

UNIVERSAL NEWS



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DEPRESSION

The sickness of the century

You can beat it!

"I began to feel suicidal, and could only sleep with medication..." (Read Pedro's story on page 7)



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Bishop Edir Macedo

To be successful



Watch the new season at 9 PM ET on ULFN

Errol lost all the movements of his body

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Today



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Depression: The sickness of the Century You can beat it!

Depression has become one of the most widespread mental health challenges of our time. According to Mental Health America, it impacts more than 21 million adults annually in the U.S. alone—around 8% of the population. Among youth aged 12-17, 3.7 million are affected yearly. In 2023, nearly one-third of all adults reported experiencing symptoms of depression or anxiety, as shown by the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey. Some common symptoms of depression include:

- Persistent sadness or feelings of emptiness
- Hopelessness, guilt, or worthlessness
- Restlessness or irritability
- Loss of interest in hobbies and activities
- Constant fatigue or lack of energy
- Difficulty concentrating
- Appetite changes
- Thoughts of death or suicide

These symptoms can make day-to-day life feel overwhelming, causing distress and disrupting routines.

Do any of these signs resonate with you? Are you finding it harder to engage with your responsibilities, withdrawing from loved ones, or turning to unhealthy coping mechanisms? Or perhaps someone close to you is struggling, and you feel powerless to help. Regardless of how long depression has been a part of your life or the severity of its grip, there is hope—you can overcome it.

The Bible offers comfort and a reminder of God's care: *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* (Psalm 34:18) Even if you feel weighed down and trapped by despair, God is near. He sees your pain and wants to lift your burden, replacing it with hope and restoration.

If you're ready to take a step toward healing, visit a Universal Church near you. Our doors are open to everyone, and you'll find a judgment-free space where you can come as you are. Together, we'll help you discover that freedom from depression is possible. **You can beat this—and you don't have to face it alone!**

| BEATING DEPRESSION |

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

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

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

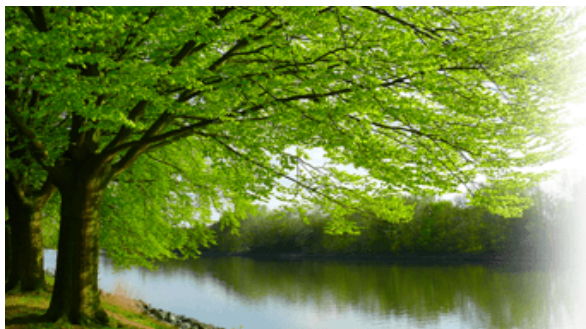


Call 1.888.332.4141
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For more information
SEE PAGE 12 FOR LOCATIONS



Bishop Edir Macedo

To Be Successful



A tree that is planted by the rivers of water has its guarantees...

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper." Psalm 1:1-3

In a world where many seek guidance from the opinions of others, the psalmist reminds us that true success comes from aligning ourselves with God's Word. Those who are unsure of their direction often walk in the counsel of worldly wisdom, but those who fear God seek His wisdom. They find joy in meditating on His law day and night, filling their minds with His truth, which removes any room for doubt.

The counsel of the ungodly leads only to confusion, and the path of sinners may appear inviting, but it is ultimately a trap. There is no real safety outside of God's protection.

Those who meditate on God's Word and live according to it are compared to a tree

planted by the rivers of water—constantly nourished and safe, standing firm while others falter. The world may not understand their way, calling them foolish or crazy because they do not follow the popular opinion or the path most take. But the promise they hold is greater than any worldly advice: Everything they do will prosper.

This is a guarantee. The Word does not say, "Everything except this..." No, it says everything will prosper. This is a promise that dismisses insecurities and doubts. The tree planted by the rivers of water is not dependent on the world; it has its own source of life and guarantees. It may seem isolated from the rest of the world, but it thrives because of its connection to the living water.

In the same way, when you choose to follow God's counsel, your life will be rooted in His promises. While others may struggle, you will stand firm. Prosperity and success come not from the wisdom of the world, but from walking in the counsel of the Word of God. Do not rely on the advice of the world—walk in the counsel of the Lord and see everything you do prosper.



"I didn't feel like leaving the house"

own family. I had no desire to leave the house. I lost weight, and all I wanted to do was sleep, escaping the pain in any way I could. I often questioned why I was even alive, as life seemed meaningless. I felt like a burden to my family and couldn't see a way out.

It all began when I was just 14 years old. My family was falling apart. My parents fought constantly, leaving me and my brother desperate at home. During these fights, knives were pulled out, and threats were made. Eventually, my father left home for good, and the weight of it all was too much for me to bear.

The home problems overwhelmed me, and I sank into deep depression. At school, I was invisible—not recognized by my peers, not even by my

Then one day, I happened to see a TV program from the Universal Church. The testimonies I heard gave me hope. Despite being so young, I felt something stir inside of me. A little while later, a neighbor invited me to the church, and I accepted. I just wanted the sadness and weight to lift from me.

My mom came with me, and that day marked the beginning of my new life with God. When we arrived, the pastor counseled me, and I found myself in tears, as if God Himself was listening

to me. He prayed for me, and from that moment on, I was never the same.

That prayer broke the chains of depression and emptiness that had weighed me down for so long. I continued attending the church, learning how to use my faith. I came to understand that the greatest gift anyone can receive from God is the Holy Spirit.

Now, at 31 years old, I can confidently say that depression has never returned. My life is blessed in every way—financially, with my family, my marriage, and my health. But the greatest blessing I have is the Holy Spirit, living within me. I have found true happiness and peace, and I am fulfilled because of Him.

Lucas Gomes

See what's happening on Sundays



"The pain is finally gone after a year of suffering."

One morning, I woke up with pain in my shoulder, and as the days went by, it got worse. Eventually, I couldn't even lift my hands. I spent a whole year like that, relying on medication but not finding relief.

Driven by faith, I decided to use the Blessed Water, and the pain disappeared. Now, I'm completely free."

"I was given five days to live because of cancer."



After noticing I wasn't feeling well, I went for medical tests. The doctor told me the cancer had spread throughout my body, and I only had five days left to live. Soon, I couldn't speak, walk, or even shower. My stomach also started to swell.



Ms. Vicky healed from cancer

”

A friend brought me to this ministry, where I learned how to use my faith for healing. Now, I can shower on my own, cook, and do so much more. I've overcome cancer—God has healed me."



Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church



Errol was driving with his girlfriend, and everything seemed perfect—until it wasn't. He had to stop the car and step away for a moment, but as he walked back, a vehicle suddenly appeared and hit him. In an instant, his life changed completely. Yet, his family refused to give up. They clung to their faith, trusting in the Word of God and persevering in their Chains of Prayer.

Errol's Mother: "It was unbearable. As a mom, it was so hard to deal with. He couldn't see us, talk to us, or even move. He was completely unresponsive."

Sister: "It was devastating. For the first three weeks, he wasn't awake. I've never seen my brother like that, unable to speak or respond. Every day, we would go to the hospital, play church services, read the Bible to him, and anoint him with the Holy Oil."



Father: "He had a tube in his throat, and one of his eyes was severely damaged. The doctors told us there was nothing they could do. But one day, while my daughter was standing by the bed, I poured a little of the Blessed Water onto the tip of his tongue. He moved! My daughter saw it happen."

Today, Errol's incredible recovery stands as a living testament to the power of God's Word and unwavering faith in the Lord Jesus.

HEALING
WATERS



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

FEAR NO EVIL



Many people, whether believers or not, are familiar with passages from the Bible. Some learn them in school, others in church as children, but these verses often stay with them, etched into their memory. However, the Word of God is far more than just words to memorize or recite. It is life-giving, capable of bringing light to even the darkest of moments.

Take, for example, times of spiritual attack. When someone experiences nightmares, anxiety, depression, or unexplainable events, it can feel as though there's no way out. In these moments, many people feel overwhelmed, believing there's no solution to their plight. But there is. The Word of God provides clarity and strength, as seen in this well-known verse:

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalms 23:4)

This verse isn't just poetic; it's a powerful declaration. When faced with evil, we are reminded that God is both our protector (the rod) and guide (the staff). He brings comfort and assurance even in the darkest valleys.

But here's a challenge: How often have you recited this verse without truly believing it? The Bible is no ordinary book; it's a source of divine strength and wisdom. If you are in the valley right now, surrounded by fear or uncertainty, don't just say the words—believe in them. Trust that God is in control, and He will bring you through. There is no need to fear when you call upon Him. Hold firm to His promise, and let His Word comfort and guide you.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

2024 December Bible Reading						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Proverbs 1 ✓	2 Proverbs 2 ✓	3 Proverbs 3 ✓	4 Proverbs 4 ✓	5 Proverbs 5 ✓	6 Proverbs 6	7 Proverbs 7
8 Proverbs 8	9 Proverbs 9	10 Proverbs 10	11 Proverbs 11	12 Proverbs 12	13 Proverbs 13	14 Proverbs 14
15 Proverbs 15	16 Proverbs 16	17 Proverbs 17	18 Proverbs 18	19 Proverbs 19	20 Proverbs 20	21 Proverbs 21
22 Proverbs 22	23 Proverbs 23	24 Proverbs 24	25 Proverbs 25	26 Proverbs 26	27 Proverbs 27	28 Proverbs 28
29 Proverbs 29	30 Proverbs 30	31 Proverbs 31				

WHAT TO DO WHEN ALL HOPE IS GONE?

Growing up, my life seemed fine until everything changed during my teenage years. I left my parents' house to live with friends, thinking I'd finally be happy on my own. I was rebellious and didn't want anyone telling me what to do, which is why my stepfather eventually sent me away.

But living with friends was nothing like I expected. It was then that I truly understood what suffering meant. The people I trusted believed in witchcraft and started doing things against me. My life spiraled downhill. Depression set in, and I felt completely empty and alone. I started having nightmares and couldn't sleep at night. I was terrified of the dark and hated being alone, so I always needed someone around me.

Eventually, I moved back in with my mom after she separated from my stepfather, but things didn't improve—in fact, they got worse. I fell into bad company, got involved with guns, and started partying excessively. I was desperate to fill the void inside me. I went from one toxic relationship to another, even with married men and women, but nothing gave me the peace I was searching for.

I became addicted to marijuana and filled with bitterness. Depression consumed me, and suicidal thoughts plagued my mind. I tried everything to escape the pain in my soul, but nothing worked. I thought the only way to find peace was to end my life. I attempted suicide multiple times, but each time, I failed.

When I thought all hope was gone, someone invited me to the Universal Church. At that moment, I was on the verge of committing a murder. A friend begged me to visit the church before going through with it. I didn't care about life anymore—whether I ended up in prison or dead didn't

matter to me. Life had completely lost its meaning.

With nothing to lose, I accepted the invitation and went to church, thinking it



I ATTEMPTED SUICIDE SEVERAL TIMES BECAUSE LIFE NO LONGER HAD MEANING TO ME...

would be a one-time visit.

That day, as I sat at the back of the church, something unexpected happened. For the first time in years, I felt peace—a peace I couldn't explain.

I decided to keep coming back. As I learned more about God's Word, I realized that I didn't truly know Him, even though I had attended church in the past. That's when I made the decision to surrender my life to God.

I got involved in the Youth Group and started learning what it meant to live as a child of God. I let go of all my destructive relationships, gave up smoking, stopped partying, and was freed from the nightmares and paranormal activities that once haunted me. God gave me the peace I had been searching for all my life.

After repenting and being baptized in water, I sought the baptism in the Holy Spirit, knowing I couldn't live without Him. Today, my life has been completely transformed. I no longer struggle with depression or suicidal thoughts. I'm at peace, and my greatest desire is to share the same God who changed my life with others so they can experience His love and transformation too.

Tashannah



What's happening at the Universal Church



"I thought of throwing myself in front of the train."



I grew up in a home filled with constant fights and arguments between my parents. Their frequent conflicts took a toll on me and began to affect me deeply. As a result, I became two different people. To my friends and family, I was Juliana—the happy, fun-loving person who always enjoyed spending time with others. I was seen as the funny, “happy-go-lucky” girl. But inside, I was the complete opposite. I struggled with depression, feeling empty and alone even when surrounded by people.

As I entered adolescence, these feelings grew stronger. I felt pressured to be someone I wasn't, and the sadness only deepened. There were times when I would isolate myself from everyone, crying for no reason and battling many suicidal thoughts. I convinced myself

that the only way out of this overwhelming situation was to end my life. There were moments when I stood at the train station, fighting the urge to jump, but something always stopped me.

One day, at school, I became friends with a Christian who attended the Universal Church. She shared with me about Jesus and invited me to a youth gathering at the church. I was reluctant at first because I didn't believe in God, but I decided to go. When I entered the church, something felt different. There was an energy that intrigued me, and I felt a pull to keep coming back. As I continued to attend, I began to see changes in my life. Slowly, I started to regain hope and saw the possibility of a better future.

I began seeking the Holy Spirit, and I remember the day I received Him as if it were yesterday. It was on April 11th. All the sadness, anguish, and suicidal thoughts that once consumed me disappeared. I was overwhelmed by a joy and peace that I had never experienced before. That day, I found the hope I had been searching for all along. I've never battled depression again, and all the bitterness in my heart was replaced by true happiness.

- Juliana Paulo

"I spent everything I had searching for a cure and relief for my body."

Maria spent years battling illness and hopelessness.

"For seven years, I suffered greatly with ulcers and gastritis. My body was in constant pain, and I couldn't eat properly. This caused me to lose a lot of weight, and I became unrecognizable. For months, the only food I could manage was milk—I survived on that alone," she shared.

In the eyes of doctors, her situation seemed impossible. The more she searched for a solution, the worse it became. "I visited several doctors and specialists, spending everything I had in search of relief. But all I heard from them was that my condition was advanced and incurable. They told me death was inevitable," Maria recalled.

This left her in despair. She sank into a deep depression, overwhelmed by sadness and frustration. "I was without hope, with no expectations. I had young daughters who needed me, but I couldn't help them," she said.

But when all seemed lost, Maria found the solution she had been desperately seeking. "I received an invitation to visit the Universal Church, and I accepted it because I had nothing



left to lose. I had already tried everything else—hospitals, doctors, and people—but none of it helped," she explained.

At the Universal Church, Maria was introduced to intelligent faith. Through this faith, she learned how to trust God and embrace His promises. "I was healed from the gastritis and ulcers. I can now eat, sleep well, and live a normal life," Maria said joyfully.

Today, Maria leads a healthy, fulfilling life. She has a blessed family and a stable financial situation. "Above all, I have peace within me. I know that everything I have is because of the intelligent faith I embraced at the Universal Church," she concluded.

- Maria dos Santos

YPG OFFICIAL

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



YPG MEGA DANCE

THE MEGA DANCE WAS AN AMAZING EVENT THAT ENCOURAGED YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE AND HAVE FUN, ESPECIALLY SPIRITUALLY. ABOUT 25-30 PEOPLE ATTENDED, SHOWCASING TALENTS LIKE SINGING, DANCING, AND ACTING IN A PLAY. BEYOND THE PERFORMANCES, COUNSELING AND PRAYERS WERE OFFERED FOR THOSE STRUGGLING MENTALLY. IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO RELAX AND ENJOY THEMSELVES. MANY PEOPLE SHARED THEIR TALENTS, MAKING IT AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE. BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THERE—YOUTH ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED HERE AT THE YPG.



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

REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141



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MY LIFE WAS EMPTY

I GREW UP IN CHURCH, BUT FOR A LONG TIME, MY LIFE FELT EMPTY. I TURNED TO PARTYING, DRINKING, AND SMOKING TO FILL THE VOID, BUT IT DIDN'T HELP. AT MY LOWEST POINT, I EVEN TURNED TO WITCHCRAFT AND DIVINATION, INTRODUCED BY A FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

WHEN I FOUND YPG, I WAS SHOWN A BETTER WAY. I GAVE UP MY OLD LIFE TO HELP OTHERS WHO STRUGGLE LIKE I DID. TODAY, I AM FREE AND WANT TO OFFER HOPE, SHOWING THAT ONLY GOD CAN FILL THE VOID, AS HE DID FOR ME THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WE DON'T JUDGE. WE HELP
HELP
EVERYONE



Recent findings from a CDC survey in the United States have revealed alarming statistics about the rise in depression and dissatisfaction among young people, with women being disproportionately affected. In 2021, nearly three out of every five girls reported experiencing profound sadness, and one-third of them even considered suicide.

Depression doesn't just affect the mind—it causes real, internal damage. The American Psychiatric Association defines depression as a persistent sad or empty mood, accompanied by changes that significantly impact one's ability to function. Common symptoms include lack of motivation, constant fatigue, apathy, insomnia, and negative life perspectives. Those suffering often report feeling inexplicable pain, even though it's not physical.

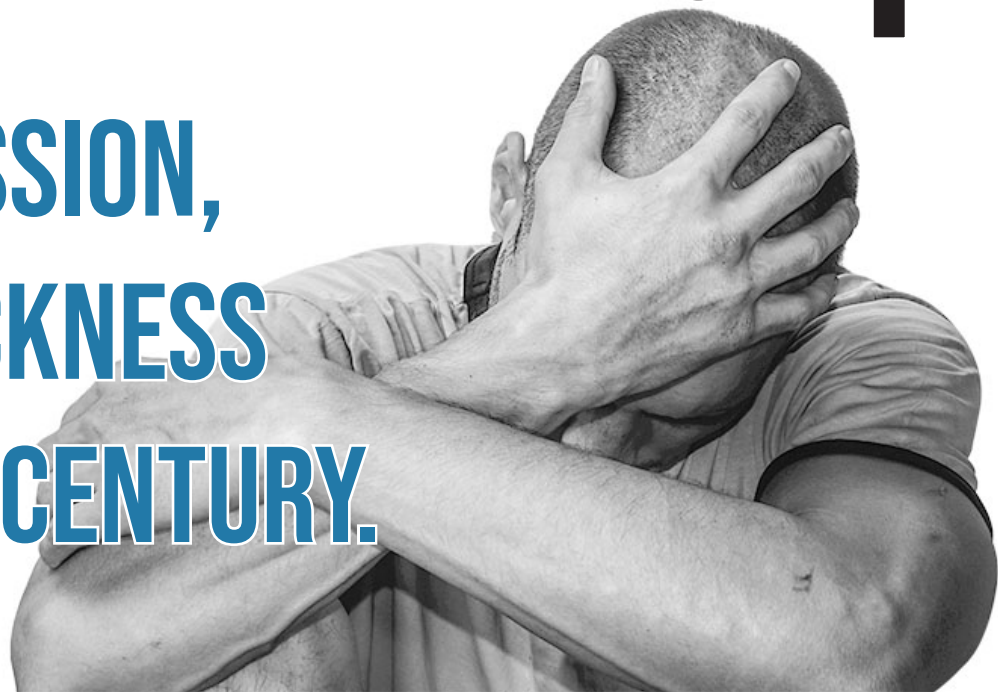
As Bishop Edir Macedo explains, depression is a "state of despair of the soul." He adds that the feeling of profound emptiness is the deepest pain for those suffering from depression, but many fail to see that depression is a soul issue. It's a struggle that leaves people crying without understanding why, under constant oppression, and caught in a battle of thoughts that suggest there's no way out.

However, this isn't the end. Even though psychiatric treatments and medications often fail, there is a powerful solution: treating the soul with the Word of God. As Bishop Macedo says, "treating depression is treating the soul," and the only way to heal the soul is by immersing in the Scriptures and absorbing the Spirit of the Bible.

The greatest mistake is to live with depression, managing the pain for years without seeking help. If you or someone you know is suffering from depression, don't wait for it to destroy your soul. Seek help today. Visit a Universal Church near you and find the healing that comes from the Word of God. Healing begins with acknowledging the need for help and trusting in God's power to restore the soul.

For a location near you, see the back page.

DEPRESSION, THE SICKNESS OF THE CENTURY.



"I started to feel useless as if I was not needed and invisible."

Sabrina Brum, a 29-year-old administrative assistant, shares how her childhood experiences shaped her sense of self-worth and led her to search for meaning in destructive ways. Growing up with her father's alcoholism and her mother's absence due to work, Sabrina felt alone and rejected from a young age. "I grew up feeling alone. Since I was little, I thought I was rejected," she reflects.

Her feelings of inadequacy were exacerbated by bullying at school, where her appearance made her feel inferior and unworthy. These emotional wounds led to deep existential crises. "I started to feel useless as if I was not needed and invisible."

At the age of 12, Sabrina turned to alcohol as a way to cope with the inner chaos she felt. "I started to use alcohol as an escape because it seemed like my mind and heart were in turmoil." As her alcohol dependence grew, she also developed depression, anxiety, and panic attacks. In an attempt to numb the pain, she sought validation through fleeting relationships and parties, only to feel emptier. "I felt used," she says. **"God, I need You"**

During one of her darkest moments, Sabrina experienced a panic attack that left her powerless. In desperation, she cried out, "God, I need You." To



her surprise, the crisis stopped, and this moment marked the beginning of her belief that her life could have a different purpose. "I thought: 'I need God,'" Sabrina recalls. This realization led her to return to the Universal Church, where she had attended as a child, and to participate in a campaign of faith.

Determined to surrender her life to God, Sabrina gave up her own desires and plans. "God wanted me to belong to Him, to be His daughter." It was at this point that Sabrina felt truly welcomed by God.

The most significant

transformation in her life came when she received the Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit is everything to me. He guides me, consoles me, gives me direction, brings me balance and sobriety," she explains. With the Holy Spirit in her life, Sabrina found a new perspective on life and discovered true joy. "Today, I have peace. This peace, which is everything to me, comes from the Holy Spirit."

A new purpose

Sabrina is now dedicated to helping others find the same peace that transformed her life. She emphasizes that true happiness does not come from material things or temporary

accomplishments. "My greatest achievement, without a doubt, is the Holy Spirit. Having Him in my life represents being accepted by God."

Married and a mother to an 11-year-old daughter, Sabrina lives a full and organized life, blessed with joy as she sees her family flourish. The Altar, for Sabrina, is a sacred place where she knows she can connect with God. "For me, the Altar represents surrender, sacrifice, and where I know that I am with God, guarded and protected," she says.

Through her participation in the campaign of faith, Sabrina experienced a complete transformation. It was through this act of unconditional surrender that she found the peace and fulfillment that had eluded her for so long.

Today, Sabrina's life reflects the power of faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit, which has given her everything she once sought in all the wrong places.

"I began to feel suicidal, I could only sleep with medication, and I was anxious."

Pedro Lopes shares the story of his inner turmoil and the journey that led him to find peace and purpose through faith. Born and raised in a Christian home, Pedro's life took a drastic turn when he was 11 years old. "I grew up learning that I should say 'no' to many things, and that required sacrifice. But on the other hand, if I lived 'in the world,' I wouldn't have to make any sacrifices, and I could do whatever I wanted. So, I decided to get to know the world and say 'yes' to it," Pedro recalls.



he reflects.

Turning point

Amid the despair, Pedro finally accepted an invitation he had always rejected to join a Youth Power Group meeting. "That was when I decided to surrender to the Truth. I abandoned all those friendships, addictions, and the places I frequented. I focused only on pleasing God," he says.

A week later, Pedro was baptized in water and realized that without the Presence of God in his life, he would not be able to resist the temptations of the world. After receiving the Holy Spirit, everything changed. "Today I am truly happy. I am certain of my Salvation, and this gives me peace, knowing I am who I am and have embraced my faith. God has given me the privilege of serving Him and sharing with others what He has given me," Pedro concludes.

His life, once filled with emptiness and pain, was now filled with purpose, peace, and a deep connection to God.

He began to sneak around behind his family's back, getting involved with bad influences, lying, and discovering pornography. Despite this, he continued to attend church, although he felt a deep internal conflict. "I knew my true spiritual condition, and that if I died, my soul's destiny would be hell. That scared me, but I didn't want to give up my life of sin," he admits.

Pedro's inner struggle intensified as he thought that by pleasing the devil, he could avoid suffering in hell. This belief led him to become more rebellious and destructive. "I became an extremely nervous teenager. I caused a lot of fights at home, played my family against each other, and caused problems at school. At 14, I started drinking and smoking marijuana," he says. The emptiness inside him grew, and he would lock himself in his room, crying for no reason.

His situation reached rock bottom after the end of a relationship at 17. "I felt lost, which led to depression. I began to feel suicidal, could only sleep with medication, and I was anxious. An inferiority complex developed, and the emptiness grew bigger every day,"

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.

Don't Compete with anyone

Did you know that no one in this world gets approved without first being tested? It's a reality we face in every area of life. Maybe right now, you're going through a test yourself—something challenging, frustrating, or even painful.

Tests are part of life, especially in a competitive world. But here's something many people don't realize: entering the Kingdom of Heaven also requires passing tests.

Think about it—every servant of the Most High faced trials. No one was exempt. Abraham had to leave everything familiar and trust God to lead him to an unknown land. Isaac had to trust God's provision when things seemed impossible.

Jacob wrestled with God, not just physically but spiritually, until he received his blessing. Joseph endured betrayal, slavery, and false accusations before he rose to power and fulfilled God's plan. Moses faced rejection, led a stubborn people, and stood firm against the might of Pharaoh.

Even the apostles endured trials—beatings, imprisonment, and death for preaching the Gospel. And then there's the ultimate example: Jesus. He didn't just face opposition; He took on the sins of the entire world and endured the cross.

None of them were tested by competing with others for approval. Instead, they were tested in their faith, perseverance, and obedience to God, often risking everything, even their lives.

And let's be honest—most people would say, "That's crazy!" But stop and think about it. How many people risk their lives, their freedom, and their futures for things that are meaningless or even harmful?

People lose their lives over pride, bad decisions, or trying to impress the wrong crowd. If people are willing to sacrifice for the wrong reasons, shouldn't we be willing to sacrifice for what's eternal?

Jesus put it plainly when He said:



If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Matthew 16.24

That's the truth. Every promise about the Kingdom of Heaven comes with a test. It's not handed to us on a silver platter. It's something we have to work for, something that tests our character, our faith, and our determination.

Think about your own life—how many times have you had to prove yourself to someone? Maybe it was to fit in with a group, gain someone's approval in a relationship, or earn a job.

From the moment we're born, life is full of tests. As babies, we had to learn to crawl before we could walk. Later, we had to learn to speak, to eat without help, to read, and to write.

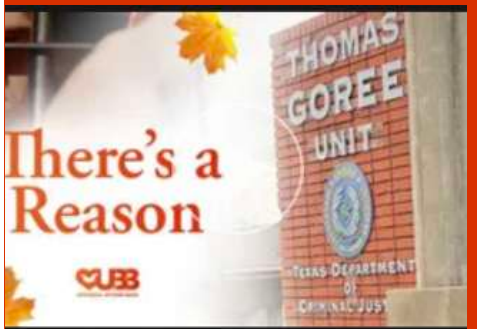
Then came learning to drive, holding down a job, or even just managing our daily responsibilities. Every stage of life pushes us in new ways, and each test is a stepping stone to growth.

Here's the key: the tests you're facing aren't meant to crush you—they're meant to build you up. They're opportunities for growth, for strengthening your faith, and for preparing you for what's next.

But it's up to you. You have a choice. Will you let the tests defeat you, or will you rise to the challenge and be approved?

Remember, approval doesn't come without a cost. It requires effort, faith, and sometimes sacrifice. But the reward is worth it—not just in this life, but in eternity.

So when life tests you, don't give up. Instead, choose to stand strong, knowing that every test has a purpose and every trial brings you closer to the Kingdom of Heaven.



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!”



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



Universal Beyond Bars

You are **NOT** alone

From a gang life to a new creation

At one point in my life, I was consumed by violence and darkness. The person I once called my leader became my victim—I ended his life with more than 100 bullets. It was then that someone said something that struck me deeply: “I don’t see you; I see the devil in you.”

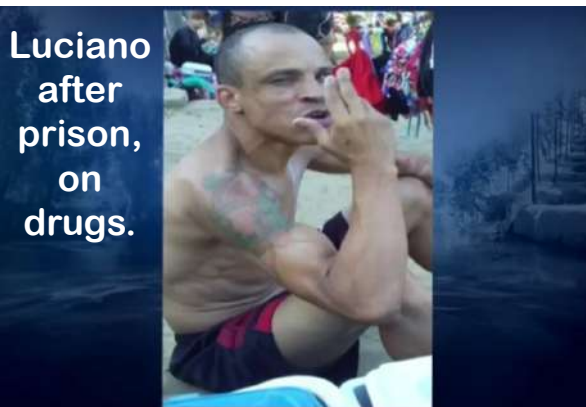
Despite that moment of clarity, I continued my path of destruction and rose to become the leader of the gang. With that role came even more chaos. I was sought by the police, and eventually, I was arrested during a setup in one of the territories I controlled.

I was sentenced to 78 years in prison and spent 15 years in solitary confinement. During my time in prison, the Universal



Luciano
in prison.

Church’s prison ministry, Universal Beyond Bars (UBB), began its work there. At first, I simply listened, but something about the Word and the preaching resonated with me. In 2012, I decided to be baptized in water, believing it would be the start of my transformation. A desire to help others grew within me. I became



Luciano
after
prison,
on
drugs.

an “assistant” in the prison ministry, mentoring others and supporting them in their faith journey. One of the young men I helped introduced me to his mother, who would later become my wife.

After 15 years, I was released from prison on December 15th. I thought my life would change for the better, but I was wrong. I fell back into the trap of drugs, realizing that the transformation I thought I had experienced in prison was superficial—it was all a facade.



My addiction deepened, and I lived in hypocrisy. My wife encouraged me to return to God, but I lashed out, even assaulting her in a fit of rage. I **destroyed her face, and our relationship fell apart.**

After our separation, I sank even deeper into addiction. Despite everything, my wife remained steadfast in her faith. She contacted UBB to visit me at home, and a pastor came to pray for me.

After that prayer, it was as if the mind of Christ began to work within me. Drugs lost their appeal, and when I tried to use them, I felt nothing but emptiness. On May 16th, I walked into the Universal Church.

The pastor preached a word that pierced my heart:

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away behold all things have become new.”
2 Corinthians 5:17

That verse kept ringing in my mind. When I returned home, the drugs were still there, but I made a decision: I would never use them again. Yet, I knew something was still missing—



true repentance and genuine conversion. I realized my previous baptism in prison wasn’t genuine. This time, I came to the altar determined. When I was baptized again, I left the waters with a firm resolve to live a new life. A thirst for God began to grow within me.

During the Campaign of Israel, I felt God speaking to me. I no longer wanted to pretend or live a double life. I made my sacrifice and asked God for only one thing: His Spirit. Not long after, I attended a special service. That day, I told God, “I cannot leave the same. I need Your Spirit!” During that meeting, the Holy Spirit came upon me. My life has never been the same since. Today, I can say with all the strength of my soul that He lives in me. The Word of God has been fulfilled in my life: the old things have passed away, and everything has truly become new.



“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

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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

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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Chasing the High: My Financial and Emotional Collapse.



Submerged in addiction and living a criminal life since he was 11 years old, Jose Silva, now 41, shares how one invitation changed his story.

Jose Silva, now 41, reflects on his tumultuous journey from addiction and crime to finding peace through faith. He grew up in a challenging environment after his parents separated when he was just 2 years old. "My mother and I moved in with a relative. She worked hard to save enough money to rent a small place with two rooms, and the bathroom was outside. By the time I was 8, I was already going to school alone," Jose recalls.

As a child, Jose noticed the absence of a father figure. "I started noticing how much I needed the presence of a father," he shares. At 11, his life took a turn when he was introduced to drugs by peers at school. "First marijuana, then cocaine and alcohol. At

first, it didn't seem harmful, but over time, it became a problem. I used drugs to fill a void, but the more I used, the more that void remained." His involvement in crime grew from petty thefts to truck robberies. By 16, Jose was spending every penny he could get on drugs, sinking deeper into addiction and criminality.

Despite the chaos in his life, Jose fathered five children. Yet, his struggles with depression and loneliness grew. "I didn't have the strength to change my situation. I had already lost my dignity in the



eyes of my family and friends," he says. One day, standing outside his son's school, drinking and using cocaine, a friend's comment stung.

"My son said I didn't have a father. That sentence struck me like an arrow to my heart, reminding me of how much I longed for a father figure as a child."

TURNING THE PAGE

The realization led him to seek change. "Shortly after, the person I was with wanted to separate, and my mother suggested I go to a clinic." But fate had another plan. At his mother's house, a friend told him about a solution: seek God. A couple invited him to visit The Universal Church.

"Even though I didn't believe,

I accepted. It was my last chance before being hospitalized." At church, he felt a profound connection. "I went on a Sunday, and it felt like the pastor already knew my whole story. I approached the altar in tears because I couldn't take the suffering anymore," Jose recalls. He repented, was baptized in water, and committed himself to seeking the Holy Spirit. "I was finally free."

Today, Jose is a transformed man—responsible, a true friend, and a devoted husband. "The Holy Spirit is my treasure, my strength, and my help. He brings me inner peace amid the wars I face. He is my joy. Before, I wanted to die, but today, because of the Holy Spirit, I want to live and bring life to others who are walking toward death."

Jose Silva's story is one of redemption, showing how faith can change a life completely.



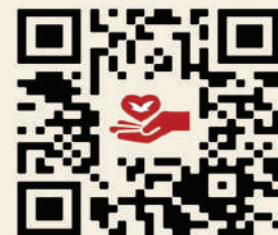
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