

UNIVERSAL NEWS



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Dysfunctional FAMILY

Constant family conflict, parental addiction, abuse and neglect, parent abandonment

"My brother started using drugs and alcohol. Our finances quickly went downhill, and I ended up unemployed. My mom got sick, and everything just kept getting worse."

(Read Darlene's story on page 6)



Page 2
Bishop Edir Macedo
A Divine Tool



Watch the new season at 9 PM ET on ULFN



Page 3

"She WAS HEALED from CANCER."



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Dysfunctional Family

As the end of the year and the holiday season approach, many families are preparing to gather and celebrate. While this season is often seen as a time of joy and togetherness, for some families, it brings feelings of dread and sadness. Instead of being a time to strengthen family bonds, unresolved conflicts can resurface, leading to disputes and tension. Moments of peace are rare, and it feels impossible to find harmony when everyone comes together.

These struggles are signs of family dysfunction—far from the unity God intended. Families were meant to live in harmony, reflecting the relationship within the Holy Trinity. The Bible speaks of many promises that encourage joy and unity in families. For instance, Psalms 128:3 says, "Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table." This verse emphasizes God's design for families to be united and thrive together.

If your family's environment hasn't reflected this vision, you're not alone. But you have an opportunity to change that. This Sunday at 10 a.m., every Universal Church worldwide will hold a special service for the blessing of families. Don't fight against your family—fight for them. Consider trying something different this season: invite God's presence into your home and let His love transform your family's dynamic.

This could be the first step toward bringing peace, unity, and joy back to your family.

| 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



A Divine tool

A crisis of faith often begins when we stop exercising it. Just like muscles that weaken without activity, faith also withers when it isn't actively practiced. Without regular use, faith becomes complacent, eventually turning into mere religious routine.

God allows us to face difficulties precisely to prevent our faith from becoming a tradition rather than a living force. In the past, the Holy Spirit warned His servants of this tendency, knowing our nature to seek comfort.

Yet, when we encounter trials—whether in our family, relationships, or health—it's easy to turn to God with complaints, feeling like we're constantly swimming against the current. What many don't realize is that God is using these situations to urge us to activate our faith.

God's guidance emphasizes that faith must be a continuous action, the only path to true victory and salvation. It is "from faith to faith" that we make progress, securing our longed-for salvation.

However, our adversary, the devil, works



tirelessly to undermine this gift, setting traps and creating distractions to shift our focus away from faith. When he succeeds, faith can fade, leading to spiritual decline.

While God doesn't cause our problems, He does allow them to sharpen our faith. Faith is a Divine tool with the power to shield us against any attack from the enemy. But we must use it every day, right up to our last breath. A well-exercised faith is resilient, capable of neutralizing any difficulty that comes our way. So let's embrace challenges as opportunities to grow, keeping our faith alive and vibrant.



"My family was destroyed"

toxic; he became abusive in every way—verbally, mentally, and physically.

"I lost all motivation. Every Friday was a nightmare. He'd come home, and it was like we were cursed to fight," she recalls. This cycle went on for 14 years, a time marked by constant moves, financial struggles, and deep emotional wounds.

Despite his addiction, Diana's husband was the sole provider, even as their instability forced them to move from one apartment to another. He attended church, but it had no effect on his behavior—he'd leave services only to get drunk or high. Though his mother persistently invited him to the Universal Church, he refused, declaring,

"I have my own God. I'm never going to change." But one day, Diana convinced him to give it a chance. He reluctantly agreed, knowing he had noth-

ing left to lose.

A turning point came when he tried cocaine again, only for his body to have a severe reaction. It was as if God had intervened, delivering him from the drugs. Since that day, he hasn't touched drugs or alcohol.

Today, Diana and her husband live a life they once thought impossible. They own a construction business, have their own home, five trucks, and can enjoy life's blessings without fear.

"There are no more fights. I sleep peacefully now. My husband and I call each other throughout the day, and we have a life of harmony," she says. Both have received the Holy Spirit, and Diana emphasizes that it has given them true security and salvation. "The Holy Spirit transformed our lives completely. I invite you—don't hesitate. God will change your life, too."

See what's happening on Sundays



“I am

cancer-free”



My knee was swollen, and the doctor told me I'd need surgery to remove the effusions. Basically, they'd have to cut into my knee for the procedure. Hearing this made me feel stressed and depressed. To make things worse, I was also diagnosed with cervical cancer. Around this time, I saw this ministry on TV and started attending.

I refused to accept suffering with these health problems. I began coming to the healing services and learned how to make the chain of prayers by faith. I am now healed from cervical cancer and no longer need knee surgery. I am also free from depression, as I received the Holy Spirit, which gives me true peace.

—Diana



“She overcame depression”

I was in an abusive relationship and had a lot going wrong in my life, which led me to become depressed. I thought drinking alcohol would take away my problems, but it didn't. I'd party and smoke marijuana, but these only made things worse.

Inside, I was very angry, but I convinced myself I was fine. I even thought about taking pills with alcohol before sleeping so I wouldn't wake up. A relative invited me to this ministry, and that's where I began to overcome my depression.

By my faith, I am now free. Today, I have true happiness and no longer depend on alcohol or marijuana.

—Dawn



“I woke up with my foot in pain and swollen.”

Before going to bed, I wasn't feeling any pain, but to my surprise, I woke up with pain, and my foot was swollen.

It was very difficult even to sit in a car. Eventually, my entire body was in pain. When I went to the doctor, I got an injection to ease the pain, but the doctor couldn't tell me what was wrong.

Two ladies invited me to this ministry. They had to hold my arms and help me get to the church. The pastor prayed for me and anointed my feet by faith. From that moment on, the pain disappeared. I can walk properly today—there's no more swelling, and the pain is gone.

—Ms. Henry



Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

THE BIGGEST WEAPON AGAINST THE FAMILY



One of the most powerful weapons used to destroy families today is separation. Once a family becomes divided, it begins to fall apart. This can happen in many ways—between siblings, when a family member runs into legal troubles, struggles with addiction, or faces marriage or parenting issues. Sometimes, one person turns their back on another, pointing out faults, making accusations, and spreading negativity throughout the family. Before long, the entire family is at odds.

The Bible is clear about the danger of division. In Matthew 12:25, Jesus warns, “Every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”

Here’s my advice: When your family faces challenges, don’t add to the problem. Don’t step on them or make things worse. Instead, be the one who stands up to help. If you can’t solve the issue yourself, seek help. The first place to turn is to God—He created the family and knows how to restore it.

It only takes one person to transform a situation. Are you the one willing to make a difference?

May the God of the Bible bless you and bring peace and unity to your family.

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 WAS LEFT WITHOUT A FAMILY FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT



Luciano Soares, 49, a boilermaker, had an incredibly difficult childhood, marked by financial hardship and emotional pain. He grew up with his parents and seven siblings near a landfill, where they worked collecting recyclable materials and searching for food scraps just to survive. “We lived near a landfill, where we worked retrieving materials for recycling and looking for food scraps to feed ourselves,” Luciano recalls. His poor conditions led to rejection at school and an inferiority complex, leaving him feeling isolated and disconnected from the world. His father’s absence weighed heavily on him, and his mother, though his greatest companion, also struggled, especially after the landfill that provided their livelihood was closed. With no means to support the family, his mother turned to alcohol and tragically passed away from a stroke. “I was left without a family from one day to the next,” Luciano says. “With her death, each brother went his own way, and my father got involved with another family after two weeks. I was left alone at the age of 16.”

Without his mother’s comforting presence, Luciano felt lost and abandoned. He eventually moved in with his sister, but things only spiraled further out of control. He began stealing cars and using drugs, a downward spiral that would last for years. “I used any type of drug. I started with perfume, alcoholic beverages, and ‘mushroom tea.’ Soon I was using marijuana, cocaine, and crack. Anything they offered me that would make me forget reality, I accepted,” he explains.

Luciano’s life continued to spiral into darkness. After two years of stealing and selling cars, he reached a breaking point, using drugs all night with the intent to end his life. When he returned home, he was met with more devastating news—his brother-in-law had died in a car accident. The guilt and accusations overwhelmed him, leading him to further intensify his drug use and criminal activities.

The dangerous path he was on eventually led to death threats. Fearing for his life, Luciano considered fleeing to escape, but after listening to his girlfriend (now wife), he realized that running away wouldn’t solve anything. Feeling utterly lost, he withdrew for a few days. It was during this time that a friend invited him to the Universal Church, and his life began to change.

From the very first day he attended church, Luciano felt an internal shift. “I stopped using drugs, I isolated myself from everything and everyone, and I began to understand God. He was restoring me into society,” he says. Though the process wasn’t easy, Luciano started to learn how to live a different life. He went back to school, found a job, and secured a place to live.

Three years of spiritual change and inner healing brought Luciano to his greatest breakthrough—the discovery of the Holy Spirit. “Before, we had nowhere to live, but today we have a house, a car, and a family restored by the mercy of God,” he shares. “I was freed from addictions and the weight of the past and rejection. But, regardless of the assets I have acquired, my greatest asset is the Holy Spirit, and my greatest testimony is to remain in the Faith,” he concludes.

“With the death of my mother and the absence of my father, I found myself lost in the world...”

What's happening at the Universal Church



"Our dysfunctional upbringing led my husband and I to the brink of divorce"



For years, I thought my husband's transformation would be the key to restoring our family. I believed if he changed, then peace and happiness would follow. But as I looked deeper, I realized the real transformation had to begin within me. I was burdened with trauma, depression, and anxiety from my past. I didn't know how to love, nor did I know how to give love because I hadn't experienced it myself.

Growing up, I believed that happiness had to come from someone else. I put unrealistic expectations on my husband, which led to constant fights and arguments. Both of us came from dysfunctional backgrounds, which impacted our marriage. My husband grew up witnessing his parents in constant conflict, while I faced the absence of a father figure and endured trauma from a young age. This left me with a harsh personality. We would verbally abuse each other, and as financial problems arose, I became even more bitter and disrespectful, to the point where I wanted to end our mar-

riage.

One day, I accompanied my mother to the Universal Church. We went in after one of the assistants invited us inside while my mom was contemplating suicide. Growing up in church, I'd always known about God, but I had never fully surrendered my life to Him. This time, I made a decision to truly give myself to God, opening my heart to Him completely. I realized that if I held onto my hatred and resentment, I would end up destroying myself. That decision led me to an encounter with God, and shortly after, I received the Holy Spirit.

Since that day, the emptiness and sadness I'd carried for years vanished. Now, I understand that without God and without the Holy Spirit, none of my achievements or possessions would have any true meaning. God gave me the love I lacked, allowing me to love my husband, care for our daughter, and treat others with kindness and patience. I no longer needed a father figure because I found my Father in God. Our lives have improved in every aspect. Financially, we are doing well—my husband owns his own business, and I work as a nurse.

For anyone experiencing marital issues, I would say to invest in the Holy Spirit. You can't give what you don't have. If you don't possess genuine love, it's impossible to share it with others. Only God can fill that void and provide you with the guidance and patience needed for a fulfilling life. If I hadn't received the Holy Spirit, I wouldn't have witnessed the restoration of my family.

"God transformed my children"

Jenny and Diana were born and raised in the church, following in their mother Marcella's footsteps. Marcella, a dedicated servant of God, hoped her daughters would one day join her in ministry, believing they, too, would embrace a life of faith.

"My children were born and raised in church," Marcella explains, "So my thoughts were that they too would do the work of God at some point in their lives."

But life took a different turn. Jenny and Diana started attending church and participating in its activities primarily to please their family, not out of genuine conviction. Jenny recalls, "There was a time in my life when I was coming, attending meetings, being part of everything. But at some point, I lost interest. I felt controlled, like I was being forced to learn about God." As she struggled with feelings of restriction, her life outside of church became a way to rebel. Smoking, drinking, and sneaking out led to deeper struggles with depression and anxiety, even to the point of having suicidal thoughts."

Diana's experience was similar but centered around her dreams for the future. She had big ambitions—attending university, moving to New York, traveling the world with friends. Church, to her, could always be something she returned to later. "I always had a thought in the back of my head saying, I can always come back to God, but right now, I want to experience life," she says.

Marcella, faced with her daughters' struggles, felt powerless and heartbroken. In her grief, she realized she hadn't fully surrendered them to God. "We were in a vigil, and I started praying," she remembers. "God said to me, 'You didn't give me your kids.' That was hard to accept. I thought I'd put them on the altar, but God made me realize



I pushed them for things in the world and not as much for the altar. I realized I could do more, and at that moment, I felt like I failed God." This realization prompted her to trust in God, letting go of her own efforts to control the outcome. She committed to a purpose of faith, stepping back and trusting God's timing. Within three months, things began to change.

Diana found herself back at church, initially to please her mom, but during a special period of fasting, something shifted. "I started to take things more seriously," she says. Jenny, too, had a turning point, fed up with the pretense and the depression. "I was tired of pretending to be someone I wasn't. I had seen lives transformed, and after so many years of ignoring it, I decided I wanted that too," she reflects.


Today, Marcella sees the power of God reflected in her family. "Every time I see my family, I see God. The changes in them weren't done by me or by them. God did that. Put your kids on the altar and let God take care of the rest." For Marcella, it was a journey of releasing control, allowing God to work in His timing. And for her daughters, it was about discovering faith for themselves, leading to a transformation only God could achieve.

YPG OFFICIAL aloha!





In September, over 120 young people came together for an exciting volleyball tournament at Honowai Neighborhood Park. The event not only brought together enthusiastic players but also their families, who cheered from the sidelines in a great show of support. Every youth participant had the chance to join in on the action, making it a memorable day filled with energy, teamwork, and community spirit.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the YPG, we meet every Sunday at 1 p.m.

 Location: 1091 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11238

For more information on a location near you, call: 1-888-332-4141



 YPG.USA
 YPG USA



I FELT ABANDONED!

For many years, life felt like a cycle of pain and abandonment. Growing up, mistreatment from my aunt left me with deep emotional scars. I felt lost and alone. My adopted dad eventually rescued me, providing a sense of stability, yet I still struggled with a longing for my biological mom. In my teenage years, I fell into harmful habits, like vaping, drinking, and smoking weed. I thought these things would numb the pain but instead they only pushed me further into darkness. When my adopted dad passed away suddenly depression became my constant companion. I Moved to Colorado WITH My mom AND WAS introduced BY HER to a youth leader and his wife, who saw through my pain and showed me a different way. They encouraged me to join THE YPG (Youth Power Group), and it was there that I began to experience a sense of belonging and hope. Through THE YPG, I learned about God's love and found strength in His Word. Slowly, my life started to change. Deciding to give my life to God was the best decision I've ever made. Since then, I've found peace, joy, and blessings beyond anything I'd ever imagined. I'm truly grateful for the guidance and support I've received from this community. YPG has become a place of healing and hope, and I've found the family I longed for all along. - NEIBON

What's the secret to a truly happy family? Contrary to the polished images on social media, real happiness in a family doesn't come from beautiful photos or vacations together. Building a strong, joyful family takes daily effort and resilience. After all, if even siblings raised in the same home have their differences, sharing life with someone from a different background can be even more challenging. Life itself brings emotional struggles, highs, and lows that can test any family.

How many families today live under the same roof but don't actually connect? Arguments, resentment, individualism, addiction, dishonesty, judgment, and excessive criticism are just a few issues that can strain the delicate balance of family life.

According to psychologist and interpersonal relationship expert Denise Camargo, many family difficulties stem from a lack of true communication. "Conversations are essential, but it's important to know how to have them. Each person needs to listen without judgment or accusations. Feelings like anger and resentment often prevent productive dialogue," she explains.

When two people choose to marry, they each bring experiences, disappointments, and life lessons from their family of origin. Dr. Roberto Debski, a psychologist, reminds couples to be mindful of how past experiences impact their new family. "Everyone brings some baggage, but they must also be open to growth, creating a better model together," he says.

The Bible also emphasizes the importance of caring for family. Deuteronomy 5:16 highlights honoring father and mother, a fundamental principle. Another passage underscores that true believers should never neglect their family: "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8).

Dedication to family is essential to maintain peace and unity. "We cannot overlook our family responsibilities. The challenges we face in the world are immense, but that's no excuse," says Dr. Camargo. If you cherish your family, stay informed, and fight with all your strength, asking God for guidance to protect, uplift, or restore it when needed. Remember: family is God's sacred project.

For more support and resources, please see the back page for locations.



"She just decided to destroy my family."

My name is Darlene Pena. I'm 37 years old. My family was very happy and united. We went on outings together, celebrated holidays, birthdays—everything a happy family does. We were all working, and our home was filled with abundance and prosperity.

Over time, though, my brother started becoming very rebellious, and there were always fights at home. He started getting into trouble, using drugs and alcohol. Our finances started declining, I became unemployed, and my mom got sick. It felt like everything was going downhill. One day, my mom found something hidden in one of the plants in the house. When she opened it, she saw it was dirt from a cemetery—witchcraft. We found out it was from a coworker who was envious of my mom's family. She saw our abundance, harmony, and happiness, and decided to destroy us.

The witchcraft brought an evil spirit into our home. My brother couldn't stand being there; he felt restless and desperate, so he moved out. My mom was watching TV one

day and saw a testimony on the church program that sounded like what we were going through. She decided to go to the church for help because we didn't know what else to do. She went on a Friday, listened to everything the pastor told her, and from there, we started seeing a change. She began to heal, and my brother started coming around more.

When I started going to church, I was unemployed, but within a week, I got a job. That job led me to the position I have now. I was able to buy a car, live on my own, and our family became stable. My mom was healed, and my brother stopped getting into trouble and being rebellious.

As I spent more time in church, I felt a need to receive the Holy Spirit so I could help others. I started doing things to strengthen my faith, like fasting and waking up at 3 a.m. to seek the Holy Spirit. I did everything I could to show God how much I wanted to help people who were suffering. When I completed my purpose of faith, I came down



from the altar with certainty—I knew He had blessed me, and I received the Holy Spirit.

Now, with the Holy Spirit, I'm no longer angry. I'm a happy person. I used to be mean and would scream at people, so others didn't want to be around me. Now, I'm completely transformed. I have peace within me.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes in you." Acts 1:8

"I didn't know the real reason why my dad left."

Karen (K): I was secretly dating, and nobody knew. But after my daughter was born, that was it. He said, "Oh, she's born; I don't need to take care of you. I don't need to be with you." It was heartbreaking because he treated me like he didn't even know me, like I was just some stranger. My dad always taught my siblings and me to study, to be someone in life. He would say, "I'm going to work hard so you don't have to. You'll have everything you need." When I told him I was pregnant, he was devastated. He expected better of me. I'll never forget seeing him cry in front of me.



Serenity (S): I used to look at other people, at other dads, and wonder why my dad left or why my mom was always crying. I didn't know the real reason.



K: My daughter would come to me and say, "Mom, I want this doll," or "I want this dress." And I couldn't even look her in the eyes because I didn't have a dime to my name. She would ask to go to McDonald's, but I couldn't even afford that.

At her lowest point, Karen's sister, who attended the Universal Church, encouraged her to seek help from the only one who could fill that void and change her situation.

K: The devil was putting so many evil thoughts in my mind, convincing me I'd never succeed. Evil spirits manifested in me many times. But whenever there was a sacrifice or purpose of faith in the church, I would give everything. I was going to buy a new car, but God told me, "I want that." I thought, I hope I'm doing the right thing. I'm giving what God is asking from me.

S: I remember my mom used to have so many purses because she was obsessed with them.

K: I had this huge box filled with purses of all kinds, including expensive ones. I sold them all.

S: She loved those purses. Letting go of them wasn't easy.

K: The last time evil spirits manifested in me was the Wednesday before I gave my sacrifice. I put the old Karen on the altar, and a new Karen walked down from it that day.

S: When she came down, her face was glowing. It was such a huge change.

K: I made my sacrifice that Sunday, and then, by Wednesday, I received the Holy Spirit.

S: I saw our lives make a complete 180. For the first time, I saw my mom as a woman of God. She became the first role model I truly wanted to be like.

K: Six months after my sacrifice, I met my husband. We got married two years later and built the family we both wanted. We opened a company together, which was life-changing. He had been in the business for 20 years, and I became the administrator he needed. Now, I have a better car than the one I once dreamed of, a great job, and most importantly, we have the Holy Spirit. God is the center of our family and our marriage. Today, I can say with all honesty that I have a real family. I have a husband of God and a daughter of God.

S: Hopefully, through my mom's example, my example, and our family, others can find the same happiness we found, especially a sense of family. You're not alone; most importantly, you're with God. Even if you're in your darkest place, like my mom and I once were, you'll find someone who will help you reach out: God.

— Karen (mother) & Serenity (daughter)

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.



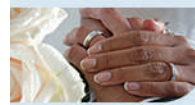
Tuesday - Prayer for healing
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm

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 broken to restored

Growing up my home was far from ideal. The apartment my stepfather provided was rundown, with crumbling walls and damaged floors, and often lacked basic necessities.

Worse than the poor conditions, though, was the abuse I witnessed. My stepfather's violence toward my mom left me with images that I couldn't shake—finding blood on the floor and feeling helpless to protect her weighed heavily on me.

This trauma fueled an anger in me that I carried into school. I couldn't focus because I was constantly worried about what might be happening at home.

Eventually, I began lashing out, bullying others as an outlet for the turmoil inside. By the time I was 17, I was fully caught up in gang life.

Soon, the consequences caught up with me. I was in and out of prison 42 times, and the police knew me by name.

I turned to drug dealing, following the path laid out by the only people I knew: gang members, drug dealers, and criminals. Our gang became



so notorious that officials publicly vowed to clear us out of the neighborhood. My choices took a toll on my mom. I saw the despair in her eyes, knowing my actions caused her so much pain and worry.



“But I didn't know how to stop. Beyond the criminal lifestyle, I battled spiritual issues—I saw shadows, heard voices, and suffered from intense insomnia. I was haunted, restless, and empty inside.”

Finding the Universal Church was a turning point for me. No one judged me for my past; instead, they gave me a chance to start over. My transformation didn't happen in an instant—it took a commitment to God, faith, and perseverance.

As I opened my heart to God and made the Holy Spirit my priority, I felt the emptiness begin to disappear.

Now, my life is more than I could have ever imagined. I'm married—a miracle in itself, as I never thought I could trust in love after what I'd seen at home.

My career is stable, my finances are secure, and my family is filled with peace. We serve God together, and I am no longer haunted by my past.

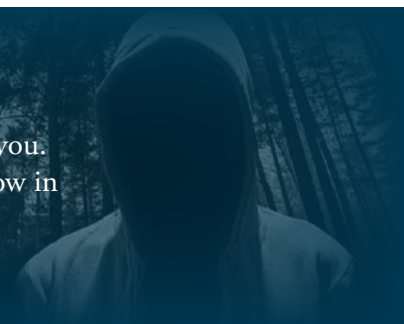
I know now that no one is beyond hope. Giving God a chance changed everything. I thought I was destined for a life of hardship and struggle, but God had a different plan, one filled with purpose, freedom, and true happiness.



“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



Stringfellow Event: “Breaking down the walls.”

On Monday, November 4th, UBB made a powerful spiritual impact at the Stringfellow Unit. The day began with a challenge: just hours before we were set to head out, we learned that the unit had no electricity. But Bishop Joshua declared, “We will bring the power.” Sure enough, as soon as our team arrived, the electricity returned.

The event kicked off with a graduation ceremony for approximately 80 men who had successfully completed the Overcoming Anger class.

Bishop Joshua prayed over the graduates and



encouraged them to hold onto what they’d learned, as it would be essential when they re-enter society. Chaplain Leith joined him on the altar, congratulating the men on their perseverance and motivating them to look forward to the next class.

Following the ceremony, a full dinner was served, featuring turkey, chicken, ham, rice, mashed potatoes with gravy, salad, stuffing, beans, cranberry sauce, and dinner rolls.

For dessert, the men enjoyed cake, pies, and iced tea—with enough for seconds. One inmate shared, “In my thirty-seven years in prison, I’ve never had food like what you brought for us.” At 6 p.m., the service began, and the men were eager to be spiritually filled. Inmates who had been watching UBB videos on their tablets and praying with Bishop Joshua while drinking

blessed water stepped forward to share their testimonies.

They spoke of healing, deliverance from drugs and alcohol, and the transformation from destructive behaviors to a life following Jesus. Bishop Joshua led a powerful prayer of faith



with the men, breaking down the walls of challenges in and around their lives. With a united shout of determination, they claimed victory over these walls.

The message of salvation followed, opening the men’s eyes to the importance of building their lives on the Word of God.



Bishop Joshua shared the story of Jacob, who, while fleeing his father’s house, slept in the wilderness with a stone as his pillow. “When you place your life on the Word of God, you won’t give up on your dreams, because God will bring them to reality,” he explained. Seeking the Holy Spirit became the focus, and Bishop

Joshua spent time with the men in deep prayer. The inmates expressed their gratitude for the



team’s presence, the uplifting words, the prayers, and the entire service, which left them feeling revived and encouraged. As we packed



up to leave, the inmates helping us couldn’t stop expressing their appreciation for UBB’s support. Going to the top! Down with UBB!



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4pm with Bishop David

TEN COMMANDMENTS | 5pm

GENESIS | 7pm

KINGS THE SERIES | 9pm

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"HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING WHAT IS SACRED?"



Like many people around the world, 56-year-old Roberto Silva had heard of God and even believed in His existence, but to him, the Creator seemed distant and indifferent to his pain. "I was in debt, had family problems, and even attempted suicide. I didn't value my life. I had heard a lot of negative things about the Universal Church and didn't like it, but after hearing the testimonies, I decided to attend one of the meetings," he says.

Roberto wanted to change his financial situation and was willing to follow the teachings he received. "I was baptized in water and learned about being faithful to God. At that time, I wasn't even faithful to my family. Even though I earned a good income, the money disappeared, and I always ended the month overdrawn. Despite my situation, I made a commitment to God and started putting Him first," he explains.

This act of faith, along with the teachings he put into practice, changed his life. "My thoughts changed: I no longer had the desire to commit suicide or feel anxiety. I started putting in more effort and grew

financially. I left my job and started my own business. Despite initial difficulties, I carried God's Word within me and trusted it would work out. In three months, I tripled my earnings, paid off all my debts, learned to organize myself, and things started to fall into place," he says.

However, even though he was a faithful tither and regular churchgoer, his priorities were still centered on the blessings, not the Blesser. This became clear as he grew financially. "At that time, my tithe also grew, and I started seeing it just as money, no longer being faithful to God. Gradually, things started going wrong, sales dropped, I stopped praying, I no longer evangelized, and God was no longer my priority," he reveals.

This went on for three months until he decided to make things right with God. "I took the initiative to make a vow at the Altar, and from then on, I put all my strength into pleasing God—not just financially but in every area. I truly prioritized God, and He rewarded me. My spiritual life changed, and I received the Holy Spirit. I began to understand the value of marriage, met a woman

of God, and got married. I also kept growing professionally," he describes.

Roberto's transformation started from within, beginning with his decision to prioritize God and follow His Word. "I had nothing before, and I recognize that everything I have achieved, He gave me. Today, I am faithful and have become a sponsor of God's Work, so that it may reach more people," he concludes.





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