Even at home, she needed special care because she was born with severe jaundice and without the pre-auricular appendage. Her parents noticed that she was also not growing according to ideal standards and went to investigate the cause. With exams and biopsies, they received the diagnosis: she had a cirrhotic



liver. She needed to be placed on the transplant list.

Luciana says that when they went to church, they placed their daughter on the altar and told God to do His will. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Ricardo searched for information about the transplant until he found a renowned hospital: “Then I discovered that I was compatible with my daughter, and I was sure that it was the answer to our prayers. It was 12 hours of surgery, and when I woke up and went to see her, I finally met her because until then, we didn't even know her skin tone due to the jaundice.”

Today, Anna Julia, aged 11, is a healthy, intelligent girl who loves being at her Father's House. Ricardo shares that he always tells his daughter she is alive not because of him who donated the liver; God deserves the glory: “It is the Holy Spirit who has taught me to be a father who teaches his daughter about supernatural faith. We went through many struggles, but God always gave us strength and teaches me daily to educate my daughter in His Presence,” he concludes.

If you want to experience a miracle, we encourage you to join us this coming Sunday at 10 AM for a special service. We're looking forward to seeing at the nearest Universal Church.

## “It is the Holy Spirit who has taught me to be that father who teaches his daughter about supernatural faith.”

# 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!*

### “My life was a shame.”



My name is Daniel, Since I was a child, crime enticed me. I would hang it with company. I smoked cigarettes, and with time, I started using marijuana; I increased my drug choice. It was like a snowball effect; from there, I used cocaine, and this was my life; then I started using crack, and it was my rock bottom because many times, I did not have money to sustain my addiction.

“

I sold anything to get my hands on crack; I started using this by the age of 17. It was a gradual increase; it went from one drug to the next, and each was much stronger. At that time, crack was new in the city I was from and in high demand.

Anyone who uses crack knows that it is a very strong addiction, and the desire to sustain it is even stronger. I got involved in different criminal activities. I committed robberies, and it became worse. I started committing robberies with weapons, and at that time, I was also married.



I had no maturity to make my marriage work; it was hard for me, and we did not get along. So, I went to live with my mom. Sincerely, I was proud of the life I lived. I remember one time I took a

car and sold it for crack; I spent two weeks straight getting high on crack. I met some people this time and learned how to commit certain criminal acts.

It was uncontrollable; I did not stop, which made me get arrested and go to prison. I stayed in prison for six years, and it hit hard.

My reality slapped me in the face. I was a tyrant in my city; my case had even gone to the news and newspaper. It stated, “Police arrest robber of gas stations, pharmacy, and rental companies.”



It was a shame for me and my family.

**I remember I told my mom, “Don’t pray for me to live. Pray for me to die.” I had no reason to live; I thought I had no hope. The crack had taken over my life, and now I was an addict in prison. My mom always kept her faith in me; she was in the Universal Church praying for me and vowing on my behalf. “I knew God would protect Daniel and set him free through my prayers,” states his mother. In the eyes of men, they thought I was a lost cause.**

The crack had taken over my life, and now I was an addict in prison. My mom always kept her faith in me, she was in the Universal Church praying for me, and making her vows on my behalf. I knew that God would protect Daniel and set him free through my prayers. In the eyes of men, they thought I was a lost cause, my mom recalls.

I changed when I went through adversities in prison. I kept getting transferred from one prison

to another. Things were a mess. My wife would visit me, and we would spend the little time we had fighting. Even when we wrote letters to one another, we were fighting in the letters. We had no idea what to do with the situation we were in. After some time, I was transferred again, and my wife came to visit me. However, when she came to visit



this time, she was different. I saw the difference in her. I said to myself, “Man, she’s changing.” Then I came to know the UBB in prison; the assistants came and did the work of faith and gave a word of faith to us. The week they came would be a week of blessings because of the words they gave us each time they came. Anyone who has been in prison knows the weight of being incarcerated, so that word sustained us and kept us each week. In prison, I surrendered to God. I threw my life in His hands. However, gradually, things changed in my life. I gained my freedom, and my wife is now an Assistant in the Universal Church; I have maintained my faith these last seven years, thank God. It was only by the hands of God that I am here today; all the prayers and vows made for me were worth it. Today, I am a blessed man, and my marriage is restored; I give peace to my family, and no one

needs to worry about me anymore because my life is in God’s hands. The Holy Spirit completes me today.



### “Who can I count on?”

Hey! Listen up UBB is in the House!! Send your letter, or E-Message to Bishop Bira Joshua 7075 SW. FWY. Houston, TX 77074. Be sure to include: Complete first and last name. Inmate number. Facility name, and complete address. City/State and Zip code.

“Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:20



# Kingdom of God vs. Kingdom of the Devil



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UBB  
Universal Beyond Bars

**“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6.33**

The Kingdom of God is the kingdom of peace, joy, righteousness, and an honest and blameless life. It is the kingdom of a new life.

But if the Kingdom of God exists, the kingdom of Satan also exists. And until a person enters the Kingdom of God, they will live in the kingdom of the devil; this is, with depression, doubts, insecurities, and conflicts.

There's no point in having money when you live in the kingdom of the devil because cash does not relieve depression; it does not take away the pain of the soul. Money may bring some comfort to a person's physical body, but it brings no comfort to their spiritual body, which is the soul.

Believe it or not, this is the truth!

**That is why Jesus said:**

**But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matthew 12.28**

Therefore, to enter the Kingdom of God, you must first leave the devil's kingdom, hell. It means you must be delivered from evil spirits, turn away from



the wrong things you are doing and your desires, and surrender your life entirely to the Altar of God.

By doing so, the Holy Spirit comes and leads you into the Kingdom of God. Then, the other things will be added, whether in your marriage, finances, health, etc. It is what Jesus promises!

However, many make the mistake of seeking first the things that will only come after the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Instead of prioritizing the Kingdom of God, they prioritize marriage, material achievements, house, health, family, children, and everything in this world.

Then, they want to take possession of the Kingdom of God. There is no way this can happen!

Remember, the kingdom belongs to God. He is the One who sets the rules!

And to enter His Kingdom, you have to submit to His rules. Nothing is going to happen until you enter the Kingdom of God. You will be chasing after the wind all of your life.

Eventually, you will lose any achievement you obtained in the kingdom of the devil.

However, only the Kingdom of God can support the faithful. We will only have protection for all eternity in the Kingdom of God.



**DON'T SLEEP ON THE UBB, BE DOWN WITH UBB. NEW EPISODES EVERY WEEK!**





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**KINGS THE SERIES | 9pm**

**LET THERE BE LIGHT | 12am**



SCAN ME



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## DO YOU RELY ON LUCK TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

### KNOW WHAT REALLY MATTERS TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL

**W**hen you look at examples of successful people, such as famous artists or actors who built brilliant careers or even great entrepreneurs who structured successful businesses, one question probably crosses your mind: Were they just lucky to succeed? Even though many people believe in luck and think it is a relevant factor in achieving outstanding achievements, achieving and maintaining success goes far beyond having it or not.

When asked if her career success was exclusively related to luck, Brazilian international supermodel Gisele Bundchen, in a recent interview with the American television network CBS, said she does not believe so. “Nothing like that. I don’t think so. I believe it’s because of my personality. I don’t think I’ve ever complained. If they tell me, ‘Gisele, let’s do something in sub-zero temperatures or 100 degrees in Death Valley,’ I go ahead and do it because I want to do my best,” she explained.

#### WHAT DRIVES YOU?

According to her, one of the great drives of her career is always being willing to overcome challenges. “If I choose to say yes to something and if someone is putting their trust in me, I don’t want to disappoint them. I am a person who strives to be the best I can be. If I set out to clean my apartment, you can eat off the floor,” she said.

Some people naturally act like Gisele when they dedicate themselves to doing something, regardless of the area in which they work or want to undertake it. However, some learn to be like this and are completely successful in their activities, with businesses that only tend to grow for a very special reason: they have faith in God.

#### WHAT IS THE PATH?

Entrepreneur Luis Fernando Tarin, 36, is one of these examples and completely dismisses the luck factor when he talks about the success of his



business in the IT department. “There is no such thing as luck or waiting for your company to succeed. You have to do something to ensure that the business always prospers. We must understand that we were made to be blessed, which involves a commitment to God. In other words, change comes from faith,” he explains.

However, Luis reveals that he only had this attitude of not settling after learning about the Strong Nation service. “I received the invitation from my mother, and despite being somewhat reluctant to go to the Universal Church, this was one of the first meetings I attended, and it was essential in my life. My credit was horrible, and I was sent to collection, which caused me to feel disoriented. From the meetings, I understood how to structure my business, and it was there that I also met my wife,” he says.

#### BEFORE AND AFTER

Before participating in the meetings, Luis worked with his father, who owned an aluminum window frame company. “My father had difficulty

managing the business and had already gone bankrupt several times. So, I had the idea of creating software to help him manage the company. I bought an old computer to develop the product. It was used, but it was good. I worked from home. I also bought the same model for my brother, and he started selling our products. I told him I didn’t have the money to pay but that if he sold it, he would make money,” he recalls.

Today, after 15 years, Luis has a structured company with 12 employees. “The type of product I make is difficult to sell to customers who work in certain business sectors because they are unfamiliar with computers. If it weren’t for the hand of God, I’m sure I wouldn’t have gotten to where I am today. At the Strong Nation meeting, we learned that the heroes of



the Bible also had their crises and difficulties. Still, God was always **h e r e**, encouraging these heroes, as He is by our side today,” he concludes.







SCAN ME

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