

UNIVERSAL NEWS



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Harmful or Harmless?

Paranormal Experiences



Many think these experiences are harmless, but they are clear signs that the victim should seek help and get delivered from these things.

"I saw shadows and heard voices. Even breathing was a burden to me." (Read Steffany's story on page 6)



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Bishop Edir Macedo

Spiritual Oppression:
Foot on the neck



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Paranormal Experiences: Harmful or Harmless?

Home should be a sanctuary of peace and rest, but for many, it becomes a place of deep-seated fear. Unknown spiritual forces seem to invade their space, tormenting them and their families. People who experience this feel as though they're losing control, terrorized by something unseen and intangible, leaving them helpless.

Paranormal occurrences take many unsettling forms. A person alone in the house might hear someone calling their name, banging on the walls, or the sound of footsteps when no one is around. They may witness objects or doors moving on their own, lights flickering, and see shadows or figures lurking in hidden corners. Some feel an oppressive presence following or watching them, and in severe cases, may even feel touched, grabbed, or choked. These frightening experiences are common among those dealing with paranormal disturbances.

But while thousands of people report these experiences, does that make them harmless? The truth is these encounters are neither harmless nor normal—they are often signs of an evil presence. Such spirits bring destruction, stress, sleeplessness, anxiety, depression, and worse. When these signs are evident, it's clear that one should seek help. This is why at the Universal Church, we hold Friday services dedicated to deliverance and spiritual cleansing.

If you or someone you know has been experiencing these paranormal disturbances, come to a Friday service to learn how to break free from these oppressive forces and reclaim peace in your life.

| 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!

BEAT DEPRESSION
BEATING DEPRESSION THROUGH THE POWER OF FAITH!

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



Bishop Edir Macedo



Spiritual Oppression: Foot on the neck

"Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they came forward and placed their feet on the necks of the five kings. Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or discouraged; be strong and courageous, for this is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you fight." – Joshua 10:24-25

Yet for many people who claim to follow God, the reality looks very different. Instead of triumphing over their enemies, they feel crushed and suffocated by them. Why is this happening?

The answer lies in meeting the conditions of the promise. In this case, the promise is fulfilled when a person is strong and courageous, enabling them to shake off what's weighing them down and take control over their struggles.

Sadly, many people today live as if they have "a rope around their necks." When they're oppressed by evil forces, they experience sadness, fear, sickness, loneliness, addiction, depression, poverty, and more. Instead of stepping on their problems, they're underfoot.

After Joshua conquered the five kings, he didn't just claim victory for himself; he made it a powerful example for his people. He told his soldiers, "Be strong and courageous." He showed them what it means to believe in God's promises and to sacrifice so that His will is fulfilled. As a bold sign of victory, Joshua even hung the bodies of these kings on stakes until evening, a public display of God's strength, justice, and the courage He calls His people to have.

God's people aren't meant to live under oppression.



That kind of burden doesn't belong to those who believe. Instead, we are called to overcome, to be living proof of God's promises. Oppression is for unbelievers, not believers!

So, what is keeping you weighed down? What's oppressing you? Don't accept it—take action to break free! You have the power to turn this around, and you're not alone. We're here to support you through the fight. Let this story inspire you:

"When they brought the kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and told the army commanders, 'Come close and put your feet on their necks.' They came forward and did as he said. Then Joshua told them, 'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you fight against.' Joshua then struck them down, killed them, and hung them on five trees until sunset. At dusk, he had them taken down, thrown into a cave, and sealed with large stones that remain to this day."
– Joshua 10:24-27



"There was a spirit in my house."

for the daylight. When I finally talked to my mom about it, she told me she was going through the same thing. This spirit wasn't just attacking me—it was also tormenting her.

My mom invited a friend over to do a 'spiritual cleansing' with herbs. Her friend promised that if we burned them, the spirit would leave and go back to where it came from. We were hopeful that it was over, but it didn't stop. I'd still feel like something was pushing me off the sofa when I tried to sit down. I kept wondering why all of this was happening and even thought about going to church, but I didn't know which one to go to.

My aunt had started attending the Universal Church, so my mom, my kid, and I decided to join her one day. The pastor was kind and welcomed us. He held a special prayer service just for

us. During the prayer, when he placed his hands on my head, I felt something heavy leave me. I had been dealing with constant knee pain, but after that prayer, it disappeared. I felt peace like I hadn't felt in a long time.

From that time on, I began attending church regularly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. I didn't miss a single Tuesday or Friday. My deliverance wasn't instant; it was a process because I had been a victim of witchcraft. But eventually, I was freed. After that, I sought the Holy Spirit, and I received Him. It's amazing how much God loves us. Even though I still have challenges, I now feel His peace and His love surrounding me. Today, I know I have my salvation because His Spirit lives within me. I'm filled with joy, and I thank God for leading me to the Universal Church."

– Ofelia

See what's happening on Sundays



Maria's miracle: Healed from a bacterial infection

In 2017, I visited a podiatrist to have my nails trimmed properly and prevent them from getting ingrown.

Unfortunately, during the procedure, the nail on my right big toe was cut too short. Two days later, my toe was swollen and painful, so I went to the hospital, where they diagnosed me with a bacterial infection in my foot.

Despite taking antibiotics to fight the infection, my condition only worsened. I underwent two surgeries, resulting in the amputation of three affected toes. The doctors warned me that the bacteria could spread to my leg, which was incredibly frightening.

For the next five months, I relied on a wheelchair to get to the restroom. Yet, every Sunday, I attended the church services and participated in the Chain of Prayer. I used the Divine Water both to drink and to wash my feet, believing in my healing. After some time, I no longer needed the wheelchair. The wound healed completely, and the bacteria disappeared. Even the doctors told me that what happened was a miracle.

I was homeless, searching for a new place to stay, and it felt like I was in a never-ending struggle. But one year ago my life took a turn for the better. I've been blessed with my own place again, I have money in my bank account, and most importantly, I feel God's presence in my life.



Every time I come to the church I feel so blessed and relieved from all the pressures I used to carry. The sense of peace is overwhelming. I have a deep appreciation for the Blessed Water and the ministry. I want everyone to know that God is in this building, ready to pour out blessings.

Come and get your blessings. Come and get healed because He is here. God is here. —Mr. Victor Lewis



When I first came to the church, I had just been diagnosed with congestive heart failure. My health was in serious decline.

I felt weak, could barely walk, and struggled to breathe. It was a tough time; I felt paralyzed by my condition.

Doctors had me on a lot of medication, and I was resistant to taking it. They even suggested I use an oxygen machine to help me breathe. Then, I started using the Blessed Water. Remarkably, all the symptoms I had been dealing with began to disappear. I could move around again; I felt more active and alive. When I went back to the doctor, he looked at me in disbelief and said, "There is nothing wrong with you!"

Now, I drink the Blessed Water every day—more than once a day. It's become an essential part of my life, and I truly believe it has played a significant role in my healing. —Ms. Susan



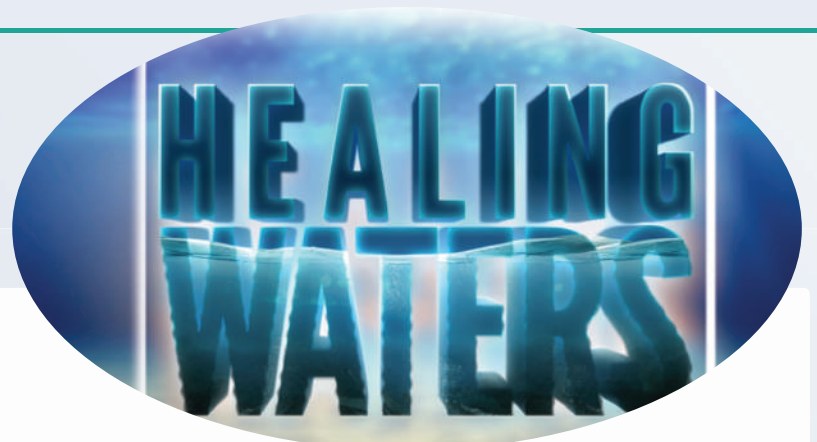
For a long time, all I had on my mind was partying—just party, party, party. That mindset carried into my adulthood, leading me from job to job. I dabbled in various drugs, from weed to ice and even cocaine. My life was a constant cycle of chaos. Then, I discovered the Universal Church. I started using the Blessed Water every day, asking God for the strength and courage to break free from my addictions. With faith and perseverance, I found my way out.

Now, I'm free from those struggles, and I have a happy wife by my side. Life has taken a positive turn, and I'm grateful for the transformation I've experienced.

—Garrett



Receive the healing
waters this Sunday
at your nearest
Universal Church





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

THE TERRORS OF NIGHT



For everyone dealing with these struggles, the symptoms might look different: sleepless nights, nightmares, insomnia, sleepwalking, an overwhelming sense of fear, seeing shadows, hearing voices... The list of night terrors seems endless. But the result is often the same—despair.

“He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces.” — Psalms 107:14

What chains have held you captive at night? What are you most afraid of?

No matter what it is, God can bring you out of that darkness. He has the power to break the chains that haunt you in the night. The darkness is no match for God’s light.

Maybe you’ve been living in a place of darkness, weighed down by fear and terror. But you don’t have to stay there. Let God’s light enter your life. Reach out, take His hand, and let Him guide you out of the shadows. Cry out to Him. Share your fears with Him, and let Him break your chains and set you free.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

November 2024		MONTH OF THE SACRED IN NOVEMBER		Bible Reading		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Luke 1 ✓	Luke 2 ✓
Luke 3 ✓	Luke 4 ✓	Luke 5 ✓	Luke 6 ✓	Luke 7 ✓	Luke 8	Luke 9
Luke 10	Luke 11	Luke 12	Luke 13	Luke 14	Luke 15	Luke 16
Luke 17	Luke 18	Luke 19	Luke 20	Luke 21	Luke 22	Luke 23
Luke 24	1-John 1	1-John 2	1-John 3	1-John 4	1-John 5	2-John 1 3-John 1

I SUFFERED FROM SLEEP PARALYSIS

From a young age, I struggled with sleep paralysis. I’d wake up in the middle of the night, unable to move. My body felt frozen, and though I could open my eyes, I couldn’t even turn my head. I’d lie there, completely still, feeling a strange, heavy presence in the room. Sometimes, it felt like something was pressing down on me, making it hard to breathe.

When I was in middle school, things got even stranger. I started seeing dishes move in the kitchen, shadows flickering on the walls, and, at times, I heard whispers. There were nights when I felt a cold hand grab my leg and pull me out of bed, or a chilly breeze as if someone was lifting the blanket. I’d scream for help, but no one ever heard me.

Feeling desperate, I turned to prayer, asking God for help because I had no idea what else to do. Every time I called on God, the terrifying sensations would stop. I tried talking to my brother and my parents about what was happening, but they just laughed. They told me it was just a nightmare or that I’d watched too many scary movies, but I knew it was real because it had been happening for years.

As time went on, things only got worse. I stopped talking about it because I was afraid people would think I was losing my mind. I tried everything I could think of—keeping the Bible open in my room, hanging a cross on the wall, sprinkling holy water around like I’d seen in movies. But nothing seemed to help. I couldn’t sleep in the dark and kept the lights on every night.

My mom even told me stories about a man who supposedly called on good spirits and predicted things. He once told her I’d end up in a relationship with someone from another country. Oddly enough, it did happen—I met someone and was interested, but she only wanted to be friends. When I tried reaching out to her, she ended up putting a restraining order on me, saying I was calling her too much. It left me feeling confused and hurt, especially since I thought our connection was something God had arranged. I ended up falling into depression.



Frustrated, I reached out to the witch doctor my mom had mentioned, but he never answered. This left me feeling even more hopeless. One day, I cried out to God, asking, “If you’re real, why am I going through all this? Give me a sign.” Not long after, a friend invited me to his church. I went, but I didn’t take it seriously at first, so I left without a second thought. Then the pastor called me, encouraging me to come back and commit to a chain of prayer for my deliverance, every Friday.

I decided to try the Friday prayers, and something began to change. I felt a strange sensation, almost like something was leaving my body. It was then I realized that this was real—I was experiencing deliverance. I began sleeping peacefully through the night, no longer seeing shadows or hearing voices, and the confusion and depression lifted.

After my deliverance, I knew I wanted a closer relationship with God. I started going to Bible Study on Wednesdays and applying what I was learning to my life. The pastor explained that if I truly wanted to live in freedom, I needed the Holy Spirit within me. When the Fast of Daniel began, I made a commitment to seek God fully. I prayed and fasted, determined to experience His presence. Near the end of the Fast, I felt an undeniable certainty that God was with me.

Since that encounter, I’ve felt a deep peace and fulfillment. I have no more fears or worries, and I’m no longer concerned with what others think. My life has completely transformed—I’m no longer the person I was. I’m happy, fulfilled, and eager to grow closer to God each day.

—Ulisses

What's happening at the Universal Church



"At the age of six, my mom took me to a witch doctor."



"When I was six, my mom took me to a witch doctor's house, and we stayed there for 21 days. I wasn't allowed to go outside. Back then, I had long hair, and the witch doctor told my mom that the spirits wanted my hair. They made a crown out of it, and afterward, I had to give my hair to them. From that day on, my spiritual life spiraled downward. Every night, I felt spirits around me when I was trying to sleep. I started seeing things and hearing voices calling my name.

When I reached my teenage years, it got worse—I began having panic attacks. Just the thought of going to sleep would fill me with fear, like I was going to die. I felt this deep emptiness inside and constant sadness. I tried to fill that void by partying and hanging out with friends, but the sadness never went away. In my mind, I kept hearing

these spirits telling me I was worthless.

I even had suicidal thoughts, but I could never bring myself to act on them. Both my mom and I were serving these spirits, but one day, she had enough. She realized nothing in our lives was getting better. We'd lost our home, and there was no peace in our family—just constant fighting between us. My mom finally decided to stop serving the spirits, and though she didn't force me to stop, she started going to the Universal Church.

Over time, I noticed a change in her. She was happier and had a peace I'd never seen in her before. Seeing her transformation made me curious, so I decided to go to church too. I liked it and started doing a chain of prayer every Friday for my deliverance. Little by little, everything inside me changed. I felt a peace I'd never known, real joy and happiness. Those attacks stopped, and I no longer needed those types of friends.

Now, I'm different. I don't hear voices, I don't see things, and I don't feel spirits anymore. Today, I am free, I am blessed, and I've even gotten married. God made everything new for me."

— Natasha

"I drank coffee at night just to stay awake..."



"I used to drink coffee at night just to stay awake. The paranormal experiences I had came and went, but they left me feeling terrified. Sometimes, it felt like something was holding me down, making it hard for me to breathe. I'd see evil spirits—black smoke or dark clouds hovering around my home. I knew something wasn't right.

At night, I was scared of what might happen while I slept. It felt like my body was being pulled, and something was pressing down on me, starting from my feet and moving up. I could see its long fingers pushing against me, and I'd run to the bathroom, crying. When I'd come back to bed, it would attack me again, and I'd be gasping for breath. I couldn't breathe at all. That's when I started drinking coffee at night just to stay awake, but during the day, I still felt restless.

This was affecting my family too. My son's attitude changed, and many strange things started happening with him. I was irritable, angry, and unkind to people. I wasn't myself. I remember going to see a play one night and actually seeing a demon there. That same night, I began reading my Bible, hoping that it would help, but the attacks continued, and they even brought other spirits with them. I thought listening to gospel music might help, so I played some, but then a program from the Universal Church came on TV. The Bishop invited everyone watching to pray along

with him. I put my hand on the TV and prayed. After that prayer, I felt a sense of relief, so I started watching the programs regularly. I even called the prayer line and was invited to the church. When I visited for the first time, I left feeling so good, different from how I used to feel. So, I kept going back—Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for the deliverance services.

As I continued attending, I saw changes in myself and started inviting my family and friends to come too. My son, who was also struggling spiritually, began coming as well, and I could see the difference in him. I am incredibly grateful for the Universal Church. They supported and encouraged me every step of the way. Today, I no longer carry anger inside me. I can lie in my bed at night and fall asleep easily without any attacks. I encourage anyone struggling to come and talk to one of the Pastors; they will pray for you. Your life can change."
— Bridgette Ragland



YPG SPORT NEWS

Our YPG in Ohio just held a volleyball tournament. They had many teams with all kinds of youths; some playing for the very first time and others with more experience. But, of course, in the end only one team won the trophy.

The opportunity was taken to demonstrate and relay to the youths that in life we all compete but few are the winners due to their perseverance. If we want to win in life, we have to persevere and go until the end.
JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 1 PM

What games are you good at?
Share your talents with us on our social media pages.



MY LIFE WAS A MESS!

I remember being always a church goer but deep inside I didn't believe or understand a thing. I was out in the world, seeking attention. I had a horrible relationship with my Mother due to having multiple relationships with boys. I fell into a type of loneliness where I would use vaping to fill the void I felt. I would try to fit in with others by doing what they do; cursing, cutting class, disobeying, etc.

The YPG has made a huge impact on my life. It has shown me who God really is. Today I'm able to respect my Mother, I'm free from vaping and my heart, mind, body, and soul are completely healed and free!

—Samara Peseti

We've all heard stories of people seeing shadows, hearing voices, feeling choked as they sleep, or experiencing unexplained chills. But are these stories just "make-believe"? What if they were real and evil spirits actually existed? The truth is, spiritual attacks are real, and those who have endured these experiences can attest to it. Yet many hesitate to speak out, fearing disbelief or being labeled as "crazy." They're not alone—thousands have encountered similar events.

What does the Bible say about spiritual attacks?

Scripture affirms the reality of a spiritual realm, a hidden world in which good and evil battle for our souls. The Word of God warns, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8). Evil actively seeks to attack and destroy, like a predator in search of prey. The devil targets those weakened in their faith and disconnected from God's protection. Disobedience opens doors for these attacks, leaving people vulnerable.

How can we find deliverance and spiritual protection?

The Bible offers a powerful promise: "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him and delivers them." (Psalm 34:7). Obedience, vigilance, and faith create a shield against evil. Spiritual weapons, provided by God, are necessary to overcome these forces.

At the Universal Church, Friday services are dedicated to teaching and empowering attendees with these spiritual tools. Join us and discover how to protect yourself from spiritual attacks.

For service locations, see the back page.



"Even breathing was a burden for me."

Steffany Martins endured abuse and bullying from a young age, experiences that led her down a dark path of anxiety, depression, and even attempts at suicide. She recalls first feeling that deep emptiness when she was just a child. "I was six years old when I suffered several instances of abuse. I told my family, but no one believed me. After that, I began isolating myself," she shares. School offered little comfort; she faced bullying, both verbal and physical. "I thought everything was my fault, and that blame grew inside me."

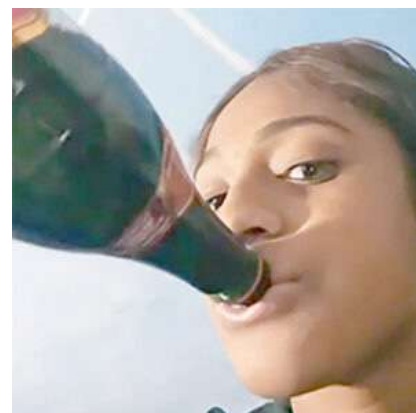
As Steffany grew older, these internal battles became overwhelming. "I was surrounded by insecurities, hating myself and my body, seeing myself as worthless. I was constantly told I was useless, trash—that it would have been better if I'd never been born," she says. The pain from these harsh words drove her to anxiety attacks, depression, self-harm, and her first suicide attempt at age 14. At that time, death seemed like her only escape.

Then, someone invited her to a youth meeting at the Universal Church. For about a year, Steffany attended, taking part in the activities and listening to messages about God. But after she left, her

situation grew even worse. "I started hating people, hurting myself to drink my own blood, drinking alcohol, and wandering the streets at night. I would see shadows and hear voices. Even breathing felt like a burden," she recounts. When Steffany attempted suicide again, memories of her time at the church came flooding back—especially the moments of peace and the faith she had once felt.

"I remembered the messages of faith and the changes I'd already seen in myself. That's when I decided to go back and surrender completely," she recalls. She was baptized and clung to faith, determined to overcome the voices telling her she wouldn't make it.

Her journey of faith wasn't easy, but she found strength in forgiveness



and a renewed sense of purpose. Eventually, she received the Holy Spirit. "I knew God was with me. My thoughts and how I saw things changed.

Despite the struggles, there was a transformation within me. Today, I am living proof that God shows no favoritism and is truly the solution to pain in the soul," she concludes.

“In addition to addictions, I was dealing with depression and hearing voices.”



Maria Ferreira describes her childhood as one filled with love, affection, and support. But when she was a teenager, she began spending time with people who led her down a dangerous path. "At 15, I moved to a different city, hoping for a fresh start, but instead, it was the beginning of my downfall. I started drinking and experimenting with drugs, starting with marijuana," she remembers.

What began as “just for fun” quickly spiraled into a daily need. "I tried almost every drug out there, attempting to fill this huge emptiness in my soul. I even started using cocaine," she says. By 16, Maria was involved with a drug dealer. She had hoped for love, but instead found herself in an abusive relationship. "He had other women, and he threatened me constantly. Everything only got worse when I became pregnant," she recalls.

Despite expecting a child, Maria couldn't break free from her addictions. She was haunted by depression, hearing voices, and seeing shadows. "Nights were the worst; insomnia would take over, filling me with dread," she shares. Her addictions robbed her of joy, peace, and tragically, even her son, who passed away at one year old from a bacterial infection.

Years went by, and Maria continued down a destructive path, her turning point arriving after the murder of a close friend. "I was

devastated. After his death, I started ‘seeing’ him, and that terrified me. I realized this could be my fate, too," she says.

At her lowest, after nearly 24 years of drug use, Maria accepted an invitation from her aunt to visit the Universal Church. She walked in feeling ashamed, fearing she wouldn't be accepted, but was warmly welcomed. "After that first meeting, I felt something change, like a heavy burden was lifted," she reveals.

Maria soon found herself sleeping peacefully at night. By fully surrendering her life to God, she broke free from addiction, fear, and the emptiness within.

"This decision led me to receive the Holy Spirit, who completely transformed my life. Today, I am married, have a blessed family, and live in peace and joy. Now, I use my story to show others the power of God's transformation," 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

Finding peace after a life of chaos

Ias always a quiet kid—kind of shy. But when I turned 15, I started hanging out with friends in my neighborhood, and that’s when things took a turn. We began committing crimes, selling drugs, and eventually got involved with gangs.



By the time I was 17, I caught my first felony for selling narcotics. Instead of turning my life around, I kept going down that path. I was deeply entrenched in the drug scene, and by 18, I found myself carrying \$30,000 in cash. It gave me a sense of power that I craved, and I wanted more. I started doing worse things, which eventually led to shootouts and being ambushed.



We thought we were living life to the fullest, but in reality, it was a nightmare. I lived in constant paranoia, always looking over my shoulder.

I couldn’t eat or sleep peacefully at night. I felt like I had to carry my gun everywhere—I kept one under my pillow and a rifle by my window.

The life I led was dangerous, and it took a toll on

me. I ended up incarcerated for eight years, and let me tell you, it wasn’t easy. Being in prison was stressful, and I struggled with depression. It felt like living in hell. I was confined to a cell, alone and frustrated.

While I was in prison, things got even worse. I continued using drugs—meth, heroin, pills, marijuana—and the effects were intense. I started hearing voices and convinced myself that people were plotting to kill me.



Eventually, they had to put me in isolation because I was walking around with a weapon for protection.

The first day I got released, I felt incredibly paranoid. Transitioning from those walls to freedom was anything but easy. Physically, I was free, but spiritually, I still felt locked up. One day, as I headed to visit my probation officer, I passed by the Universal Church.

A thought crossed my mind: “There’s a solution to your problem, but if you don’t turn back, your life is going to stay the same.”

That prompted me to go back. The pastor welcomed me in and listened as I poured out my heart. By the end of our conversation, I told him

that all I wanted was peace.

When I decided to give my life to God, He met me where I was. I placed my trust in Him and



chose to get baptized the following Sunday. I experienced deliverance and started participating more in church, seeking my freedom. Wednesday services became my favorite because I learned so much about the Holy Spirit.

I continued seeking, and eventually, I received the Holy Spirit. That was the greatest gift God could have given me. Today, I serve God and help save other youths who find themselves in similar situations.

My life has become priceless; no amount of money could buy this peace. I no longer have to worry about people hunting me down or seeing shadows. I make an honest living now, and I even have my own car.

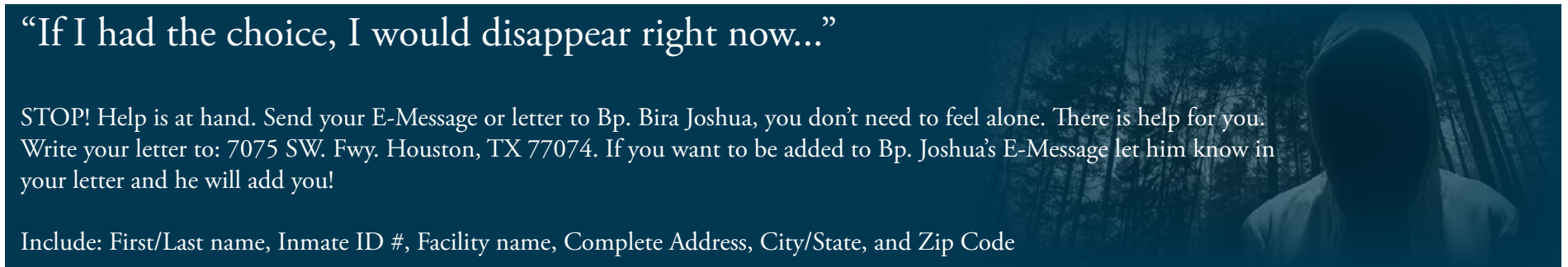
To mothers and fathers, and to you young men and women reading this: do not lose hope. God can change your son or daughter, and He can change your life, too.



“If I had the choice, I would disappear right now...”

STOP! Help is at hand. Send your E-Message or letter to Bp. Bira Joshua, you don’t need to feel alone. There is help for you. Write your letter to: 7075 SW. Fwy. Houston, TX 77074. If you want to be added to Bp. Joshua’s E-Message let him know in your letter and he will add you!

Include: First/Last name, Inmate ID #, Facility name, Complete Address, City/State, and Zip Code



Recognizing the signs: A call for spiritual intervention

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



**UBB
Universal Beyond
Bars**

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



Signs are everywhere, and they serve a crucial purpose in our lives. Without stop signs, just imagine the accidents



that would happen every day. We rely on warnings that indicate when something is hot, poisonous, or when there's a slippery road ahead. There are even signs that guide us on where to go and when to turn. Even those seemingly unnecessary signs are actually important.

Ignoring them can lead to serious consequences. They are there to educate, alert, and help us avoid potential danger.

Lately, you may have noticed signs in your own life indicating that something is wrong, yet you've brushed them off, hoping they'll disappear.

Don't ignore these warnings; they signify that something paranormal may be at play, and it's

time to take action. These signs can manifest in various ways, including but not limited to:

- Uncontrollable fear
- Paranoia
- Terrible nightmares
- Spiritual attacks
- Seeing images of the dead
- Insomnia
- And more...

Do any of these sound familiar to you?

“Fear came upon me, and trembling, Which made all my bones shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; The hair on my body stood up. It stood still, But I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes;”
Job 4:14-16

If you're experiencing any of this, it's a sign that you need spiritual intervention. This is your opportunity to break free once and for all. Reflect on the last time you slept peacefully through the night.

Consider visiting your local Universal Church to seek the freedom that's still available to you. This is your sign that peace is within reach, and liberation is possible. Don't wait—take that step toward your spiritual well-being.

STAY ENCOURAGED WITH DAILY PROGRAMS

Kings will tell the story of the nation of Israel from the moment the last judge, Prophet Samuel, is used by God to guide His people up to the pitiful fall of Jerusalem caused by the armies of Babylon. We will share in the pains, joys, and stories of the significant first kings of Israel as they lead the nation.



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SHOWDOWN OF FAITH | 7am
with Bishop Joshua

ULFN NEWS | 8am

THE AM SHOW | 10am

AT THE EDGE OF DEATH | 12pm

OVERCOMING DEPRESSION
2pm with Pastor Edwin

BREAKING THE SILENCE | 3pm

FIGHTING THE UNSEEN ENEMY
4pm with Bishop David

TEN COMMANDMENTS | 5pm

GENESIS | 7pm

KINGS THE SERIES | 9pm

LET THERE BE LIGHT | 12am



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FROM THE DUMP TO THE ALTAR: A STORY OF FAITH AND OVERCOMING

In a life filled with struggles, Luciano Soares turned to crime and drugs. But through the power of God's message, he found a brighter path forward.



Today, we have a home, a car, and a family restored by God's mercy. I have been freed from my addictions, the burdens of my past, and feelings of rejection.

Luciano Soares, a 49-year-old welder, has faced immense suffering since childhood, sharing the burden of financial struggles with his parents and seven siblings. “We lived near a dump, where we worked collecting materials for recycling and searching for scraps of food to eat,” he recalls. At school, he faced bullying, which left him with a lingering sense of inferiority and isolation. Without his father around, Luciano leaned heavily on his mother for companionship. However, their situation worsened when the place that provided their basic necessities shut down. Devastated by the hopelessness of it all, his mother turned to alcohol and tragically passed away from a stroke shortly after. “I lost my family overnight; with her death, each sibling went their own way, and my father started another family just two weeks later. I was left alone at 16.”

Without his mother's comforting presence, which had been his safe haven, Luciano felt utterly lost. A few months later, he moved in with his sister, but instead of a fresh start, this new chapter led him down a dark path of car theft and drug use, influenced by his brother-in-law.

Desperate to numb his internal pain, Luciano turned to drugs. “I tried every kind of drug. I started with alcohol and 'mushroom tea.' Soon, I was using marijuana, cocaine, and crack—anything that promised to help me forget reality,” he shares.

After two years of stealing and selling cars, he hit rock bottom and decided to use drugs all night, wanting to end his life. When he returned home, he received devastating news: his brother-in-law had died in a car accident. Overwhelmed with guilt and accusations, he spiraled deeper into addiction and began trafficking drugs.

Death threats soon followed, and he contemplated disappearing for good. But then, his girlfriend (now his wife) offered him a different perspective. She helped him realize that running away wouldn't solve his problems.

Feeling lost, Luciano isolated himself at home for a few days, but a conversation with a friend prompted him to visit The Universal Church. From his first day attending services, he felt something shift within him.

Alongside his family, Luciano searched for food scraps in the trash. At school, he faced discrimination.

“I stopped using drugs and cut myself off from everything and everyone. I began to understand God, and He helped me reintegrate into society. It wasn't easy, but I started learning how to truly live; until then, I had only known theft and drugs,” he explains.

During this transformative period, Luciano returned to school, found a job, and secured a place to live. After three years of spiritual growth and inner healing, he discovered his greatest treasure: the Holy Spirit.

“Before, we had no place to live; now we have a home, a car, and a family restored by God's mercy. I've been freed from my addictions and the burdens of my past and rejection. But regardless of the material things I've gained, my greatest treasure is the Holy Spirit, and my strongest testimony is my faith,” he concludes.



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