

# UNIVERSAL NEWS



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# STRONG PRAYERS WORK!

**A POWERFULL DELIVERANCE WORK**

**“I feared the future because of childhood traumas.”**

Read more about Andrea's story **Page 3**



**Page 2**  
**Bishop Edir Macedo**  
**Revolt**

Watch the new season at 9 PM ET

# KINGS

THE CONQUEST

**Miracles Exist**

*Free from a rare skin reaction*

**Page 3**



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**NOT TO BE SOLD**

## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Strong prayers: A powerful deliverance work

There are many different types of prayers—prayers of gratitude, healing, prosperity, protection, and more. The list of prayers we can offer is extensive. However, there is a type of prayer that many believers are unfamiliar with, yet it is one of the most powerful and effective when facing spiritual conflict: The Strong Prayer.

A Strong Prayer isn't one spoken with gentle words or a calm demeanor. Instead, it's a prayer made in revolt against the forces of evil at work in a person's life. This prayer is used to rebuke spiritual strongholds, counter attacks, and cast out the works of darkness. When combined with faith and the name of Jesus, this prayer forces evil spirits to fall back and retreat. Jesus Himself gave power and authority to His servants to heal and deliver the suffering through His Name: "Jesus gave them power over unclean spirits to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness." (Matthew 10:1)

If you recognize that your life is under spiritual attack and feel the need to break free from oppression, you need a Strong Prayer. Visit a Universal Church near you and join the Friday Deliverance and Spiritual Cleansing services, held every Friday at 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 4 p.m., and especially at 7:30 p.m.

## | BEATING DEPRESSION |

Depression is more than just sadness—it's a deep, overwhelming sorrow that affects the very core of a person. It brings feelings of hopelessness and creates a heavy void that drains motivation, making even the simplest tasks seem impossible. In severe cases, depression can make people lose the will to live. It's like a sickness of the soul. But who can heal the soul? Only the Savior, the Lord Jesus, has the power to restore a troubled heart.

Every Sunday, The Universal Church opens its doors to those seeking to overcome depression. If you need support, we invite you to visit a nearby branch. By joining a Chain of Prayer, where you attend prayer meetings for seven consecutive weeks, you'll find spiritual strength through powerful prayers, practical guidance, and personal counseling.

You are not alone in this battle. Thousands around the world have shared their stories, proving that a **Chain of Prayer** can truly make a difference. You can be the next success story. You can overcome depression!



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



**Bishop Edir Macedo**



### Revolt: A Powerful Force

**R**evolt is a powerful energy. How you channel it can lead to either great benefits or serious destruction. Most people, when they're angry or frustrated, tend to use this energy in harmful ways.

Many, when overwhelmed with revolt and stuck in a dead-end situation, sadly use that energy to take drastic measures like ending their own lives. Young people dealing with family problems often turn to drugs or crime to cope. Victims of betrayal, burning with anger, may seek revenge on the person who hurt them. In each case, anger fuels their actions, and often leads to negative outcomes.

When someone channels their anger toward destructive ends, they stop caring about the consequences. Once they accept their situation as hopeless, their anger transforms into hatred, and they act out in harmful ways.

But what if that same anger, that same revolt, was directed toward something positive? Imagine using it in the service of God! Instead of harming themselves or others, people could direct their energy against the spiritual forces



that cause suffering and injustice in their lives.

When paired with divine guidance, this power won't just fix one problem—it will transform everything. When anger is put to work alongside faith in God, it brings healing, not just to the individual, but to their whole family. How? By inviting the Spirit of God to take control.

Why not give it a try? Channel your revolt toward God's purpose. It will awaken your pure faith, and you'll witness the greatness of God at work in your life!



### "I would intentionally hurt myself"

came crashing down. I felt guilty for not forgiving him before he died and for holding on to that grudge. To numb the pain, I started drinking. I couldn't sleep and would wake up with my chest feeling tight, as if someone was pressing me down.

There was a deep sadness inside me. I felt like I was trapped in a dark hole, and I had no strength to pull myself out. I became suicidal and started hurting myself on purpose. I burned my hands in the oven, pulled out my hair, and banged my head against the wall. I wanted to feel physical pain to avoid dealing with the pain I felt inside. The emptiness was unbearable.

I fell into depression after my father left our family; my siblings and I were still very young at the time. His leaving caused me to develop a deep anger toward him. I didn't want to speak to him or anyone from his side of the family. The anger grew and turned into grudges so deeply rooted that I began having anxiety attacks.

Then, my father got sick and passed away. My whole world

My mother found out about the Universal Church and in-

vited me to attend services with her. I started participating in the chains of prayer on Fridays for my deliverance because I desperately wanted God to change my life. I made the decision to forgive my father and myself. I let go of the anger and grudges that I had carried for so long. It wasn't easy, but I stayed committed to that decision and sought God's presence.

Now, I am a happy person. I'm no longer angry or resentful, and I don't suffer from guilt or anxiety attacks anymore. The depression is gone. I sleep well at night and live in peace. I don't need to party, drink, or smoke to feel good because I have God with me. When I received the Holy Spirit, I received a joy that lasts forever," said Candice.

# SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON SUNDAYS

## "Free from a rare skin reaction"

It all started with pain, a fever, and red spots appearing on my body. I went to the hospital, and they gave me medicine for the fever, but I was misdiagnosed with dengue, which wasn't the case. They sent me home to rest, but things only got worse. The red spots turned into blisters, like burns, and the fever wouldn't go down, even with the medication. At one point, the doctors warned me I might go blind. That's when they finally diagnosed me with Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis. I was moved to the ICU and began receiving the right treatment for my condition.



Before

From the very beginning, my wife was praying for me at church, and she would bring me the Blessed Water. I remember the pastors praying over me, and through it all, I grew stronger spiritually. Just 20 days later, I was back home. The doctors were shocked by how quickly I recovered. I had no lasting effects, and God healed me completely. Not long after, I was back at work!



-Anderson today

## "She is healed from cancer"



I was experiencing excruciating pain in my back when I went to see the doctor. They informed me that cancer was spreading in my body. I underwent an X-ray and a blood test.

I drank the Blessed Water and declared that the results would be good. When the test results came back, I was overjoyed to learn that I didn't have cancer, and there was nothing wrong with me. —Ms. Beverly



## "I had a bleeding problem"

Before I started coming to the Universal Church, my life was a mess. I had a bleeding issue that wouldn't stop, I was drowning in credit card debt, suffered from insomnia, and had constant spinal pain.

The first blessing I received after coming to the church was when my bleeding problem stopped after using my faith and drinking the Blessed Water. I've been making the chain of prayer ever since, and today, I'm free from insomnia, all my financial issues are gone, and I've been healed from my spinal problem.

—Cynthia



## "Free from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome"

I had been experiencing pain in my hand and ultimately needed surgery for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. My left hand would often shake uncontrollably, and I struggled to maintain a good grip; my hands would feel numb.

Today, after receiving the Anointing and prayer, I feel fantastic. My hands are back to normal, and I no longer feel any pain. —Carlos



RECEIVE THE HEALING  
WATERS THIS SUNDAY  
at your nearest  
Universal Church





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## THIS BURDEN IS NOT FROM GOD



Imagine walking around every day carrying a heavy bag of weights. No matter where you go or what you do, that weight is always on your shoulders. Whether you're eating, sleeping, working, or spending time with your family, the burden never leaves.

For some, this weight is all too familiar, but it has a name—sickness, depression, financial struggles, loneliness, and more. Each day, it feels like a new weight is being added. Many people have blamed God for this burden, thinking it's something He placed on them. But the truth is, God promises that His burden is light.

“For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:30)

This is your wake-up call: the burden you're carrying is not from God. He doesn't want to see you suffer or feel weighed down. Instead, He invites you to exchange the heaviness of your problems for the light and easy burden He offers in His Word.

How do you release yourself from this burden? Start right now by talking to God. Tell Him everything you're going through and ask for His unfailing relief. God will never let you down.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

| October 2024 Bible Reading |                            |                            |                            |                              |                              |                              |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| SUN                        | MON                        | TUE                        | WED                        | THU                          | FRI                          | SAT                          |
|                            |                            | 1<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 1 | 2<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 2 | 3<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 3   | 4<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 4   | 5<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 5   |
| 6<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 6 | 7<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 7 | 8<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 8 | 9<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 9 | 10<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 10 | 11<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 11 | 12<br>Ecclesiastes<br>Ch. 12 |
| 13<br>Malachi<br>Ch. 1     | 14<br>Malachi<br>Ch. 2     | 15<br>Malachi<br>Ch. 3     | 16<br>Malachi<br>Ch. 4     | 17<br>Romans<br>Ch. 1        | 18<br>Romans<br>Ch. 2        | 19<br>Romans<br>Ch. 3        |
| 20<br>Romans<br>Ch. 4      | 21<br>Romans<br>Ch. 5      | 22<br>Romans<br>Ch. 6      | 23<br>Romans<br>Ch. 7      | 24<br>Romans<br>Ch. 8        | 25<br>Romans<br>Ch. 9        | 26<br>Romans<br>Ch. 10       |
| 27<br>Romans<br>Ch. 11     | 28<br>Romans<br>Ch. 12     | 29<br>Romans<br>Ch. 13     | 30<br>Romans<br>Ch. 14     | 31<br>Romans<br>Ch. 15 & 16  |                              |                              |



## “I FEARED THE FUTURE BECAUSE OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMAS”

ed suicide using rat poison, but both attempts failed.

In addition to family problems and depression, Andreia's family lived in extreme poverty. “We didn't have the means to study or improve our future. I couldn't see myself succeeding in anything, much less getting married and starting a family,” she explains.

One day, while watching TV, Andreia came across a program from the Universal Church. The pastor was talking about family restoration, which caught her attention. “He blessed some water, and after drinking it, I felt different. I kept watching the program every day.”

Encouraged by the messages, Andreia made a vow to God: if He enabled her to complete a course she had started, she would attend church to give thanks. Surprisingly, she finished the course, and as promised, she visited the Universal Church. “There, I learned more about God and started making a chain of prayer for my deliverance.”

As she continued attending services, she experienced a complete transformation. “God set me free from suicidal thoughts,

depression, and the fear of the future. I also forgave two family members who had hurt me—something I never thought I could do,” she says.

Today, Andreia's life is drastically different. “I surrendered my life to Jesus, and now I am happily married and baptized in the Holy Spirit. I no longer live in misery—God gave me a new life, a loving husband, and a prospering

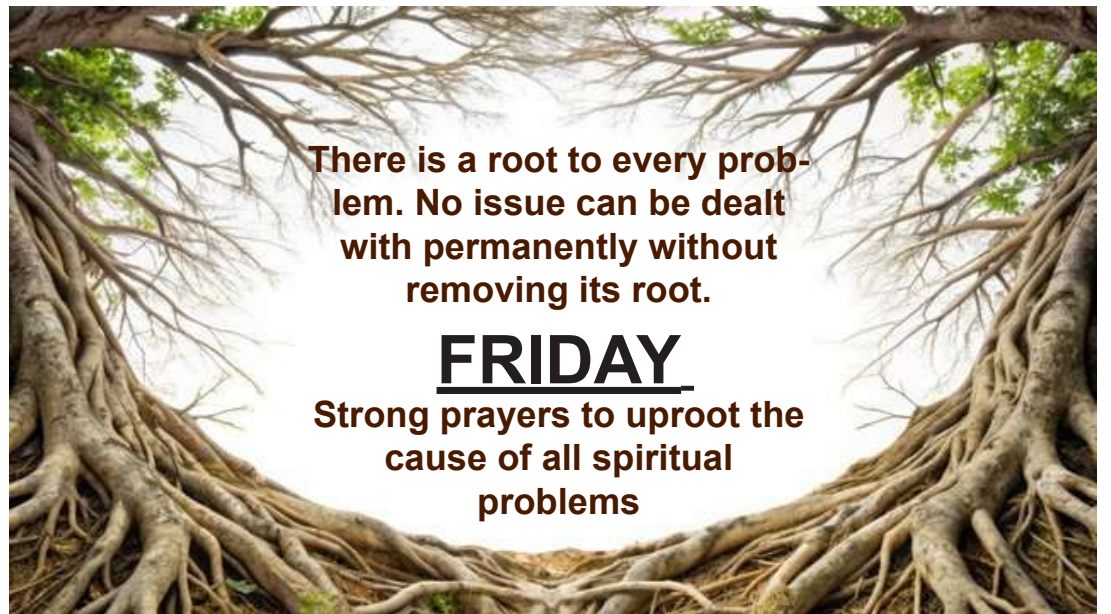
business. My greatest desire is to pass on to others what God has given to me. I could lose everything, but I will never lose the Spirit of God, who is my greatest treasure,” she concludes.



There is a root to every problem. No issue can be dealt with permanently without removing its root.

## FRIDAY

Strong prayers to uproot the cause of all spiritual problems



# What's happening at the Universal Church



**“I was constantly bombarded with thoughts of suicide.”**



constantly bombarded with thoughts of suicide,” she shares.

Desperate and unable to find a way out, Lusa lost all hope. One day, while flipping through TV channels, she came across a program from the Universal Church. “That program made me realize there might be help for me. Toward the end, the pastor shared a phone number for those seeking prayer and support, and I didn’t hesitate—I called right away.”

Someone from the church prayed with her over the phone and invited her to attend a service. “I didn’t think twice. I went to the church, and at the very first service, I felt different, lighter. That night, I was able to sleep for the first time in a long time,” Lusa remembers.

Week after week, as she continued attending services and obeying the teachings of the man of God, her life began to change. “The weight I was carrying was lifted, the sadness was gone, and I no longer had suicidal thoughts. Everything changed from the inside out. Today, I can honestly say that I enjoy life.”

Lusa endured 20 years of depression, a period marked by deep suffering. “It all began when I got married,” she recalls. “From the start, I faced many problems and gradually became a sad, empty, and depressed person.”

Believing that divorce would free her from the pain, Lusa ended her marriage. But the emotional burden remained. “Even after the divorce, the pain I carried inside me didn’t go away. I couldn’t sleep at night, suffered from constant headaches, and had no expectations for the future. Nothing brought me joy, and I was

**Are you feeling overwhelmed by your circumstances? Have you been a victim of spiritual attacks? Just like those who shared their testimonies of victory, you too can overcome. Join us this Friday at a Universal Church near you!**

**“I was a person who had no reason to live.”**



Sandra faced life’s challenges from a very young age. The absence of her mother meant she had to take on responsibilities far beyond her years, which only deepened her struggle to find happiness.

“I grew up in a broken home. My father was a drug addict, and my mother passed away when I was very young, so I was left to raise all six of my siblings,” Sandra recalls.

With each passing day, she felt more lost, with no hope of living a happy life. “I thought getting married would solve my problems and finally bring me happiness. But that wasn’t the case. My life only got worse,” she explains.

Frustrated after so many failed attempts to fix her life, Sandra became addicted to cigarettes. “I started smoking, and before I knew it, I was smoking three packs a day. When people commented on my addiction, I’d say, ‘Don’t take away the only thing that still gives me pleasure in this life,’” she admits.

Unhappiness became a routine, with sadness and tears filling her days. “Depression took over my life to the point where I began having suicidal thoughts. My lowest moment was when, one day, I was at home crying uncontrollably, overwhelmed with sadness. I felt something turn my head toward the rat poison nearby. It felt like I was being encouraged to take it and end my life,” Sandra shares.

Everyone around her noticed her despair, and it was then that her sister invited her to attend the Universal Church. “A week after I started going, I was completely set free from depression and all thoughts of suicide. I remember going to the front of the Altar one time, with a pack of cigarettes in my bag, and I felt God speak to me, ‘The new life you’re choosing today doesn’t match this addiction.’ I quit smoking immediately and have never smoked again,” she remembers.

“Today, I am a happy and fulfilled person. I have a blessed family, wonderful children, and grandchildren. I’m truly grateful to be alive. To anyone suffering from depression, feeling cursed, or struggling through a life where everything seems to go wrong, I want to say: give the God I found at the Universal Church a chance. Just as He transformed my life, He will do the same for you,” Sandra concludes.

**“My Problems Consumed Me”**



try in search of a better life, but her undocumented status caused her to face constant humiliation and indifference at work. As a result, she struggled financially.

At home, things weren’t any better. Rosa felt belittled and mistreated by her own family, which strained her relationships with them. “All of this led me to fall into a deep state of sadness. I no

longer wanted to take care of myself or my home. I began locking myself in my room, isolating myself from everyone. Solitude became my refuge to try and ease the deep pain I carried within me,” she recalls.

Things worsened to the point where she would refuse to leave her room even when visitors came. “Day after day, I was consumed by the sadness and pain I carried,” she admits.

Rosa then received an invitation to attend the Universal Church. Desperate for a change, she decided to go. “I be-

gan participating in the services and the purposes of faith. As I started applying the teachings from God’s Word and making my chain of prayers for deliverance, I was freed from sadness, and I was blessed to obtain my documents,” she shares.

Today, Rosa’s life is drastically different. “I am no longer humiliated, I have achieved financial independence, and I no longer stay locked in my room, oppressed and crying all day. I am happy, thanks to the presence of God that I found at the Universal Church,” she concludes.

Rosa arrived at the Universal Church burdened with financial and family struggles. She had come to a new coun-

## Deliverance: Breaking free from spiritual oppression

Deliverance means being set free from anything that oppresses, robs peace, joy, and hinders full development in every area of life. A person can be physically imprisoned, such as being in jail, or symbolically trapped by debt or an abusive relationship. But the worst kind of prison is the internal one. On the outside, a person may appear free, but their soul feels suffocated, which eventually leads to external problems as well.

This is why Fridays at the Universal Church are dedicated to the spiritual freedom of those who attend. There are signs that evil is at work in someone's life, such as seeing shadows, hearing voices no one else hears, undiagnosed illnesses, insomnia, nightmares, depression, panic attacks, and suicidal thoughts.

To understand the importance of these meetings, it's vital to recognize that each person's life is a battlefield between two kingdoms: God's and darkness. Spiritual deliverance means God's kingdom has driven out evil, allowing His presence to take control. The first step toward a life with God is to break free from the grip of evil, making room for God's Spirit to enter: "First, one leaves the hands of evil, then develops a relationship with God, and receives His Spirit."

These meetings are typically part of a "chain of prayer," where participants attend for a set number of weeks, promoting perseverance in their faith journey. Even if someone misses a week, they should not blame themselves—they can simply pick up where they left off. What truly matters is persistence.

And these services are not just for those seeking deliverance. Every Christian can benefit from Friday meetings, as they equip believers for the spiritual battles they face. The Bible speaks of spiritual warfare, as seen in the writings of Paul and the experiences of Daniel. Anyone who recognizes they are facing a spiritual struggle can find strength in these services.

Join us every Friday to fight for your deliverance and strengthen your spiritual life. Check the back page for a Universal Church location near you.



# "Strong Prayers Work"

## "I had horrible nightmares every night."

**M**ario Cesar faced many problems from a young age. Along with family struggles like addiction, monetary loss, and constant arguments, he also suffered from spiritual disturbances every day. He recalls, "I had horrible nightmares every night," and he constantly saw shadows and heard voices. When he woke up, he was filled with fear and anxiety.

At just 13 years old, Mario turned to alcohol and smoking to escape his problems. These habits quickly turned into addictions, leading to more financial struggles. He used these substances to numb the suffering caused by his anxiety, but he believed it was part of a family curse. "My father had the same problems and addictions. He was a successful businessman, but he lost everything because of them, and the same thing happened to me. I started working early, but I spent everything I earned on the weekends," Mario says.

Seeking a solution for his spiritual problems, Mario turned to a religion that claimed seeing and hearing supernatural things was a "gift." He tried to develop this "gift," but his spiritual state worsened, and every other part of his life also went downhill. "Nothing worked. I couldn't prosper, my addictions worsened, and I developed health problems. I couldn't maintain a relationship," he explains.

Mario's inner emptiness and anxiety attacks haunted him daily. He eventually hit rock bottom when he lost his job and found himself completely alone. "I left the religion I was following, and everything in my life became chaos," he says.

Desperate to find a way out of the pit he had fallen into, Mario turned on the radio one day, hoping to distract himself with music. While switching stations, he heard a pastor preaching about the salvation of the soul. The message caught his attention.

The pastor's words sparked Mario's curiosity to learn more about Jesus, the Savior he was hearing about for the first time. "The pastor invited listeners to attend the Universal Church, and I went. From the first day, I noticed a change, especially inside me," Mario shares.

He began attending the church regularly and obeyed the teachings he received. Over time, he broke free from the addictions that had controlled him for eight years and



shed the frustrations and burdens he carried. His life began to change, including his professional growth.

After attending the Universal Church for a while, Mario heard about the faith campaigns held twice a year. He decided to participate, and when he surrendered himself on the Altar, he began seeing results that allowed him to achieve new financial goals. "I made a vow to surrender my projects to God. The very next day, I started receiving answers through sales and purchases," he recalls.

Seeing how his faith was producing results, Mario continued seeking God's guidance for prosperity. However, after participating in several faith campaigns and achieving great material success, he realized something was still missing: the Holy Spirit. "I realized that material goods no longer made sense. After achieving them, they didn't matter anymore. That's when I understood the greatest thing wasn't in things or people," he says.

What Mario still needed was a true encounter with God. While he had experienced the fulfillment of God's promises in his financial life, he didn't truly know Him. Determined to resolve this, he returned to the Altar, seeking to conquer what mattered most. "I gave myself



completely. I made a vow of life, and everything changed. I found peace, certainty, and an unmatched joy. Today, I have wisdom, and everything I do is guided by the Holy Spirit.”

Now, Mario enjoys a prosperous and blessed life, with comfort, a happy marriage, and a strong family. But he emphasizes that

nothing compares to having the Spirit of God within him. “It is my greatest treasure and inheritance. Nothing compares to the peace I’ve found in my soul. I am grateful to God for all the opportunities and for finding His Altar,” he concludes.

## “When I used drugs, the panic I felt became cool.”

From a young age, Alexandra Cassoni Malta, now 27, struggled with spiritual issues. She often heard voices urging her to harm herself or others. As time went on, she began seeing shadows and experienced frequent panic attacks and depression.

At 15, Alexandra found herself drawn to urban rock and black metal subcultures. It was during this time that she was introduced to drugs like marijuana, cocaine, and alcohol. “In those circles, I saw people who had the same problems I did, and I felt like I belonged there. They introduced me to the false relief of drugs. When I used drugs, the panic I felt became cool.”

Soon, Alexandra discovered Satanism. “Black metal is like praise to Satan. If someone hurt me, I felt I had to destroy them because, as someone involved in Luciferism, I believed I was a ‘sacred being.’”

Her panic attacks worsened, happening anywhere at any time. Meanwhile, her drug use intensified. “I would see the walls of my room



change colors, and I’d suffer from shortness of breath. Even though I was scared of dying, I would only stop snorting cocaine when I ran out,” she recalls.

One day, a friend from a skinhead group, which she was also part of, introduced her to the Universal Church. “He had leukemia, and after going to the church for the first time, he called me to say he’d been baptized and experienced something supernatural.”

Curious, Alexandra attended a service. During the meetings, she sought the Holy Spirit. “I realized that all my internal problems came from the emptiness I felt. Just like I had trusted the devil without question, I knew I needed to trust God completely. So, I gave my whole life to Him.”

Alexandra was freed from her addictions and spiritual torment, and her inner emptiness was filled with God’s presence. “Before, I was terrified of the future and had no joy in life. Now, I know I can achieve great things. I have the power of God within me,” 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.

## Luther Unit:

# Hygiene Distribution

**HEY THERE! HAVE YOU WATCHED THE LATEST VIDEO ON THE UBB?**



**UBB**  
**Universal Beyond Bars**

Earlier in September, the UBB hosted their Hygiene Distribution event, and it was a powerful day! The gym couldn't hold all



the men who wanted to attend, and the officers had to turn away more than half of the unit who came out from the dorms, eager to be blessed.



The event began with faith and a focus on deliverance for those struggling with addictions. A bold challenge was given to those who wanted to break free, backed by the word of God:

“Our soul has escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler’s; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.”  
(Psalms 124:7 NKJV).

After the prayer of deliverance, the men were encouraged to harness the power of saying “no” to avoid falling back into the traps of the enemy.

The 203 men in attendance felt uplifted, especially after receiving a shout-out from Bishop Joshua. They took time to seek the Holy Spirit, and after



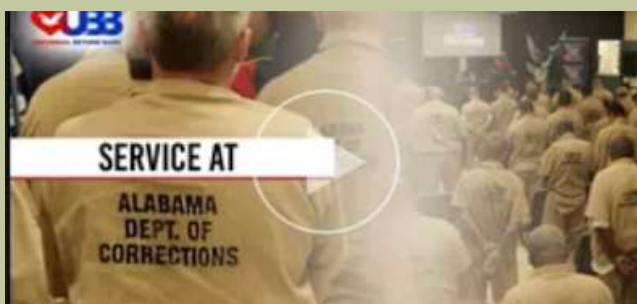
this powerful moment, a call was made for those ready to surrender their lives to the Lord through



water baptism. In response, 30 men committed their lives to God.

After the service, the volunteers, along with Chaplain Barnes, went to each dorm to personally hand out the hygiene kits, one by one.

**ARE YOU DOWN WITH UBB? BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW EPISODES!**







# UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

*You are not Alone!*

## My journey to freedom

**M**y name is Odi, and I'm 44 years old. I grew up in a Christian household, but from a young age, I was drawn to the world. My dad was strict and had a short temper, and during my teenage years, I didn't live for God.

I couldn't understand why I wasn't allowed to do what my friends did—like going to parties or just hanging out. By the time I was 16, I had started using all kinds of drugs and drinking alcohol.

But that wasn't even the worst of it. After that, I got involved with a gang and started drug trafficking and committing assaults. I became



an enforcer. During one of these assaults, I was arrested and sent to prison for the first time. While I was locked up, I came across the UBB (Universal Beyond Bars).

I prayed, attended services, and went through the motions, but I didn't have a real encounter with God. It was more like a "jailhouse religion"—seeking God to pass the time and hoping to get something out of it.

When I got out, I was worse than before. I had people working under me, doing what I

told them to do. We committed even bigger crimes and more violent assaults. I remember one guy from our crew went to steal a car but lost control and got caught by the police.

They pressured him to snitch on us, and he did. He told them where the rest of the crew was, and they all got arrested.



I was asleep at my father's house when I heard a knock at the door. Half awake, I went to answer it and found a swarm of police waiting for me.

Back in prison, I kept committing assaults and



ended up with more charges, which added another 36 years to my sentence.

I hadn't even mentioned the murder I committed before I got arrested that second time. That's the thing about crime—it hardens your heart. All you care about is getting the job done and getting what you came for.

I was transferred to many different prisons, but one day, I hit rock bottom. I felt sick and tired of life. I knew the Word because I had heard it all my life.

Around that time, I came across the UBB again, and this time, I truly surrendered my life to God. When I was released, I went to the Universal Church, got baptized in water, and later received the Holy Spirit.

Now, my life is established. I have a wonderful wife and a blessed family.

I thank God for the UBB because if it weren't for the Word I heard in prison, I would've never known God's love. If you're hearing my testimony, know this—there's a way out for you, too.



## “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

## STAY ENCOURAGED WITH DAILY PROGRAMS

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Many people doubt whether the promises in the Bible are true, but there's only one way to find out: put the One who made those promises to the test. Here's how.

# GOD WANTS TO BE TESTED BY YOU

Reinaldo Manhani, a biomedical scientific researcher, worked hard to change the difficult family situation he faced in childhood. However, he found that relying solely on his knowledge didn't yield permanent results. He believed that through his studies, he could create a different story than that of his family. "As a teenager, I worked during the day and studied at night. I completed high school, which was almost impossible 30 years ago. Soon after finishing my biomedicine course, I found a job at a local hospital, where I met my wife and started a family." Reinaldo seemed to achieve the stability he longed for: a loving family, a successful career, and medical research articles published internationally. However, conflicts in his marriage left him feeling frustrated. After ten years, the marriage ended, and custody of the children went to his ex-wife. "I couldn't accept the distance or the new reality of being a visiting parent. I fell into a deep depression." With the loss of his family and his mental health declining, he eventually became unemployed.

Reinaldo's life began to transform as he obeyed the Word of God. "The closer I got to the Altar, the more I saw God's promises come to life. New opportunities opened up for me, and today my life is completely restored. I now work in personalized medicine for cancer treatment, my area of specialization," he shares.

He confidently states that he has been cured of depression, and his two children, now young adults, bring him immense joy. He has also overcome the frustrations of his love life. "I can say that the windows of heaven opened for me, leading to the transformation of my inner self, my thoughts, and my vision. When we put God first, we trust that He is in control of our lives," he concludes.



One day, while trying to tune into a radio station, Reinaldo stumbled upon a program from The Universal Church. Intrigued, he continued listening for several days and decided to attend a service. As he participated in the meetings, he found himself questioning everything the pastor preached until he realized that his life was a result of not putting God first.

"I came to understand that all my efforts and scientific knowledge were limited, and I wouldn't get anywhere on my own. I decided to test the Word of God without doubt and surrendered to the teachings from the Altar. I learned how to use intelligent faith."

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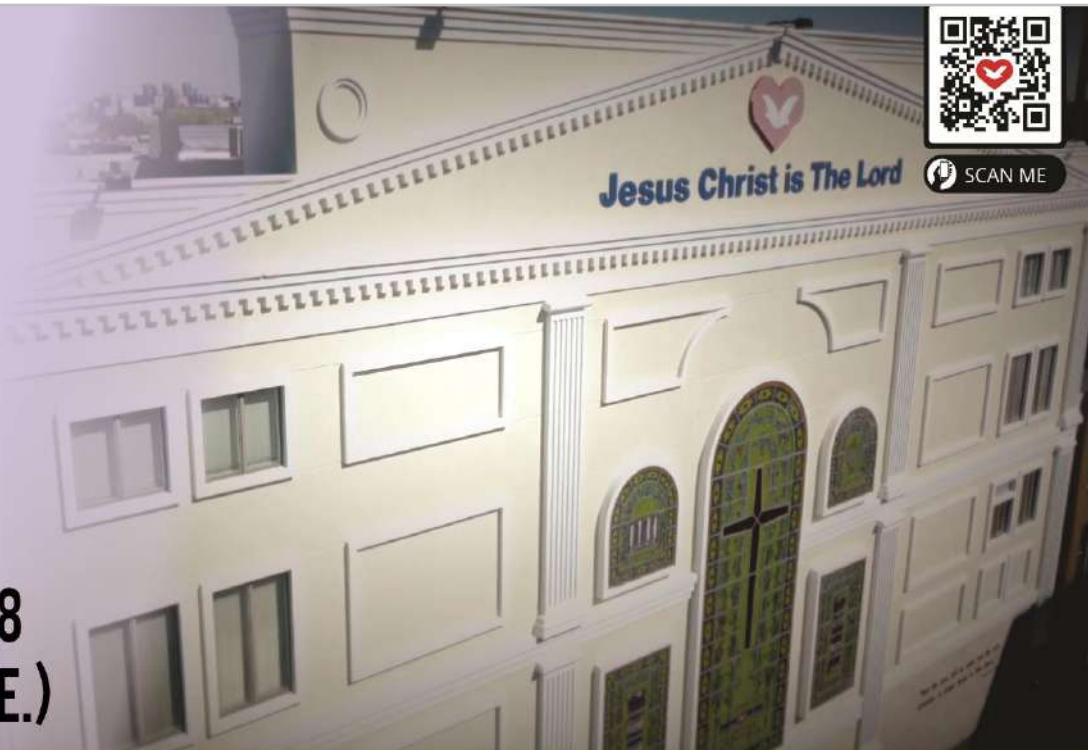
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