

# UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

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## C A M P A I G N O F I S R A E L

If you're tired of living a life full of pain and suffering, there's a solution. It starts with a simple exchange—one that takes willingness and sacrifice. Visit a Universal Church near you to learn how you can take part in this Campaign of Faith.

# NEW LIFE at the JORDAN RIVER



*"I let myself fall back into drugs and ended up living a lie. I pretended to be converted, but I was a hypocrite."*

(Read more about Luciano and Andrea on page 6)



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**Bishop Edir Macedo**

Arms and feet of faith



Watch the new season at 9 PM ET on ULFN



Page 8

UBB at Galveston Hospital in Texas



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**NOT TO BE SOLD**

## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Campaign of Israel at the Jordan River

Did you know the Jordan River is mentioned over 180 times throughout the Bible? This river holds immense significance as the site of numerous miracles and transformative moments recorded in both the Old and New Testaments. From the Israelites crossing into the Promised Land, to Naaman's healing from leprosy, to the baptism of Jesus, the Jordan River has been a place of profound spiritual renewal and change. For those who encountered it, their lives were unmistakably divided into "before" and "after."

One of the most striking examples is the story of Naaman, a commander in the Syrian army. Despite his position of honor and authority, Naaman suffered from the shame and isolation of leprosy—a disease often viewed as a sign of divine punishment (*Leviticus 13:43-44*). When he heard about the God of Israel's power to heal, Naaman sought out Prophet Elisha, who instructed him to dip seven times in the Jordan River. Initially resistant, Naaman questioned why he couldn't wash in the rivers of Damascus, which he deemed superior. But when he humbled himself and obeyed, his skin was restored, and he experienced a life-changing transformation—both physically and spiritually (*2 Kings 5:1-19*).

Naaman's decision to "go down" into the Jordan not only brought him healing but also led to his repentance and newfound faith in the One true God. He left behind the gods he once served to worship the Almighty. This story demonstrates that the act of surrender and obedience to God opens the door to miracles and the fulfillment of His promises.

The God who worked wonders at the Jordan has not changed. He is faithful to His Word and ready to perform great works in the lives of those who trust in Him. However, He requires our decision—our willingness to humble ourselves, lay down our pride, and take a step of faith.

This is why, for the first time, every Universal Church worldwide will host the **Campaign of Israel at the Jordan River**. This campaign is a unique opportunity for those seeking a new beginning—both spiritually and physically. Just as Naaman "went down" to the Jordan and was lifted up by God's power, this campaign invites you to make a bold act of faith to receive transformation in your life. [Take part in the Campaign of Israel at the Jordan River and embrace the new life God has for you!](#)

## | 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



### Arms and feet of faith

The story of Israel's deliverance and journey to the Promised Land vividly illustrates the power of faith combined with action. When Moses raised his rod at the Red Sea, the miraculous wind began to part the waters, enabling Israel to walk through on dry land. But the victory wasn't complete until Moses lowered the rod, causing the waters to crash back and destroy the Egyptian army (*Exodus 14:26-28*). This act of faith and obedience marked the moment of Israel's deliverance from slavery.

Later, as they approached the Jordan River, it wasn't just Joshua's arms of faith but the obedient steps of the people that triggered the miracle. When the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the Jordan, the waters were held back, allowing Israel to cross and take possession of the Promised Land. This shows that while faith delivers us, it is our continual obedience and movement forward that brings us into the fullness of God's promises.

This truth remains relevant for Christians today. It's not enough to simply be freed from the bondage of sin; we must also step out of the "desert" of spiritual and physical limitations and move toward the "Promised Land" of God's blessings, including eternal life.

#### Faith requires action:

- **Sacrifice:** True steps of faith demand sacrifice,



including obedience to God's Word, even when it challenges our understanding or comfort.

- **Courage:** Like Joshua and the Israelites, advancing in faith requires the boldness to get your feet wet and trust God for the outcome.
- **Effort:** Progress requires effort—faith isn't passive. The journey to the Promised Land involved hard work, battles, and perseverance.

The fulfillment of God's promises depends on our willingness to obey and take bold steps of faith. Whether it's breaking free from sin, overcoming a challenge, or receiving a long-awaited promise, the key is to keep moving forward, trusting that God will part the waters before you.



### "Today I have a new life"

but it was a nightmare. He started abusing me too, and eventually, I had to get a divorce," she recalls.

One night, 23 years ago, Raquel came across a program from the Universal Church on TV. "I watched a testimony that reflected my life. The next day, I went to the church and began attending a chain of prayer for deliverance on Fridays. I felt better, but I was deceiving myself. I thought I was fine, but I was missing the most important thing: the Holy Spirit.

"I was physically present in the church but not truly part of God's Kingdom. I drifted away and stayed in the Universal Church until 2018, even serving for nine years in an ecclesiastical position. However, without the Holy Spirit, my faith had no foundation, and I returned to my old life. Things went from bad to worse."

Raquel's relapse was devastating. She returned to her past addictions, this time with an even stronger craving. "I became a regular customer at the drug corner. I remember walking in and people calling me 'aunty.' I even used marijuana with my daughter, doing drugs together at home.

"My life spiraled out of control. I indulged in fantasies about men and even went to a swingers' house with a married man. But the moment that broke me was when my daughter called me 'trash' and said she would be happy if I died because I'd be one less problem in her life. That was when I realized just how far I had fallen."

In 2020, Raquel made her way back to the Church. This time, she knew what needed to be done. "I truly repented and buried my old self and habits. I allowed God to fill every space. He forgave me, cleansed me, and transformed me. That's when I received the Holy Spirit.

"Through that encounter, I became His daughter, and I have never been the same. I, who had never experienced love before, now know a love that is incomparable. Today, I am defined, determined, and confident. I have character, and I no longer live in shame. Now, my life is a reflection of His grace, and I can share that with others."

— Raquel Pina

As a teenager, Raquel turned to marijuana and alcohol, quickly falling into addiction. Around this time, she met a young man who shared her lifestyle. "I got married and became pregnant,

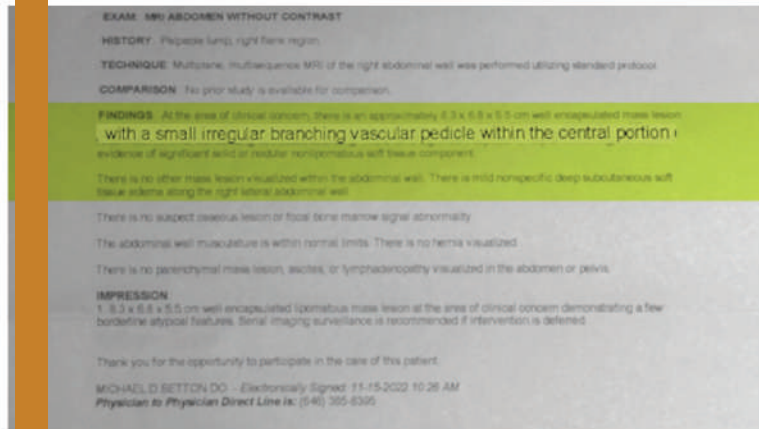
# See what's happening on Sundays

**"There is no cancer after five tests"**



One day, while sitting, I noticed a lump on my right side. I went to work at the hospital and saw my physician, who had previously done a sonogram on me. At that time, they told me it was a lipoma. However, because it seemed to be growing, they recommended an MRI.

When the results from the MRI came back, I was informed that I needed surgery immediately. The lipoma had grown to 8 centimeters and a vein had started to grow into it. It was as large as an avocado, and the doctors told me there was a 99% chance it could be cancerous.



During this time, I used the blessed water from the church, drinking it every morning and even using it in my cooking. Whenever I felt pain, I would use it as well.

The day of the surgery, I brought my blessed water with me to the hospital. After two weeks, I went for a follow-up appointment, and the doctors were surprised. There was no fluid in the area, and after the biopsy, they confirmed there was no cancer. They ran the test five times, and each time the results came back negative. Now, I'm back to work and back at church, rejoicing in God's healing. – Sharitta

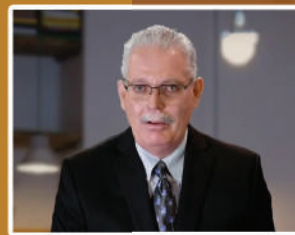


**Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church**



**"The pain in my leg and hip is gone"**

I was experiencing pain in my hip, which made it difficult for me to walk up and down the stairs. I went to the hospital, and they told me it was an issue with the joint between my hip and leg. I started drinking the blessed water and praying. After just two days, I was able to come to church without any pain. – Sandra



**"Free from high blood pressure, arthritis, and sleepless nights"**

I used to watch many different church programs, but I never found real help. I was suffering from anxiety, arthritis, high blood pressure, and back issues, among others. After watching the Showdown of Faith on TV, I came to this ministry. At first, my faith wasn't strong, but as I continued coming faithfully, I started drinking the Divine Water in faith. I prayed daily and used the water consistently. The results have been significant. I've lost 30 pounds, my blood pressure is normal, and I now sleep well. – Mark



**"The cyst kept coming back until I used my faith"**

For many years, I struggled with issues in my breasts and stomach. Doctors diagnosed me with fibrosis and cysts. I had four surgeries to remove the cysts from my breasts and a major surgery in my stomach. Every time I underwent surgery, the cyst would come back. I became tired of this ongoing cycle, so I decided to use the Water from the Spiritual Treatment with faith. I bathed with it and determined that the next time I went to the doctor, they would find nothing in my breast. After my last mammogram, the results showed that the cyst had completely dissolved. – Bridgette





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

A WEIGHT OFF YOUR SHOULDERS



“No Problem.” Who wouldn’t want to hear those reassuring words, especially when it feels like a big problem is looming over you? Whether it’s a child who broke something by accident and expects trouble, only to hear their parent say, “No problem, it was an accident, are you okay?” or a client who is stressed over a tough legal case, only to hear their lawyer assure them, “No problem, I got you,” the relief that follows is immense. The burden that once felt unbearable is lifted because someone with authority and knowledge has stepped in to take control.

This principle was evident in the Bible when Jesus assured the grieving parents of a dead child, saying, “Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping” (Luke 8:52). In the eyes of the parents, their daughter’s death was the ultimate problem, but for Jesus, it was no problem at all. His authority over death itself allowed Him to offer peace to their troubled hearts. And just as He calmed the fears of that family, He offers the same assurance to us today.

In times of trouble, when the weight of a problem seems overwhelming, we must remember to take a moment to breathe and compare the issue to the power of God. No matter how big or daunting it may seem, it pales in comparison to His might. The God of the Bible is unchanging and all-powerful—what seems impossible to us is nothing to Him.

Bring your problem to God in prayer. Trust that with Him, there’s no problem too big to handle. Just as the child’s broken glass or the client’s legal case was an easy fix for those in authority, your problem is a simple matter for the One who holds all power.

Take a step of faith today and watch as God answers with His “no problem.” A miracle awaits.

May the God of the Bible bless you!



My suffering began when I was a little girl. I grew up in a household with a mother who was mentally ill. There was a lot of verbal and physical abuse I was always made fun off because of the way I spoke and looked. I did not like my life, I was sexually abused by people who I was supposed to trust.

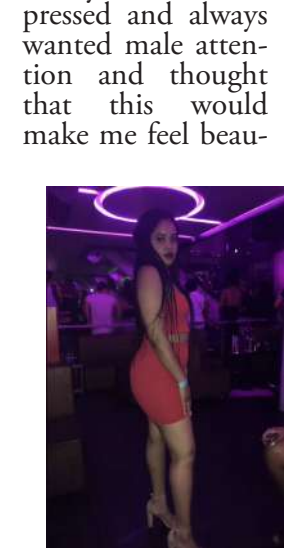
I had a lot of resentment and I hated myself, I was depressed and always wanted male attention and thought that this would make me feel beau-

tiful, not knowing that I was already beautiful. Because of my mother’s deteriorating mental health, I moved in with my father and I thought that this would be an American dream since I was moving out of the toxic environment but unfortunately it was not like that. There was a lot

of verbal abuse, my dad and I could not agree. I lost all hope and I thought that it was time to end my life. I took my dad’s sleeping pills and I woke up in hospital in a coma. When I woke up, I was sent to a mental health hospital for girls until they made sure that I was able to live in a society again. When I left, I started going out with friends, I was drinking, smoking hookah but still, I was empty. I got so tired and that was when I saw the Universal Church on TV. Since I didn’t have anything else to lose, I decided to go and from the first day, I felt relieved and at peace and because of that, I continued to go to church and making my chain of prayer. I participated in the Fast of Daniel and also the Campaign of Israel and during the campaign, I gave my all because I was so tired of the life I was living, I was exhausted of doing things by the strength of my arm, it was mentally and physically exhausting. I decided to surrender all to God and I got baptized in the water. I started seeking for the baptism in the Holy Spirit as I started to learn about Him in the church by coming on Wednesdays and Sundays to church.

The day that I received the Holy Spirit is unforgettable for me, I remember every detail. It was a beautiful and overwhelming feeling and for the first time in my life, right there, I knew God was real.

I am now blessed, I am no longer depressed, I am in a happy and fulfilled marriage and my husband is in church with me, I reconnected with my family and I am talking to my mother. They show me love and I am happy for the family restoration. I now live for God,



nothing is above Him, not my husband, not money but He is first in my life and I made a promise to Him that I will never leave His side because I do not want to go back to the life that I had.

Melannie Pizarro

November 2024		MONTH OF THE SACRED		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

# What's happening at the Universal Church



## "The Curse in My Family Was Broken"



Annie and Anna's family lived under a shadow of suffering, with illness and despair gripping their household.

"Everything started when family members began getting sick one by one," recalls Annie. "They all suffered from the same symptoms and illnesses. No one could explain why. Despite seeking solutions, we couldn't find any answers. This brought so much depression into our lives. Our once-happy family home turned into a sad and oppressive environment."

Anna, Annie's twin sister, shares how deeply the situation affected her: "The chaos in my family broke me mentally and physically. I couldn't focus. I fell into depression and isolated myself from everyone. At one point, I thought the only solution was to run away from home to escape it all."

They sought medical help, but the doctors couldn't find anything wrong. That's when they realized the problem wasn't physical—it was spiritual. Desperate for answers, their mother discovered the Universal Church. Annie remembers their first steps toward change: "We came to the church overwhelmed, desperate for help. The pastor and assistants explained to us that our family was under a generational curse. They encouraged us to make

a chain of prayer on Fridays and Sundays, teaching us how to use our faith. As we obeyed and followed the guidance, the atmosphere in our home began to shift. Little by little, my family was healed, and our lives transformed. I also received the blessed oil from the church. I used it to anoint my family and our home, and the change became undeniable. The depression lifted, and healing came to our household."

Although their family was restored, Annie and Anna knew something was still missing. They realized they needed the Holy Spirit to be complete. Annie shares her journey: "When the Campaign of Israel and the Fast of Daniel were announced, I decided to give my all. I wanted more of God. I got baptized in water and dedicated myself to seeking the Holy Spirit. I started coming to church more often and seeking Him at home as well. I separated myself from everything negative, focusing entirely on God. One day, while praying, I received the Holy Spirit. I'll never forget the joy and peace that filled me that day. It was like nothing I'd ever experienced before."

Anna's experience was similar: "I never knew about the Holy Spirit until I came to the church. When I heard that God Himself could live inside of me and give me true joy and peace, I was determined to receive Him. I sacrificed both physically and spiritually, praying more and asking God to fill me. One day, as I prayed and sought Him, the Holy Spirit came upon me. I felt His love, power, and joy fill my heart. From that moment, my life was completely transformed. People around us could see the difference. They saw the change in me and my sister. God broke the generational curse in our family and transformed us from the inside out. Today, we are living proof of His power and love," concludes Anna.

## "My health was restored"

I used to suffer from cancer, anxiety attacks, and alcoholism. Deep down, I knew God could change my life, but I didn't give Him the chance. I wanted to handle everything on my own.

At 29, I was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. For about a year, I had been visiting doctors to figure out what was wrong, but they couldn't give me any answers. When the cancer diagnosis came back, it hit me like a ton of bricks. I was so young, and even the doctors couldn't explain why this was happening. After more testing, I got a second diagnosis: Lynch syndrome. Not long after that, I caught a virus and ended up in the hospital for nearly a week. I was so sick, throwing up constantly, that they had to keep me on IV fluids.

At that point, I had everything I thought I needed—financial stability, a nice home, luxury handbags, the latest phone, and plenty of gadgets. But lying in that hospital bed, I realized none of it mattered if I lost my life. That's when it hit me: I needed to invest in my spiritual life. I started reading the Bible and reflecting on how I was living. That's when I found the church.

I made the decision to let go of everything that pulled me away from God. Before I got baptized, I wanted a clean slate. I quit drinking, stopped going to clubs, and left my old life behind. I got baptized in water, and after that, I participated in a campaign and poured my heart out to God.

The day I received the Holy Spirit was incredible—completely unexpected. As I prayed, I realized I didn't have to have a perfect life to receive Him. I just needed to come as I was. That day, I felt a peace I

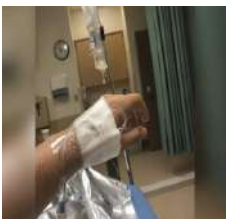


had never experienced before. It changed everything. I started sleeping peacefully without needing any medication. The depression and anxiety attacks were gone. My addictions? Gone too.

Today, I have peace inside me, and my health has been fully restored. I was healed from cancer, and God gave me a brand-new life.



Before



After



## YPG USA



### YPG Georgia Dodgeball Tournament

We do all kinds of events here in Georgia. Recently, we held a Dodgeball Tournament, bringing together many youths from the community for a fun and safe day. Over 100 young people attended, enjoying the games and receiving backpacks and school supplies. They also learned about the YPG, which is a safe place where they can develop their talents and learn to live a productive life, away from crime, the streets, bullying, and other dangers that young people face daily. These kinds of events happen monthly through the YPG in Georgia, and everyone is welcome to attend.



YPG.USA

YPG USA

REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141



## "I believed I was ugly"

When I was little, I was very insecure. I thought I was ugly and couldn't even find the strength to smile. As I got older, things got worse. I started drinking heavily and going clubbing all the time. It got so bad that I was going to nightclubs seven days a week and drinking every single day. Deep down, I hated myself and avoided looking in the mirror.

Everything changed when I came to YPG and truly got to know God. Through Him, I was healed from my past insecurities and set free from my addiction to alcohol and clubbing. This year, I even got married to another YPG member, and I'm so happy to be starting my new life with God and my new family. Now, I love myself, and I actually enjoy smiling and taking pictures.



BE A PART OF SOMETHING GREAT!  
JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 1PM

# NEW LIFE at the JORDAN RIVER

## The Jordan River: A Place of Transformation

The Jordan River appears in many passages throughout the Bible. One of the most significant events that took place there was the baptism of the Lord Jesus when He walked this earth as a man.

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to stop Him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by You, and yet You are coming to me?’ But Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, He came up out of the water. At that moment, heaven opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:13-17)

In verse 6 of this chapter, we see that the baptism in water, as performed by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, symbolized the burial of a sinful life. It marked a turning point—a clear separation between the old and the new in the life of a person who repented and fully surrendered to God.

Although the Lord Jesus was sinless, He asked John to baptize Him to set an example for others. His baptism shows us that water baptism is a public declaration of one’s decision to live for God.

If you want to learn more about the Campaign of Israel and how it can lead to a new life, visit your nearest Universal Church. Check the back page for locations.

## "I wore a mask to make people believe I was converted, but I lived in hypocrisy."

**L**uciano: At one point, I had someone under my power, and I took their life with over 100 shots. One of the residents said she didn’t see me—she saw the devil in me. Eventually, I was appointed to be a crime boss, which only made things worse. The police began hunting me, and during a raid on one of the territories I controlled, they arrested me. That led to a sentence of 78 years in prison. I spent 15 of those years completely locked up.

One day, while I was in prison, the Universal Church’s prison ministry, UBB (Universal Beyond Bars), came in. I listened to their preaching, and their words caught my attention. I liked what they said. In 2012, I got baptized in water. Prison life drags on endlessly unless you spend time with God—reading the Bible, meditating, and truly seeking Him. That’s what gave me purpose. I felt the desire to help others, so I became an assistant.

In prison, the other inmates often call anyone doing God’s work “pastor.” They started calling me that, too. While I was there, I met a young man who I helped spiritually, along with many others. This young man introduced me to his mother, Andrea—who is now my wife.

Andrea: I noticed Luciano’s character. He impressed me. I



thought, Wow, this is a man of God. He was helping my son, and that caught my attention. I dreamed of marrying a man of God, and he seemed to be the one. Luciano: I was released on December 15th, and when I looked outside, I saw Andrea waiting for me. Seven months later, we got married—inside the prison. I thought I could stay clean and overcome drugs once I got out, but I was wrong.

Reality hit hard. I let myself fall back into drugs and ended up living a lie. I pretended to be converted, but I was a hypocrite. I preached one thing and lived another. The proof? I went right back to drugs

after getting out, falling deeper each time. Eventually, I hit rock bottom.

Andrea: My life turned into a nightmare. That man of God I admired turned into someone I couldn’t recognize. Luciano was using drugs every day. I confronted him constantly. I’d say, “Luciano, you were called a pastor in prison. How can this be? You preached, you helped others get free in there.” He’d get furious and lash out at me.

Luciano: I acted violently and cowardly. During one of my outbursts, I assaulted Andrea so badly that I left her face disfigured.

Andrea: That day was the worst of my life. I felt humiliated and broken. My eye was swollen shut, my nose was broken, and I could barely see.

Luciano: After serving 30 days in jail for assaulting her, I fell even deeper into drugs. My life spiraled out of control. Andrea had already returned to God, and she was active in the UBB group. One day, she called some group members to visit me at home. During the visit, one assistant made a challenge. He placed his forehead on mine, prayed, and declared, "The Word of God says there's a blessing on the head of the righteous."

That prayer hit me hard. Afterward, I couldn't use drugs the same way anymore. Every time I tried, I felt miserable and cried. On May 16th, I went to the Universal Church. The pastor preached two words that changed everything for me. He read 2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become

new. That verse stayed with me.

I went home, still holding onto some drugs, but I made a decision: I would never use them again. And I didn't.



But something was still missing—the most important thing—true repentance and genuine conversion. I realized my baptism in prison wasn't genuine. It didn't count. So I decided to do it right this time.

After being baptized again, I

determined that my life would be truly new. And it was. I developed a thirst for God and a desire to seek Him like never before. Around that time, the Campaign of Israel came up.

God kept speaking to me, and I didn't want to live a lie anymore. I didn't want to pretend or wear a mask. I wanted to be clean, truly clean. I made my sacrifice and climbed step by step, asking God for one thing: His Spirit. I needed His Spirit to overcome the struggles I faced outside.

One day, during a meeting, I left home determined not to return the same. I cried out, "God, I need your Spirit!" And during that meeting, the Holy Spirit came upon me. My life has never been the same since. Now, with all my heart, I can say the Holy

Spirit lives in me.

How long did it take from your water baptism to your baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Luciano: The five years I spent inside the prison, in the presence of God, don't compare to the 15 days after my true water baptism. Fifteen days later, the Holy Spirit came into my life. True repentance made all the difference. It's impossible for God not to respond to sincere repentance. I'm living proof of that. Today, I can confidently say that verse is fulfilled in my life: The old things have passed away. Everything has become new

## "I didn't want to live anymore."

My dad used to come home with two rocks in his hands, ready to beat my mom. I had to watch that my entire childhood, thinking it was normal. When we finally left him, my mom worked two or three jobs to support us. Even then, we ended up homeless, sleeping in our car and begging for food.

When I got married, my husband started treating me the same way my dad treated my mom. I developed severe anxiety, couldn't sleep at night, and had to rely on medication. Sometimes, I turned to alcohol, hoping it would help me sleep. I had constant stomach pain, but every time I went to the doctor, they told me I was fine. I tried therapy and anxiety pills, but nothing worked.

One day, while driving on the freeway, I thought about throwing myself in front of a truck. I truly didn't want to live anymore. Then, my apartment burned down, and I found myself homeless again. One night, at 3 a.m., I was lying on the ground when I heard a voice on the radio. The person on the other end spoke about

everything I was going through. They said, "There is hope. There is help. There is a way out for you. Jesus is the light at the end of the tunnel."

In that moment, I told God, "I don't want to live like this anymore. I'm tired of this life. But I'm going to this place they're talking about, and if they can't help me, this is it—this is my last door." I walked to the Universal Church, telling God, "I need you to change my life."

The first miracle was that I finally slept peacefully, like a baby. I felt calm for the first time in years. I started coming to the church every day, sometimes twice a day, because I desperately needed help. The servants of God taught me how to make purposes with God on the altar. I began praying and seeking the Holy Spirit, asking Him to clean my soul and heal my traumas.

When the Holy Spirit entered my life, everything changed. I felt peace, joy, and purpose. God gave me a scholarship to attend university, and I earned my teaching credential. I started my journey in education by watching one child at my house. Slowly, I grew.



before-and-after-school program. We help families, support parents, and educate children.

The Holy Spirit gave me a completely new life. My marriage is now peaceful, and both my husband and I serve God. We dedicate ourselves to helping others, showing them there is a solution and an answer. Just as God changed our lives, He can change theirs too.

– Dina

I moved into a commercial building, expanded my work, and began teaching more children. Today, I own two businesses—a preschool and a



# Universal Beyond Bars

*You are NOT alone*

## UBB goes to hospital Galveston

Hospital Galveston

On Thursday, November 7th, Bishop Joshua and 34 volunteers visited the prison hospital in Galveston, TX. Before we went in, we gathered in the parking lot for a prayer, where



all the volunteers had their hands anointed with Holy Oil.



Chaplain Phillips welcomed us with open arms and was really excited to see so many



volunteers from UBB supporting the unit.

We donated over 200 Bibles and spiritual books, and the Chaplain was very grateful for



the gifts. Bishop Joshua and the UBB team moved from floor to floor, praying for the inmates, singing, and dancing. They brought



a message of hope, letting the inmates know that they weren't alone. Many inmates couldn't believe that Bishop Joshua was actually there.

Some even said they had been watching him on a tablet earlier that morning and were stunned



to see him in person at the hospital. The Chaplain then led the team to the infirmary, where we prayed for the salvation of the souls. It wasn't just the inmates who were moved;



the officers, nurses, doctors, and staff also sang, danced, and received prayers for their families and the strength to keep going in their work.

The six hours we spent at the unit flew by. The inmates wanted more, and the Chaplain wished we could've stayed longer because of the positive impact our visit had on everyone.



**"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



# Peace at any moment



Every day the UBB has a new episode for you.

There is something for everyone! Do you need guidance about your faith, family, sexual orientation, curses, dealing with loss, addictions etc.?

“¿Hablas español? En la aplicación de Pando puedes encontrar segmentos de la UBB ¡también en español!”



Our day doesn't start when the clock strikes 12. It begins with the little things we do the night before to prepare for the next day. You've probably experienced the chaos of not being ready, and you know how important it is to have a few tips and tricks to make the day go smoothly.

A big part of being prepared for the new day is making sure you get good sleep. Some people are lucky enough to sleep in peace, even describing it as “sleeping like a baby.” But for many, sleep is far from peaceful.

When they close their eyes, they only see terror. Some even avoid sleeping altogether because they fear what will happen when they close their eyes. Maybe this is something you can relate to.



Perhaps you've already prepared yourself to stay up all night, lining up a long list of distractions, only planning to sleep once your body can't fight it any longer.

Your nights are filled with nightmares, shadows, paralysis, and fear, and you can't remember the last time you had a good night's sleep. Before you rest,

take a moment to remember these verses:

**“You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.”  
(Psalms 91:5-6)**

Whatever your terror is, you don't have to fear it anymore. That fear comes from a spiritual problem and can only be dealt with spiritually.

God's Word is stronger than any arrow that evil throws your way. Let this verse remind you that no terror is greater than God's power before you go to sleep.



I'm going to the TOP down with the UBB! Tune in to the UBB on the Pando App. Episodes uploaded daily!



## 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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**GENESIS | 7pm**

**KINGS THE SERIES | 9pm**

**LET THERE BE LIGHT | 12am**



SCAN ME



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## WHAT IS MISSING IN YOUR LIFE?

**S**aleswoman Gilvania Silva now 39 years old, grew up carrying frustrations, and as her adolescence progressed, she realized that something was missing in her life, but she couldn't precisely identify what it was. For this reason, for a long time, she searched for something that would fill that gap in some way. "I wanted to be happy, and there was always something missing inside me. I wasn't complete. My biggest dream was to have a family because my home was destroyed," she reveals.

In an attempt to fill the many voids and erase the frustrations, at 16, Gilvania began using drugs and was even arrested. In a short time, she had numerous promiscuous relationships and accumulated disappointments and betrayals. She became pregnant but, because she continued using drugs during the pregnancy, she suffered a miscarriage.

After this episode, Gilvania wanted to change. It was then that some people came to the place where she and her family lived with an offer of a good job in another city. At 17, with the intention of changing her life, Gilvania traveled to the new location, but upon arriving, she discovered it was a house of prostitution. She says that when she found out, she even

resisted the idea, but stayed there because, this time, she would be paid to live in promiscuity and addiction. She sent part of the money she earned to her mother, but the family had no idea what kind of work she was doing.

"Even in that wrong life, deep down, it wasn't what I wanted for myself. I felt dirty, and the thoughts of what I had become kept pounding in my mind. Only I knew the pain I carried for living in prostitution. It was a huge wound inside me, and I couldn't see a way out," she reveals. Gilvania was beaten by the owner of the house of prostitution and locked in a room. "In that dark room, everything closed off, I desperately cried out to God. I didn't even know how to pray properly, but I said, 'God, if You exist, get me out of this life. Help me because I can't take it anymore,'" she recalls.

A few days later, she managed to return to her parents' home and was invited by her aunt to go to The Universal Church. It didn't take long for her to be baptized in water and freed from her addictions but she was still didn't surrender her life completely to God. Despite attending church, she distanced herself from God. "I couldn't put into practice what I was hearing. It was as if my mind was blocked, and I didn't have the strength to react," she says. Rejected by her daughter's father and

the child sick, depression, insomnia, and suicidal thoughts followed.

It was on one of those sleepless, tearful nights that Gilvania heard the pastor say during a Universal program on TV: "You who are there, just crying and lamenting because of your problems, stop crying and use your faith. Lift your head and react, because God will not be moved by your tears. He will change your life through your faith." Right then, Gilvania, as she recalls, dried her tears and told herself she would start over. At that moment, the campaign for a New Life was beginning, and she saw an opportunity to practice her faith. "Spiritually, I gave myself to God and accepted His Will for my life. I threw myself onto the Altar, sacrificed in every way during the campaign, carrying within me the desire for change. I forgave my daughter's father, freed myself from the bitterness I had against him, and told God that I would rather He take my life than for me to continue without His Presence," she says.

When she received the Holy Spirit, Gilvania finally saw her life become complete. "Nothing compares to the Holy Spirit, and He is everything. And I, who survived amid so much suffering, today have real life, I am happy, fulfilled, and have the immense joy of serving my Lord Jesus, who freed me from all sin," she concludes





SCAN ME

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