

# UNIVERSAL NEWS



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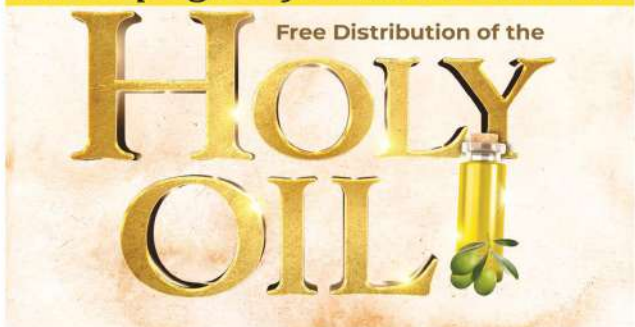


## FAMILIES UNDER ATTACK

*Family is society's foundation, but when it's affected by addictions, separation, hatred and lack of values, it affects all areas of people's lives. Would you like to take your family back?*



Read page 5 for more details



*"Our life became hell, we had no money, two daughters to support and our marriage was in ruins."*

(Read their story on page 6 for more details)



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**NOT TO BE SOLD**

## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Families under attack

Solid and healthy family units form the foundation of society. But when the family unit is affected by addictions, separation, illnesses, financial problems, and a lack of values, it can lead to family dysfunction, affecting even future generations. Issues within a family affect all its members.

Maybe your family has experienced this. The thought of your family getting along without the worry of financial stress, health issues, or addictions sounds more like a distant dream than a reality. But did you know that God created the family itself, and He desires to see families that are fulfilled, happy, and together?

If you've always longed for peace in your marriage or a closer bond with your children, you're invited to a transformative chain of prayers for the family at a Universal Church near you. Love Therapy is a meeting dedicated to blessing you and your family and ushering in the fullness of God in your home. Join us on Thursdays at 10 am, 4 pm, and especially 7:30 pm.

## | 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**



### What is your choice?



**The life of each family depended on their obedience to this commandment...**

The condition set by the Lord to save the Hebrews from the angel of death in Egypt was unconditional obedience. They had to sacrifice a lamb and spread its blood on the doorposts and lintel, roast the meat on a fire, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

"And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover." Exodus 12.11.

The life of each family depended on their obedience to this commandment, nothing else.

Obedience: life; Disobedience: death. The same conditions apply to receiving the Holy Spirit. Those who want to receive Him must first give up

their sinful ways. After demonstrating this faith effort, they will receive a visit from the Lord Jesus, who will baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

"Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live..." Ezekiel 37.13-14. Jesus has already opened the graves. Those who are buried in sin must leave it behind and run away quickly! While on their way, they will find the Lord Jesus.

Do your part, and then the LORD will do His. Obedience to the Word of God means deliverance from the angel of death and the receiving of the angel of life. What is your choice?



### A love that was reborn from the ashes...

Alcohol, tobacco, night outs, and pornography. It was the repertoire of Wilfried's life, who, with his wife Emmanuelle, built a marriage based on lies and infidelity.

When Wilfried and Emmanuelle started dating, he was 16, and she was 15. "Within five years of our relationship, there was no trust between us anymore; due to the many lies and infidelities, there was no prospect for the future," says Emmanuelle.

Wilfried had already known

the Universal Church in the past, in his childhood, through his mother, but he did not stray away from God as he got older. His attitude led him to a life of school failures and even to an alcoholic coma, motivated by the addiction he developed to alcohol and being in a constant state of drunkenness. Emmanuelle, on the other hand, lived with the trauma of her parent's divorce and the fact that she had not had any contact with her father for many years.

#### RECONCILIATION

Recognition of the importance of surrendering one's life to God, reconciling with Him, and submitting to biblical guidelines led Wilfried to return to the Universal Church. Through his faith, he abandoned all addictions and became a responsible

man. This change in Wilfried made Emmanuelle attend a service for the first time.

"I decided to go to the Universal Church after observing the change in my husband. As a result, I was freed from the sadness I carried inside me, and I was able to build a relationship with whom I am currently on good terms", she declares.

#### FRUIT OF BELIEVING.

"The trust between us has been completely restored, and today, we are happily married and share the same belief. We wanted to have a child at a certain point, but we couldn't. But we never gave up and, through participation in the chain of prayers, our son was born, very healthy and naturally conceived, against all expectations."

# HEALING WATERS



RECEIVE THE HEALING  
WATERS THIS SUNDAY  
at your nearest  
Universal Church



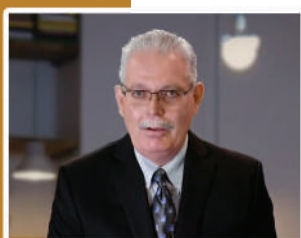
## “FREE FROM DEPRESSION, PTSD, ANXIETY, AND BIPOLAR DISORDER.”

When I was 13 years old, I was diagnosed with depression, PTSD, anxiety, and bipolar disorder. I was in therapy and taking medications for all these years. I couldn't travel; it was hard raising my children. I had to take a lot of pills twice a day. During the prayer chain, I started drinking the Divine water every morning in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

. Eventually, I was fine. I have no more anxiety, PTSD, or panic attacks. I don't take the medications anymore. Today, we have peace in the house.

– Susan

## “FREE FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, ARTHRITIS, AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.”



I used to watch many different church programs, but I didn't get any real help. I was suffering from anxiety, arthritis, high blood pressure, and back issues, among others. I came to this ministry after watching the Showdown of Faith on TV. My faith wasn't strong at first. As I came faithfully, I drank the Divine water in faith. I was praying and using the water daily; I've seen a significant

Now I can eat better because I have lost 30 pounds. My blood pressure is normal, and I sleep well. –Mark



## “HEALED FROM A RARE DISEASE.”

An unknown disease took over my body, making my belly grow mysteriously, causing unbearable pain, and taking away my

appetite. After five days of hospitalization and many tests, I was finally diagnosed with peritoneal tuberculosis, a difficult time in my life.

The battle for my health was arduous; each day seemed endless, but I found an unshakable strength in my faith, and the miracle happened: my health was completely restored. Today, I am an example of overcoming and living proof that the time for miracles is over. –Rosileide



## “I WAS IN A COMA FOR OVER TWO MONTHS”

I had a terrible accident at work; I fell from a ladder. One of my legs got injured due to the accident, and the doctors suggested amputating it because of my problems and pains. I was in a coma for two and a half months. I could not walk or do everyday things when I came out of the coma.

Right after being discharged, I found this ministry where I learned to use my faith; I drank the Blessed Water every Sunday. Now, I can walk and stand with no pain. –Tyrone



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## OUR TEARS INTO HIS BOTTLE



In burial ceremonies or funerals, we have seen a lot of people crying and screaming. There are many cases where a family member tries to jump into the grave together due to so much love they had and how they will miss that person.

Because of the loss of that family member, no words can comfort or make that person feel better. One may speak a thousand words, sing songs, etc., but nothing will be enough to take those tears away.

Perhaps you are not crying on the outside, but inside, your soul is crying. You feel depressed, sad, frustrated, you feel hopeless, and you do not know what to do to help yourself.

The Bible says:

*“You number my wanderings, put my tears into Your bottle”  
(Psalm 56:8)*

God will collect our tears into His bottle, which means He does not like and does not want to see your soul crying.

That’s why He gives us the opportunity to come to Him, decide now to go to a Universal Church near you, and surrender to Jesus. He will not only dry your physical tears and the tears of your soul, but He will replace them with joy.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

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

## “I HATED EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY MY MOTHER”



I found the Universal Church while my children were still young, and they grew up learning about the importance of God’s Presence. However, as a teenager, my daughter Flavia began to listen more to her friends. Until she was 15, she was just like any other young woman, and then, she started smoking cigarettes. Before I knew it, she was already using marijuana, hoo-kah, ecstasy, and alcohol.

Coming across the presence of drugs in the house was like seeing the dream of a united family go down the drain. The ground was shaken from under my feet. Flavia, a well-behaved child, began to distance herself and spent more time outside the house than inside. She disobeyed me and made me worried.

That was when I decided to fight for her. When she would go out and come home drunk or under the influence of drugs, we were afraid because she was very aggressive and made a series of threats. My husband and I slept with the bedroom door locked.

Flavia remembers her feelings: “I hated everyone, especially my mother, and I didn’t want to be around her, so much so that I left home and went to the countryside. I spent three years without giving any news to my family because I wanted to distance myself from them.”

In addition to her addictions, Flavia discovered that she had lupus, a chronic inflammatory disease of autoimmune origin (which occurs when the body itself attacks the organs and tissues). The disease affected both kidneys, and she had to undergo hemodialysis. But because of her addiction, she was not following the treatment properly nor taking her medication, to the point where her organs were no longer functional, and she was on the waiting list for a transplant.

In human eyes, Flavia’s change was impossible; after all, not even the risk of losing her life made her give up the addictions. “Even so, I placed all my

trust in God. On the other hand, I also needed to change. I didn’t understand that there was a spirit behind all our suffering, but when I understood that, I stopped fighting Flavia and started fighting the spirit of addiction and helping her.”

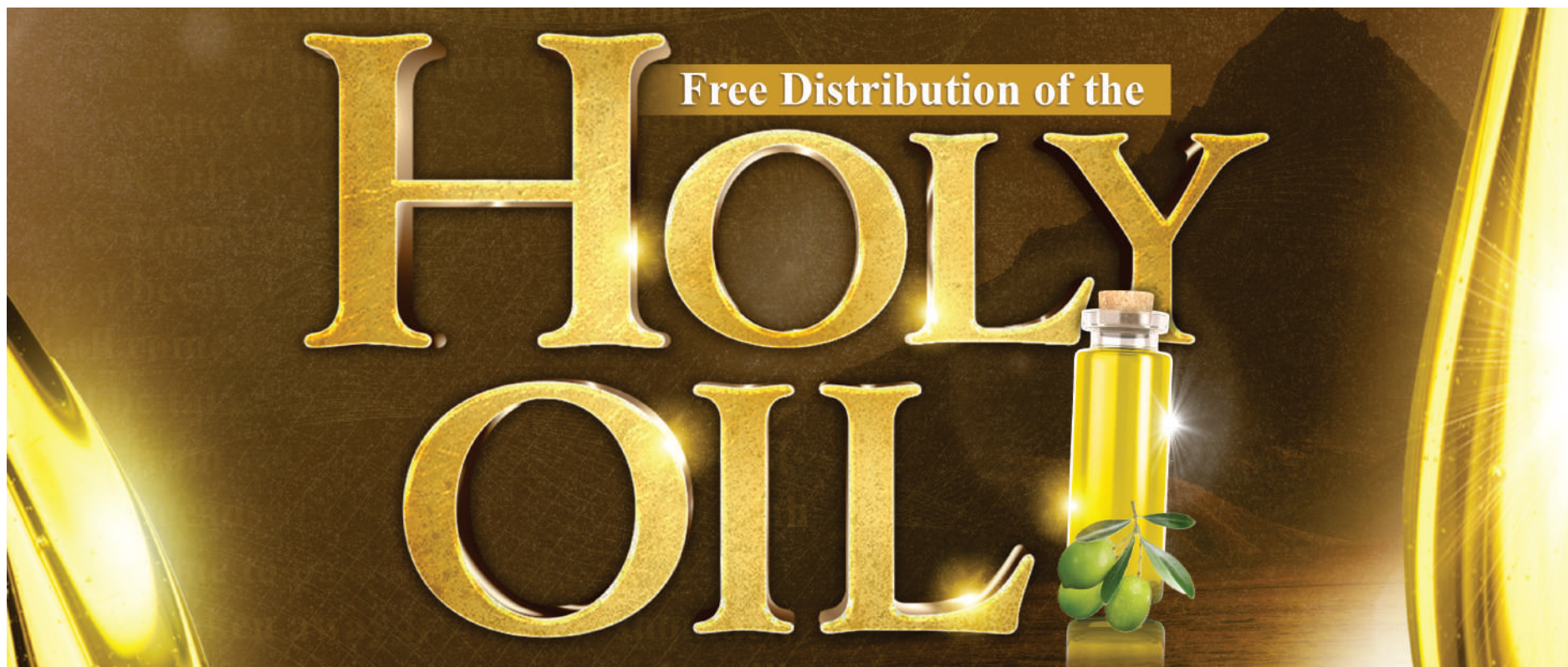
In all, it took seven years of perseverance in God’s promises until Flavia understood that there was no other way. “I started attending meetings and was freed from my addictions, from all my bad feelings, from my nervousness, and from everything I did wrong,” says Flavia. Her mother confirmed her change today: “We couldn’t be together before, but now we work together. She has a completely different behavior, and in addition to being cured of her addictions, she is cured of lupus, her kidneys are working again, and she is healthy. God made everything complete.”

The family, who previously lived in fear and destruction, now has peace. “When I understood that the problem was spiritual, I saw it was a matter of life or death. I fought with all my strength, put God above all, and trusted in Him,” says Deuzimar.

A happy and structured family has been a dream for many people living with the negative impacts of society’s problems. For example, arguments, fights, and aggression do not solve a problem inside a person. It is because, while human strength is limited, God’s power is supernatural and can turn lost cases into new lives.

Do you want to see changes in your family? You have to plant and do your part. Every Sunday, prayers are made for the family at all the branches of the Universal Church. It is a moment for you to pour out your pains, complaints, and fears so that God can come and take care of your family. Get ready to do something different for your home and achieve different results.

# What's happening at the Universal Church



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 10 AM - THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

## Great Distribution of Anointed Oil

### Holy Oil: The Divine Instrument

Every year, consecrated oil is distributed to the people for anointing. In biblical times, oil (or olive oil) was commonly used in spiritual events. For example, oil was used to keep the menorah lit in the Tabernacle built by Moses. This element could never be missing from the sacred object so that the flame would always be lit: a reference to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Later, the disciples of the Lord Jesus used oil to promote the use of faith among people, as the apostle James writes:

**“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord”** (James 5:14-15). Another reference in Mark 6:12-13 is:

**“And they went out and preached that people repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.”**

In another biblical passage, in the book of **2 Kings 4.1-7**, we saw that the oil brought prosperity to a widow in debt, who paid her debts and used the rest of the oil to care for her family. The presence of God Just as it happened in biblical times, it happens today in the lives of those who believe.

Now, with this element in hand, everyone can manifest faith to determine healing, deliverance, and protection.

Why is oil a Divine instrument to bless people?

The Bible teaches us that oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Many people have lost faith because they lost communion with the Holy Spirit. Oil reminds us of this

faith, the flame that continues to burn.

Don't miss out

Go to one of the Universal Church meetings on September 15th at 10 AM (also 7 AM, 3 PM, 6 PM), and receive a bottle of the Anointing Oil free of charge. Please invite family and friends to this meeting.

Free Distribution of the

# HOLY OIL





The doctor told me I had full Liver damage. I used the Holy Oil on my body every day and prayed for my healing. Today my liver is totally healed!

**Marjorie**



I had non-stop pain in my spine after I was given an epidural shot. I slept, walked, & worked in pain. I received the Holy Oil and used it on my back. Today I don't feel any pain.

**Annette**

Mark the problem(s) you have with an "x"

<input type="checkbox"/> Depression	<input type="checkbox"/> Sugar Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> Alzheimer
<input type="checkbox"/> Kidney Disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Cirrhosis of the liver	<input type="checkbox"/> Addiction
<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Anxiety	<input type="checkbox"/> Sciatic Nerve Pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Dementia
<input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Insomnia
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fear of the dark	<input type="checkbox"/> Addiction
	<input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal Thoughts	<input type="checkbox"/> Stroke
	<input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> COPD



**Call & Reserve your Free Bottle**  
**1.888.332-4141**  
(One per person)

**The Universal Church is a judgment-free zone. You will be welcomed, no matter your beliefs or religion. Come as you are!**



#### God's project

The family is a project of God: God is Family. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He designed the human race to live in a family. Human beings can even live alone, but they will be unhappy because they stray from the standard established by the Lord. In the Family of God, there is no mother figure; He is self-existent, but in the human family, the woman completes the man. As it is a Divine project, family life is essential even for society, but it has been under attack.

This family structure would be the basis of all development on the face of the Earth. All the achievements of one would be those of the other. The earthly family was designed to reflect the Family of God, but the Divine project as a whole was corrupted. God has sought to restore families according to His project, and people to form families that exude the fragrance of the Family of God in this world. What to do? We repeatedly hear that we cannot control or change people, and it can be a heartbreaking realization to accept. When we see someone we love, have grown up with, or a family member who may be far, going through a problem that seems to have no solution, all we want to do is solve their difficulty, take on their pain or shake them up and make them change. However, we have no control over the human heart, let alone what happens outside our bodies.

How should we handle situations that are out of our control? How do we deal with them, especially when it involves a loved one that we desperately want to see in a different light? Why not fight against the situation with spiritual weapons, with faith? If you have a family member who doesn't attend church and who is struggling with addictions, has chosen the wrong path in life, or is sick, go to the nearest Universal Church this Sunday to pray for your family. We cannot change anyone, but God can, which is why there is no such thing as a lost case with Him. See the back page for locations.

## FAMILIES UNDER ATTACK

The life of Francislaine Gonçalves Oliveira, 45, is a story of overcoming obstacles that began with a painful childhood. Although her parents always dedicated themselves to the well-being of the family, they fought a lot, which impacted her view of relationships. "My father was a hard-working man, but unfortunately, he was an alcoholic, which resulted in difficult situations in our home, including domestic violence against my mother and constant conflict," she says. Francislaine entered the job market when she was 13 years old to seek independence and escape the constant conflicts at home. It was at this time that she met Jean Rodrigo de Oliveira with whom she developed a friendship that turned into a relationship.

Despite the differences in their lives, the couple had a good relationship at first. Jean, on the other hand, had a difficult adolescence due to the absence of his father, who abandoned the family. From an early age, he adopted harmful habits such as smoking and drinking, but he also learned from his mother the importance of work. "I was inspired by the example of my mother, who always dedicated herself intensely to work and family. So, when I met my wife, I committed to

always doing the best for her and, in the future, for our family," she says. The couple sealed their union in a church where they lived at the time. However, after the ceremony and the birth of their first daughter, the challenges increased.



"Jean was immature, wanted to live a single life, and didn't understand the responsibilities of marriage," says Francislaine. They worked a lot and Jean spent more and more time away from home because he worked in another city which contributed to the distance between them. In an attempt to solve the problem, the couple moved to that city. When they arrived there, Francislaine was already five months pregnant, expecting her second daughter. Jean opened an auto parts store, while Francislaine opened a baby clothes store and another for women's shoes.

"Although we were making progress financially, my husband spent more time with his colleagues and going to bars, which caused conflicts in our home," Francislaine explains. One morning, the couple was informed by the police that Jean's store was on fire. "Unfortunately, we lost everything

and the store was not insured. This left my husband deeply devastated." However, the worst was yet to come. The couple's oldest daughter became depressed and developed anorexia nervosa. The family sought medical help, but the situation seemed increasingly bleak. "Our life became hell, we had no money, two daughters to support and our marriage was in ruins," Francislaine recalls. During a desperate night, Francislaine discovered the Universal Church program while watching television. Inspired, she challenged her own beliefs and decided to go to church with her oldest daughter. "I attended the healing meetings in search of my daughter's recovery and I fought to save my marriage, practicing the teachings in Love Therapy.

Surprisingly, even my husband started to accompany me to church. He distanced himself from bars and negative influences. Our lives were

gradually transformed,” she explains. Jean and Francislaine got married at the Universal Church. “My marriage and my family were renewed at this Altar and I will never abandon it,” says Jean. “Our

family is blessed, we lack nothing and I am honored to dedicate my life to the Work of God,” concludes Francislaine.

## There was a lot of frustration and unhappiness in the family.

Rosimeire discovered the Universal Church when she was still young. The first time she went to a meeting, she was accompanying her sister, who was seeking a cure for a health problem. Her sister got better and the whole family started attending the church. A regular attendee of the meetings, Rosimeire met Fabiano de Carvalho. She tells us how the meeting went: “He and I were members of the youth power group, we dated and got married. That’s when I discovered that my faith was emotional. I discovered this because I only stayed in the church for a while before deciding to leave and I could have stayed, but I let myself get carried away. I was no longer obeying God as I should have. I started doing everything my way and was not faithful to Him.”

From then on, her life began to go downhill. She became a proud person and her husband, arrogant, because he thought he was self-sufficient. “There was great frustration, unhappiness, and insecurity within me,” she explains. In addition, there were also financial complications, especially because the couple had three children to raise.

“We depended on my mother and mother-in-law for help to eat. Sometimes they would give us money so we could go shopping or bring us food. We didn’t have any suitable clothes and my mother-in-law would buy them at thrift stores,” she says. The house where the family lived had leaks in the roof, because the ceilings were cracked, and it was infested with rats. They were forced to live amidst the feces of rodents and cats. For five years, the family lived like this and it gradually fell apart. Rosimeire, who was becoming more distressed every day, suffered greatly, but her husband’s situation was no better. This reality only changed when they realized that all these problems arose after they had turned away from God.



When Rosimeire and her family returned to the Universal Church, it was time for a purpose of faith. “My husband and I reached an agreement: we decided not to act according to our understanding, because doing so only brought us problems, so now we would obey the Word of God. I left the past behind and gave myself with all my strength, without reservations, alongside my husband, in the same faith. We maintained the confidence that God would change our situation,” she declares. They began attending meetings to learn more about faith and obedience, but soon after participating, things got worse:

**For five years, the family lived like this and it gradually fell apart. Rosimeire, who was becoming more distressed every day, suffered greatly, but her husband’s situation was no better.**

Fabiano lost his job, but this did not shake them, because they had faith that it was just a new path that was being opened for them to follow. Shortly after, Fabiano got a new job, which was better than the previous one.

The main change in the family’s life, however, was in the spiritual aspect. In place of anguish and sadness came peace and joy. Rejoicing in God, they today celebrate the happy family they built based on biblical teachings.

“Today, our lives have been transformed as a result of obedience and complete surrender on the Altar. I do not depend on my own decisions, but I am guided by the Holy Spirit, who always inspires and directs me. My family lives the fullness of God’s wonders,” she concludes.

## MAKE A CHAIN OF PRAYER IT WORKS!

A Chain of Prayer is when you attend a prayer meeting for a certain number of weeks without interruption in order to see a breakthrough in your life. Whether it is healing, a financial breakthrough or spiritual deliverance that you need, a Chain of Prayer helps you develop the faith and determination to overcome.

**Monday - Strong Nation  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**



Learn the secrets to overcome financially. Receive direction to grow and become a successful person.



**Tuesday - Prayer for healing  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**

Receive prayers for your physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

**Wednesday - Night of Salvation  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**



A meeting will be held for those who want to invest in a genuine relationship with God.



**Thursday - Family & Love Therapy  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**

The goal of the family meeting is to bring families together. No family is perfect, but they can be free from any hate, separation and other underlying issues.

**Friday - Deliverance  
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm**



There is a root to every problem. No issue can be dealt with permanently without removing its root. Every Friday, strong prayers is provided for anyone who is facing a problem that is influenced by negativity.



**Saturday - Impossible Cases  
8am & 12pm**

Have you ever looked at a problem or situation and thought, ‘this is impossible, there is no solution to this?’ If you want to see the ‘impossible become possible’, join us every Saturday.

**Sunday - Gathering of Faith & Miracles  
7am, 10am, 3pm & 6pm**



These meetings aim to help people connect with God, to empower people and teach them how to use their faith to achieve what they want in their lives.



## Universal Beyond Bars

*You are not Alone!*

### “From a 12yr Sentence, to a 30yr Sentence.”

**M**My name is Osvaldo. I'm 51 years old. Between the ages of 13-14, I got involved with drugs. I was using crack, cocaine, and heroin drugs that opened the door to destruction in my life.

I became a person who would steal and commit assaults and robberies. I found myself as an addict. But there was another side to the drugs. I realized I could also gain money from this, so I got into drug trafficking. Police were looking for me constantly; I got involved in a lot of craziness, one of them being a homicide.



The police came to my home and circled me in; I had nowhere to run to, and then I got arrested and went to prison. I remember that place being so dark, cold, and dangerous.



The only good thing there was getting to know the UBB. The volunteers there would try to

get close and talk to me so they could help me.

“

*They invited me to join the services, but I resisted for a while. But there was always a voice of guilt, “Oh, you killed someone, now you want to go to church? What will they think of you?” But I knew I was suffering.*

So, one day, I resolved that issue and went to UBB service, and I felt good. The pastor called for baptism for those who wanted to leave the old life behind.

I chose to get baptized right away in the prison. I got rid of the hidden cell phone I had; I told those who were on the street selling drugs to me to stop.

I didn't want anything to do with that life anymore. The night before, I remember, funny enough, having a dream so peaceful that it felt like I was in heaven.

The following Wednesday, they had the service of the Holy Spirit, and I gave my all, complete surrender; the room was full of inmates.



It was fantastic. The seeking was amazing; it was so strong. That day was like floating; I didn't remember that I was in jail and didn't care about where I was. It was me and God. I didn't care

about the sentencing I had for 30 years. I was in heaven. I had peace, joy, and power. I said, “My god, why didn't I know this life before?”

My thoughts changed; my words changed. I was freed from prison while in prison. I was another eight years after I received the Holy Spirit. I was so light and free! I started to serve God behind bars; during the time I was there, I experienced a process of strength, change, and growth.

I told God to let his will be done in me. When I was told I was going home, I felt sad because I knew I would no longer see those I was with; I would miss the guards, officers, etc. Because of my change, I became friends with everyone. But before I left, I prayed with the officials and the inmates; they accepted my prayer.

I felt worthy in that moment. I was once a murderer and criminal, but God showed me I was worthy through Him. It brings tears to my eyes, even when I think about where God took me from. Today, I am a business owner. I thank God for the UBB; through them, I found Him, and my life is completely transformed. If you asked me what my greatest dream is, I would say to make it to heaven.

There is no motivation here for me on this earth but to be in the arms of my Jesus.



### “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





# What problem is consuming your family?

Nowadays, the word 'family' carries no weight. Home is supposed to be a haven—a place of comfort and support. Still, home is a battleground for many because families are upside down or falling apart.

Imagine having to deal with a family problem while trying to hide it from your relatives due to the shame. Imagine having to sneak out to visit your son in prison without other family members finding out because you know that they will take it wrongly.

It is just one example that a mother recently shared; her son was in prison, and out of shame, she covered it up and would tell others that he was at work or with friends. At the same time, she was confused and had to deal with that situation alone. Perhaps you can relate.

What problem is consuming your family?

**Money:** Is the stress of debts and the pressure of bills causing fights?

**Prison:** Are incarcerated family members bringing shame and even anxiety to the family?

**Fights:** Perhaps your family members are constantly bickering over everything.

**Addictions:** Addiction is never a 'one person' problem; everybody is affected.

**Disease:** The pain of watching a loved one in pain can be unbearable.

Maybe these problems are taking a toll on you, and you feel desperate because you are losing your family one by one.

In the Gospel of Luke 7:13, Jesus said, "Do not weep". He was speaking to a woman who had lost her husband and then lost her son as well.

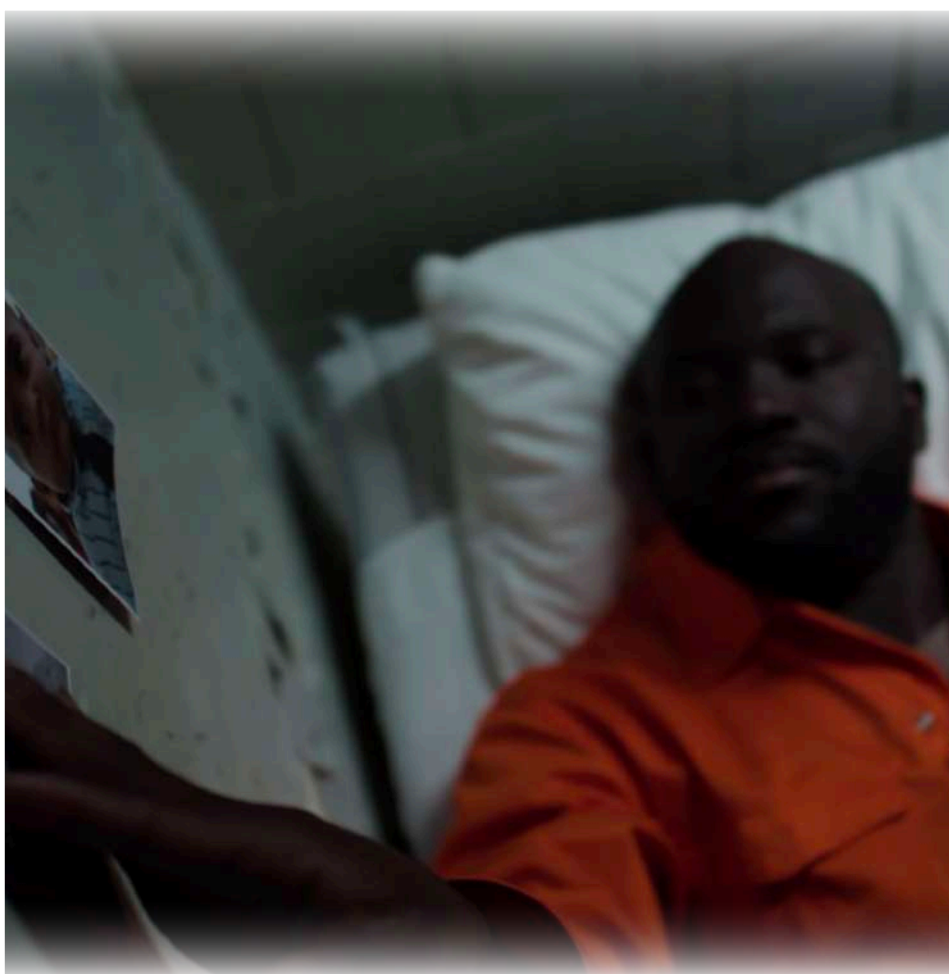
She had lost her entire family and was alone.


"Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." Luke 7:14

You see, Jesus told the lady to stop crying because He was giving her back her family. Maybe you, too, are crying every day because of your problems. Jesus also tells you to stop crying because He wants to bring a solution to you.


**He wants to restore your family. So, dry your tears, turn to God, tell Him about your family problems, and allow Him to make your family whole again.**

A family that prays together stays together.






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# FROM BEGGAR TO BUSINESSMAN



**H**e lost his father in adolescence, and his mother had to raise him and his eight brothers alone, with her only income coming from working in the fields.

At the age of 16, Silvano got a girl pregnant, and her parents wanted to force them to marry. When he refused, her father tried to kill him.

Her mother stopped him by saying: "don't kill him because what I have for him is much worse than death: he will become a beggar, he will eat garbage." Later, he got his first job at a restaurant. Silvano got promoted to be in charge of the place. Still, he reports: "I started getting involved with the wrong people,

drinking, and late-night partying. I would leave work and go party until, because of addictions, I got fired."

**Soon, due to his addiction, Silvano began to live on the streets. "I became a beggar and started eating garbage. It was the hardest time I ever went through," he recalls.**

One morning, he remembered the curse that that woman had placed on him. Silvano received an invitation to the Universal Church. "I already received help there and then because I felt light; I saw a new way to start my life because that weight had already left me. The pastor gave me the Word that is much more than a plate of food." Silvanus decided to live according to the Word of God. He abandoned addictions, and the mark of his change was when he received the Presence

of God. Sometime later, Silvano met his wife. Initially, they sold snacks door-to-door, but later they rented a small space. Today they have a pizzeria and a restaurant. "I was homeless, a nobody; I never imagined having what God has given me. The most precious possession I have is the Holy Spirit.

I always say in my prayers that with Jesus I can go back to the street, but without Him, I don't want to live in palaces", he concludes.

## Financial Tip

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