

# UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

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## Powerful Deliverance Prayers

***It's time to take a stand against all your sufferings.***



***"I heard voices telling me I was crazy."***

(Read full story on page 7)

You will receive **free of charge** the Holy Cross with three Blessed Elements for your total Deliverance.



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**Bishop Edir Macedo**

**Onslaught of evil**

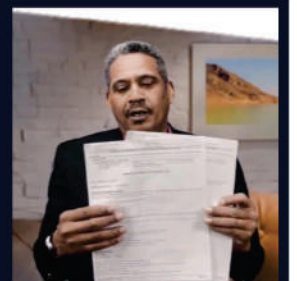
Watch our series at 9 PM ET on



# KINGS

THE CHOOSING

**"I am free from stage 3A cancer."**



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**Miracles Exist**



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**NOT TO BE SOLD**



| IN THIS EDITION |

## Powerful Deliverance Sessions

Do you feel so burdened by your situation that you don't know where to turn to? Have you tried everything possible to resolve your problems but to no avail? Do you long for peace of mind? The Bible encourages us to turn to God in these challenging moments: "I sought the Lord, and He heard me and delivered me..." (Psalm 34:4)

You may have tried many "solutions," but they only provided temporary relief and made your problems even worse. Have you ever wondered if your problems had a spiritual root? There are spiritual forces of darkness that work in this world to cause people's suffering. That is why no matter what a person does physically to break free from a problem, it never seems to go away. It's because the spiritual root was never cut off. However, God gives true deliverance. He doesn't offer a temporary solution but a permanent one.

That is why we have powerful prayers for deliverance on Fridays at every Universal Church. These prayers help you get to the root of your spiritual problems and experience the freedom you've longed to have. When we draw near to God, He gives us what we need and more to prevail against the spiritual forces of darkness and overcome our inner and outer battles. It's time to take a stand against your suffering. Join us on Fridays at a Universal Church near you.

## | BEATING DEPRESSION |

Depression is sadness felt in the deepest part of one's soul. It causes a great sense of hopelessness and a deep void in which a person loses the motivation to do anything. In some cases, they lose the desire to live at all. Depression is an illness of the soul. But who or what can heal the soul? There is no other than the Savior of Souls, the Lord Jesus, who can heal a sick soul.

Every Sunday, the Universal Church opens its doors to those seeking help to beat depression. If you need assistance, we urge you to visit a branch near you today. Join a Chain of Prayer by attending a prayer meeting for seven consecutive weeks. You'll receive spiritual support through powerful prayers, practical steps, and counseling.

You're not alone in this battle. Thousands of testimonials worldwide prove that a Chain of Prayer works. You have the potential to be the next success story. You, too, can beat depression!

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



**Bishop Edir Macedo**



## Onslaught of evil



*...the Spirit warns us not to look at things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

**(2 Corinthians 4.17,18)**

A frightening diagnosis, a curse of witchcraft, a death threat, and all else that terrorizes the heart are like hell darts to confront our faith. If our faith is based on the Word of God, none of these things will matter; however, if our faith is based on our emotions, the heart will tremble and collapse before the problems.

For this reason, the Spirit warns us not to look at things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are

eternal (2 Corinthians 4.17,18).

When we take intelligent faith into account, we do not accept doubts or give in to any "light and momentary" affliction, however tricky it might seem. On the contrary, we manifest a natural resistance as a result of our personal conviction! That's when indignation comes in, and we demand the fulfillment of the Word of the Eternal God. This is seeing what cannot be seen, believing the impossible, and living from faith to faith and by faith.



## From joy to sadness in minutes

Flavio had been suffering from this problem since he was 18, and his anger only increased with time. From the beginning of his marriage, his anger was excessive.

"One day, during an argument, I lost control and ended up physically attacking my wife. Another time, I fainted at work, and the company doctor referred me to a psychologist. I underwent dozens of treatments, but the doctor ended up telling me that there was nothing they could do for my case. I was then referred to psychiatry, where they prescribed more medication, and I ended up being hospitalized for a week. I underwent several tests, but even then, they were unable to help me resolve my situation."

### RESILIENCE

One Sunday, after running out of one of the medicines he needed, which he could purchase only with a prescription, Flavio said his goodbyes to his wife.

He left home with the thought of taking his own life.

"My wife and I had separated for ten days at the time. I lost the desire to live anymore. But one morning, I heard the Word of God on TV through a program of the Universal Church. The very next day, I decided to seek help at the church, where I was very well treated and received counseling and guidance. They prayed for me, and since that day, I have never left the Presence of God. I made a chain of prayer for my deliverance, and God delivered me from suicidal thoughts and manic depression. Today, I no longer suffer from bipolar disorder or split personality, nor do I take nor need any more medicine. The relationship between me and my wife has also been restored. My wife and I are going to be married for 30 years. We have been through many struggles but have overcome them together through God's help."

- Flavio N.

Bipolar disorder is often marked by sharp mood swings, with bouts of depression and "mania," also known as Manic-Depressive Disorder. It was Flavio's case, who, in addition to bipolar disorder, also suffered from a split personality.

"One moment, I was happy and cheerful, and the next, I felt sad. I felt such a mix of emotions inside me that out of nowhere, I would feel the urge to attack others. But since I didn't dare to act out on my emotions, I kept it all inside me, which in turn generated immense anger and sadness."

### AGGRESSIVENESS





**"MY SISTER WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A TUMOR IN HER HEAD."**

My sister was very sick to the point of being hospitalized. She was diagnosed with a tumor in her head.



Ms. Yvette's sister in hospital



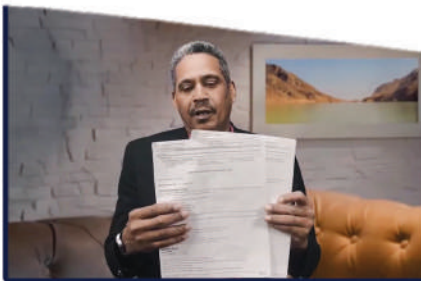
Ms. Yvette with her sister today, out of hospital and healed

I didn't accept my sister's situation. I exercised my faith on her behalf as I was already coming to this ministry. God's power healed my sister; she doesn't have the tumor anymore. She's very well today. - Ms. Yvette



**"FREE FROM POOR CIRCULATION AND INFECTION IN HER STOMACH."**

I went to the doctor for a check-up, and I was told that I had an infection in my stomach, and even after taking medications, the pain was still there. I also had poor circulation in my feet; I suffered a stroke that left me unable to move my arms or walk properly. I drank the Blessed Water by faith and used it on my body. Today, I am healed and totally free. I can move and walk.



**"HE IS FREE FROM LUNG STAGE 3A CANCER."**

I was reckless with my life; I smoked two packs of cigarettes per day. I was diagnosed with stage 3A lung cancer in 2022. As I started undergoing treatment, my father was also diagnosed with cancer and passed away. A friend of mine invited me to come to the Universal Church. I came on Sunday and received the Blessed water; I used it with faith because I had learned to trust in God.



Orlando smoking before.

”

On August 17th, 2023, when I went to therapy one morning, the doctor told me: "The cancer I am treating you for is not detected." Months later, I did another test, and the cancer was not detected. God has given me another chance in life!



**"FREE FROM A TUMOR"**

Isabella was diagnosed with a bone tumor, seriously affecting her arm, which weakened and could break at any moment. She underwent nine hospitalizations and the use of strong medication.

In the face of this situation, Isabella's mother, Daiane, decided to act on her faith. While her daughter was undergoing medical treatment, she took part in the chain of prayer. Remarkably, Isabella's arm began to move. Shortly after, Isabella achieved what she had been looking for: the complete restoration of her health.

**HEALING WATERS**



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





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## THE GREATEST ALLY



Do you have any childhood memories of games you would play with your friends?

Did you have that friend who everyone wanted on their team? It was a no-brainer whenever they were on your team; victory was sure! They were always the first chosen because if not, the other team would select them, and defeat would be inevitable.

In most team-related sports, there is always a star player—the one whom the coach always tells you to watch out for. They are the deciding factor between winning and losing a game, and all eyes are on them. Some even call that player the greatest ally! What an honor to have that team member by their side.

Can you imagine a team with so much confidence in a player who for sure has flaws and mistakes? Even so, because of their victory record, the team is confident in winning when they are on their side.

Can you imagine having the God of the Bible on your side?

**You are of God, little children, and have overcome them because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)**

God is greater than any star team member, and no battle of life will overtake you with Him on your side or, better yet, with Him inside you!

How can this be possible?

The answer is simple: when you eat from His Word daily.

If I asked you the last time you ate a meal, you would remember right off the bat. But what if I asked you the last time you fed on God's Word? Will we have a moment of silence?

As long as there is life, there is hope; God is your greatest ally, and His Word is the key that unites and equips you for all battles of life. Go ahead, clean the dust off your Bible, open and read it.

With Him being your greatest ally, victory is certain!

May the God of the Bible bless you.

August 2024 Bible Reading						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Judges 1 ✓	Judges 2 ✓	Judges 3 ✓
Judges 4 ✓	Judges 5 ✓	Judges 6 ✓	Judges 7 ✓	Judges 8 ✓	Judges 9 ✓	Judges 10 ✓
Judges 11 ✓	Judges 12 ✓	Judges 13 ✓	Judges 14 ✓	Judges 15 ✓	Judges 16 ✓	Judges 17 ✓
Judges 18 ✓	Judges 19 ✓	Judges 20 ✓	Judges 21 ✓	1 Timothy 1 ✓	1 Timothy 2	1 Timothy 3
1 Timothy 4	1 Timothy 5	1 Timothy 6	2 Timothy 1	2 Timothy 2	2 Timothy 3	2 Timothy 4

## THERE WAS A PACT BETWEEN MY MIND AND MY MOTHER'S THROUGH EVIL SPIRITS



young man, I started attending clubs and going out at night, but life still had no meaning. My mother, tired of suffering, went to the Universal Church in search of financial help, and she invited me to attend meetings, but at first, I refused.

My mother prayed and made the chains of prayers for me for two years. I finally

I had a troubled childhood and lived in a home cursed by physical and verbal abuse. As a result, I grew up with trauma and full of hatred for my father. He always said that my mother was a worthless and useless woman and that she was a burden in his life. He was always very aggressive and angry with everyone in my family. I always went to the house of witches with my mother, who made a pact to connect with me through evil spirits, even before I was born. There was a pact between my mind and my mother's. We knew everything about each other, even when we were far apart. We had an intuition of future events, and we united when we were threatened. The power of death flowed strongly in our blood.

As I grew up, I began to have an increasingly troubled life. At the age of 11, I started smoking cigarettes. I also began to smoke a pipe constantly, in addition to cigars. I was unhappy and hopeless in every way. I grew up bottled up and afraid of everything.

My traumas and complexes only increased during my teenage years. I was a good student, but my classmates always made fun of me.

My parents separated when I was 14, and since I did not like my father, I didn't want to know about him anymore. As a

decided to go to the Universal Church with her. At first, I just wanted to make the chain of prayer for my financial life. After a month and a half, I had already heard about Salvation and hell. I lived an internal dilemma for about five months until I surrendered myself to the Lord Jesus.

By attending the deliverance meetings, I gave up everything I practiced in the house of the devil. The first change I experienced was inner peace. By putting into practice everything I learned in the meetings and obeying God's Word, I was set free from evil spirits that tormented me and from the pact made between me and my mother.

The deliverance made all the difference in my life, as I forgave my father and freed myself from my addictions. With my life transformed, I began to dedicate myself more and more to faith and God.

Today, I am married, have a blessed family, am a lawyer, and have a prosperous life.

Jefferson

### DELIVERANCE

Are you going through spiritual problems? Learn how to free yourself from them by attending the Deliverance Meeting at the Universal Church every Friday. Find a Universal Church near you to participate.



# What's happening at the Universal Church

## "A voice told me to kill my son"



The symptoms of schizophrenia and depression were all there. Fernanda's condition was so severe that they worried for her physical well-being and that of those closest to her. It all started when Fernanda began to neglect her daily hygiene and diet, but there were clear signs that it was not just a case of deep sadness or lack of motivation.

"I suffered from schizophrenia, but, in addition to that, I also suffered from postpartum depression that became severe. It was right after my son was born that I started to have thoughts of ending his life. On several occasions, I had to run away from home because the thoughts were so strong that I was afraid of myself and of what I could do."

### TOTAL LACK OF CONTROL

"On one occasion, I was in the kitchen preparing dinner, and all of a sudden, I found myself in my son's room with a knife in my hand, ready to kill him. I don't even remember leaving the kitchen and getting to the room. It was one of the symptoms of schizophrenia. Sometimes, I would find myself in places without knowing how I had gotten there. I would walk around like a madwoman, from one place to the other, with no destination or goal."

### SEEING AND HEARING THINGS

"The thoughts were very strong, as was the voice that told me, 'Take a knife and kill your child!' I fought against myself because I didn't want to do it, but the voices were getting stronger and stronger, and I wasn't aware of what I was doing. I got to the point where I sought psychiatric

help and asked a sister to keep me company because I was afraid to take care of the baby. In addition to the voices I heard, I also felt a strange dark presence around me."

### THE MEDICATION

"On top of all this, I took about ten pills a day because I couldn't sleep. I would even clean the house at night. The medication was so strong, but it had the opposite effect; I would sleep during the day and stay awake at night. The medication alleviated my symptoms a little, but it didn't solve the problem because the thoughts were still there. The psychiatrist said that if the medication didn't work, I would have to be hospitalized because my thoughts were so serious. My self-esteem disappeared, and I spent my days crying. My husband no longer recognized me because I was no longer the Fernanda he knew. I was cheerful, playful, and had good self-esteem. Our marriage was on the rocks. Our son also had many health problems, such as shortness of breath, which often caused him to go to the hospital."

### THE INVITATION

"My mother had attended the Universal Church and invited me many times, but I always rejected the invitation. I had suffered from depression for many years, but there came a day when I hit rock bottom. I told my mother I had nothing to lose and agreed to go with her.

I was very well received; they gave me advice and helped me. I cried during the entire service. However, that day, when I went home, I felt an inner peace that I hadn't felt for a long time, and that night, I slept the whole night without any pills. I felt so good and happy that I decided to go back! I did the chain of prayer for my deliverance on Fridays. I understood the root of my problems was spiritual. I even started going on Wednesdays and Sundays and went through the deliverance process. After almost a month, I no longer had any symptoms. The medication was gradually reduced until I stopped taking it. Today, everything is fine. I am free, and the Holy Spirit controls my life!"

- Fernanda Fernandes

## "Thoughts of suicide began at age 6"



Despite having a normal life, with present parents and friends at school, and without lacking anything financially, Jacira suffered internally.

"Apparently, I had everything to be a happy child, and as a young adult, on the outside, my dreams and goals seemed set and achieved, but my reality was far from that as I suffered with thoughts of suicide. The thoughts of suicide did not come immediately; first came the guilt and then an uncontrolled hatred against the whole world and God. In my head, I blamed God for not protecting me from the men who molested me in my childhood."

"The abuse took place when I was between 6 and 12, but I didn't tell anyone about it; I never asked for help as I was ashamed and afraid. I started to hate men, including my father, hoping he would separate from my mother. Things got even worse in my adolescence, and I decided to run away from home. I got bad grades at school and even made advances on my teachers. I was hurt and confused. During that time, I wrote a letter saying goodbye to my family. I made a list of the quickest ways to die, but the one that came to mind the most was throwing myself out of my bedroom window. I tried to do it twice, but on one of these attempts, someone came along, and on the other, I ended up being too afraid at the time.

It was terrible because I also heard many voices. Voices that told me that I was nothing and that no one cared for me. I even saw myself as ugly despite participating in many beauty contests and being popular at school."

### FORGIVENESS

"One day, I was invited to an event held by the youth group of the Universal Church, the YPG. I heard the testimonies of young people who had gone through the same thing I had, who no longer hated their aggressors, who were not dependent on medication, and who were active in projects, using their intelligence and testimony to help others. I saw a way out of the hatred that was in-

side me! I continued to come to the church. I participated in the youth programs and chains of prayers for deliverance. The suicidal thoughts and voices disappeared. I managed to overcome all the bad feelings and forgave my aggressors, but above all, I forgave myself. I began to see myself as a young woman with the option to choose and who knows how to distinguish the past (I had no control over) from a future I can now shape.

Today, I am a happy and fulfilled young adult. I love my father, and I plan to get married in the future. I have the privilege of serving God and now can help other young people."

-Jacira Lopes

### Friday of Deliverance

There is a root to every problem. No issue can be dealt with permanently without first removing its root. What has been the root of your problems? If you have tried all that you can physically try to solve your problem but to no avail, then the root of your problem may be spiritual. Join us on Fridays at a Universal Church near you, where you will receive guidance and strong prayers for deliverance from the problems you are facing. Come and learn how to cut off the roots to experience complete freedom. Let us help you live a more positive and fulfilled life.



Spiritual problems are much bigger and more serious than we usually imagine. Although some believe this type of problem can only affect the psychological aspect, this is far from the truth.

Thus, those who think problems should be seen in isolation are mistaken. On the contrary, each person's body, mind, and soul need special attention because what affects one of these areas also affects another.

Let's analyze a person who has been seeking a cure for a chronic illness for a long time, for example. After years of suffering, despair sets in, and the illness, which was previously only physical, begins to affect the psychological aspect as well. In this state, self-esteem, hope, and willpower are soon lost. The problem is ingrained in the soul. For this reason, the Universal Church's Friday meetings are dedicated to freeing people from these evil spirits that manifest themselves in the most diverse ways. Spiritual problems can be depression, addictions, illnesses that doctors cannot discover

the cause of, and insomnia, among others. When spiritual issues are intensified by a lack of faith, they can hinder the establishment of a satisfactory social or professional life and lead to material and emotional losses. Addressing the root cause of these symptoms is crucial. In this sense, the universal deliverance meetings are based on biblical teachings and encourage people to persevere, have courage, and be determined to achieve inner peace and freedom.

During the three Friday deliverance services, you will have the opportunity to receive the Holy Cross along with the three holy elements: water, oil, and grape juice. We call these Fridays The Day of Agreement. It is based on 1 John 5:7-8: "And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit (oil), the water, and the blood (grape juice); and these three agree as one." This Chain of Prayer will lead to total deliverance. Please refer to the back page for locations to learn more and find a Universal Church closest to you.

## "I felt the pain of abandonment and rejection."

Edjânia Barros went through many challenges during her childhood. Raised away from her parents, she often felt helpless and vulnerable to the wickedness of others. "I felt the pain of abandonment and rejection and had many bad feelings, mainly directed at my parents," she recalls. These internal conflicts became even stronger after an episode of abuse. "I blamed them because I thought that if they were with me, it wouldn't have happened, and it fueled a resentment that I tried to suppress over time," she says.



The destructive feelings remained hidden in her heart despite her efforts to put the past behind her. Edjânia grew up, reunited with her parents, and tried to recover what she thought she had lost in her childhood. Until, at a certain point, that pain that seemed to have been overcome came back even stronger and led her to experience depression.

"As an adult, I started living with my mother, and one day, she decided to move out suddenly. Since it wasn't something I expected, since there was no fight or anything like that, it was as if I was going through the same thing I had experienced in my childhood. I started to feel abandoned again. I started to focus on this feeling that created an emptiness inside me, a great inner pain," she recalls.

She remained in this condition for two years, which gradually worsened due to external events. "I became unemployed, had some disappointments in my love life, had an accident, and broke my foot. At that time, I felt even more alone because my mother didn't come to my house, so, without realizing it, I used this lack of support to feed the emptiness inside me," she says. Since it was no longer possible to hide this feeling of loss, Edjânia sought to fill it in

different ways, as she says: "I tried to keep myself busy, with studies and work, but nothing fulfilled me." She points out that even her physical health was affected. "I felt a lot of pain in my body. I felt so sick that I had to go to the hospital, and every time, it was the same thing: the doctor prescribed me medication for anxiety and tranquilizers."

**I felt a lot of pain in my body, I felt so sick that I had to go to the hospital, and every time it was the same thing: the doctor prescribed me medication for anxiety and tranquilizers."**

All this internal suffering ended when Edjânia came to the Universal Church. "When I attended the meeting, I understood it was a spiritual issue, not physical. After all, I went to the doctors, and they never

found anything. And, with this awareness, I began to change my attitude towards God, which brought me positive results," she comments.

By participating in the Friday meetings, she was led to reflect on what was occupying her heart. She says that this was one of the most challenging moments of her life: "I had to admit to myself that I was resentful towards my mother and father, and I had to give up my pride, which was essential for me to be able to forgive them. I needed to resolve things with God and then with myself because, if I hadn't done that, I would never have been able to resolve things with anyone," she declares.

**FRIDAY OF AGREEMENT**

**"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."**  
1 John 5:7

**You will receive free of charge the Holy Cross with three Blessed elements for your total Deliverance.**

**"And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one."**  
1 John 5:8

**Friday at 7 PM**  
Also 7 AM. 10 AM. 4 PM



Forgiveness came along with important decisions, such as baptism in water and receiving the Holy Spirit. "When I resolved this issue within myself, that emptiness ended, and things started happening on the outside as well. Today, I no longer have physical

pain or emotional problems. I have a good relationship with my parents, my professional life is taking off, and everything is going well. I realize that the sadness inside me was due to the lack of God and not my parents. Today, I am complete," she concludes.

## "I heard voices telling me that I was crazy."

Leonice Rios says she had a difficult childhood due to her father's alcohol addiction. "My brothers and I grew up seeing an aggressive father, and we became nervous and angry. There were many family problems, in addition to the complicated financial situation," she says.



She attended many parties with her parents and, despite seeing the suffering caused by alcohol addiction, she started drinking and smoking at the age of 13. In an attempt to change her reality, Leonice got married at the age of 18. "I was married for five years and had twin daughters in that relationship. We both drank a lot, and the divorce came after an infidelity. After the separation, I went through one of the worst phases of my life. I sank into sadness and a depression that seemed to have no end," she says.

Fridays at the Universal Church. She reveals that she left the meeting feeling light and, therefore, attended the Universal Church for a while until she freed herself from her depression. Since life seemed to have returned to normal, she left the church.

As she started going to parties again, Leonice began to drink again and depended on medication for everything. She says she also started using illicit drugs in search of stronger sensations. "Ten years passed, and I continued with an empty life, with drinking, parties, and relationships," she recalls.

**I went about 30 days without taking a shower or leaving the house," she says.**

Unable to take care of her daughters or work because of her depression, Leonice and the children went to live with her mother. She explains that she knocked on different doors in search of a solution and tried some medical treatments but with no results. She also had several electrocardiograms to find out what was making her heart race, but she could not find the problem. Finally, she says that she looked for "homes for help," but her torment increased. "I underwent treatment with psychologists and psychiatrists and took medication to sleep and to wake up. I couldn't sleep at night, I couldn't look at myself in the mirror, and I heard voices telling me that I was crazy. I went about 30 days without taking a shower or leaving the house," she says.

When she thought she had tried everything to change her life, Leonice received an invitation from an unknown person to participate in a deliverance meeting held on

The new chance to change her life came from someone close to her. "As my daughters grew up, one of them started attending the Universal Church and invited me. I remembered the help I had received in the past and accepted," she says.

It was in 2017 that Leonice returned to the Universal Church and firmly joined the deliverance meetings. "I was freed from the spirit of addiction and medication. I had an experience with God when I gave my life to Him, was baptized in water, and received the Holy Spirit. In this way, all the emptiness I had carried for years ended. Today, I am happy and complete, and I don't need alcohol, antidepressants, or stronger doses because I have the peace and joy that only the Presence of God can give," concludes Leonice.

# 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!*

### “I met the God of the Bible in Prison.”

My name is Luiz Ricardo, I am 33 years old, and I am an ex-inmate.

From a very young age, my childhood was marked by a lot of suffering. My father was an alcoholic; he would come drunk many nights and start a fight with my mom and beat her.

With all these fights happening, my mom separated from my father, but my siblings and I were very young. My mom became both mother and father of five children, and at the age of 13, I was already smoking, and by the age of 15, I was heavily addicted to drugs.

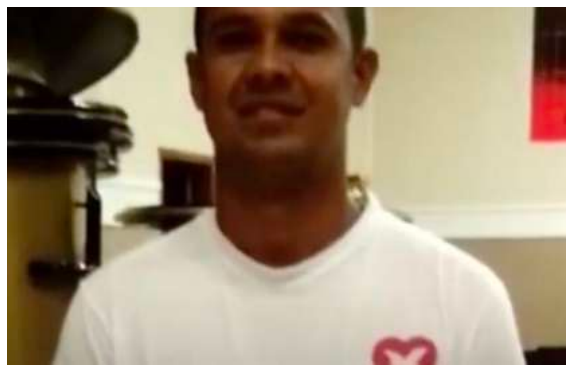


“

I was addicted to drinking, cocaine, and marijuana. Then, I got involved in drug trafficking. I was on the police radar constantly, and when they finally caught me, that was a day of shame; I was ashamed of myself, my family was ashamed of me, and the sentencing I received was 23 years.

I was addicted to drinking, cocaine, and marijuana. Then, I got involved in drug trafficking. I was on the police radar constantly, and when they finally caught me, that was a day of shame; I was ashamed of myself, my family was ashamed of me, and the sentencing

I received was 23 years. There had been a great



fight that broke out one day. I went to seg, and the UBB had been coming to the prison, and one of the pastors of the UBB came to me and gave me a Bible, which was everything I had. I began to read the word; the Bible was everything to me. I came to the understanding that God loved me. I read a word:

**“Come to me all of you who are weary, and I will give you rest.”** At that moment, I realized God was waiting for me, and I went down on my knees right there.

I was sincere; I told God everything that was within me; I told him: “I have nothing; I am no one; my father, I lost everything; I was sentenced to 23 years, but God, if You change this situation, I will surrender my soul to You because I cannot take the suffering anymore.”

I did not have any more grudges, anger, or depression immediately after I made that prayer. I had no more anguish;



I only felt free; I had peace. The first thing I did was to be locked into the work of the UBB; I obeyed everything the pastor preached immediately. I was baptized in water and was baptized with the Holy Spirit in the bathroom cell.

At that moment, I had joy and strength; when I received the Holy Spirit, I was at peace, though I would have to spend long years in prison. From a 23-year sentence, they reduced it to 15 years; I only have four years left out of



this sentence. But I wasn't saddened; I started evangelizing the other inmates in prison and spreading the gospel. My mom visited me in prison and said, “Son, you look very different; you have a light shining on your face.” I told her I had received the Holy Spirit.

Inside the prison, I was no longer worried about leaving; I told God if it were for me to leave prison and go back to the wrong life, I would instead not leave. I was set free, and the first thing I did was go to the church to thank God. God took me from rock bottom, a life of addictions and prison; all I can do is give God thanks for what He has done in my life.

***I thank the Holy Spirit that I went to prison, many don't understand this but if I was not incarcerated I would never know Him.***

### “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





# Do not DOUBT the POWER of your PRAYER!

Let's learn something very important from the story of "Simon the Sorcerer." We said that he lived in Samaria, where he was well-regarded by the people who were far from God. Check out the previous message here.

Simon saw the difference between what he did and what Philip, preaching the Gospel in Samaria, did. After that, Peter and John, the apostles, came down from Jerusalem to Samaria so that the people may receive the Holy Spirit.

Simon supposedly also "believed," but it was with a "faith of demons" (read more about it here), the faith that knows the truth and does not practice. Simon wanted for himself that same fame, power, and renown.

Thus, he could continue to be and have what he brought up until that moment in Samaria: social prestige. It reminds me of those looking for a church that accepts their lifestyle. There, they are not challenged to change.



However, Peter and John reprimanded Simon. He wanted to buy what came from God, and the apostles told him what he needed to do to escape that spiritual condition.

Peter's advice was that Simon should regret thinking about what he was talking about because it showed how much he was lost and far from God.

"Then Simon answered and said, 'Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me' (Acts 8:24). In other words, Simon has already disobeyed what the Holy Spirit,

through the apostles, commanded him to do, which was to pray for himself. There is nothing wrong with receiving prayer from others; do not get me wrong.

Many make it a bad habit to be dependent only on the prayers of others.

The phrase "pray for me" implies the belief that God does not hear you (which is a lie because He hears you) and spiritual laziness (outsourcing your faith, throwing one's spiritual responsibility on someone).

Simon was spiritually deaf. He wanted to throw his problem at Peter.

***Do not put your salvation, eternity, or life in the hands of another human being. You can access God through the Name of the Lord Jesus, which is available for you to cry out.***

Perhaps you don't deserve it, but by the Name of Jesus, you have access to God; There is power in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Be humble, and do not outsource your faith. Get rid of gurus and spiritual guides. God wants you to have a personal relationship with Him. He gave His Son. He paid a high price for it. Don't give this to anyone.



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**OVERCOMING DEPRESSION**  
 2pm with Pastor Edwin

**BREAKING THE SILENCE | 3pm**

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

**JOSEPH OF EGYPT | 5pm**

**GENESIS | 7pm**

**KINGS THE SERIES | 9pm**

**LET THERE BE LIGHT | 12am**



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# WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN FACING A CHALLENGE?

REGARDING FINANCIAL OR PROFESSIONAL ISSUES, PROBLEMS OFTEN DISRUPT OUR PEACE.



## TRUST

**L**uis Felipe, a 26-year-old E-commerce analyst, has been attending The Universal Church for the past two years. After graduating with a marketing degree in 2017 and landing a job in the field, Luis faced a setback in 2019 when he lost his job and struggled to find new opportunities. He decided to start selling chocolates on the streets. “I invested \$10 in a box of chocolates, and by the end of the day, I’d sold everything,” he says.

Even though he had a good start, Luis knew that selling chocolates wasn’t his ultimate goal. He wanted to succeed in his marketing career. Still, he found a creative twist: his chocolates had motivational messages that attracted buyers. This unique touch made his chocolates famous; even a local newspaper covered his story.

Instead of letting his situation bring him down, Luis saw it as an opportunity. He stayed determined and focused with the lessons he learned at the “Strong Nation” conference. He sold chocolates for a month, trusting God to help him find a new job. Soon enough, he landed a new position in his field and achieved his career goals.

“I’m considering returning to selling chocolates alongside my current job because it was quite profitable. It was a challenge at first since it was new to me, but I got the results I wanted because I put my faith in God and trusted in God,” Luis says.

Like Luis, many people face challenges with faith and trust in God. When people face problems like unemployment or serious financial issues, they often struggle to find a solution and rely on others. However, those who use their faith wisely and take intelligent actions can see real change. “Change comes to those who trust in God. When you have faith and turn to Him, He can make His promises come true in your life.

So, if you’re dealing with challenging financial situations—like losing your job, feeling unrecognized at work, thinking starting a business is impossible, or

feeling lost—know that things can change. The key is trusting in God and following His guidance. If you do this, you may see your life transform like Luis Felipe’s.

Start with a new approach: Every Monday, at any Universal Church near you. Join the Strong Nation conference on prosperity, which offers professional and financial success teachings. Don’t miss out.



## TIPS FOR MANAGING PERSONAL FINANCE

Have daily financial records.

Prepare a monthly budget.

Prioritize needs over wants.

Avoid debt for consumptive needs.

Provide funds for insurance.

Provide an emergency fund.

Provide savings for a frugal lifestyle.

Invest in legal instruments.







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