

UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

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New Year's Eve Night Vigil
December 31st at 10pm

PRESSING TOWARDS THE GOAL

2025

"One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal..."
Philippians 3:13

"I had no expectations whatsoever; I felt like a horrible person."
(Read more about John's story on page 6)



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Bishop Edir Macedo

A new beginning



Watch the new season
at 9 PM ET on ULFN

"The sores took over her whole body"

Before



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

PRESS TOWARDS THE GOAL New Year's Night Vigil for a New Life

The end of another year is near. For some, it's a time of joy, family gatherings, and celebration. For others, it's a season of reflection on losses, disappointments, and the absence of loved ones. The end of the year can stir up memories of failures or sadness, leaving many feeling isolated, overwhelmed, or even depressed.

As the old year ends, it should mark the conclusion of old problems, but often, unresolved struggles persist. Dwelling on past hurts and failures only deepens the pain, bringing feelings of anguish and hopelessness. Year after year, this cycle repeats, leaving some celebrating while others mourn.

Is this your case?

Are you tired of carrying the weight of the past? Do you long for a fresh start? A life without sorrow or regret? God has a promise for you:

"...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal..." *Philippians 3:13* God doesn't want you to remain stuck in a cycle of pain and regret. He calls you to let go of the past and trust in His promise to make all things new. He desires to transform your life, replacing tears with joy and hopelessness with purpose.

Start Your New Year Right

Join us for the New Year's Eve Vigil on **31 December at 10 PM**, at a Universal Church near you. It's more than a service—it's a moment to leave behind the burdens of the past and embrace the blessings of the future.

Take this step of faith and believe that 2025 will be a year of renewal and transformation for you. Your new life can begin, and with God, all things are possible!

| BEATING DEPRESSION |

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

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

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



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



Bishop Edir Macedo



A new beginning

"Saul replied, 'I have sinned. But please honour me...' 1 Samuel 15:30

"Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' 2 Samuel 12:13

Two men. Two sins. Two responses. When Saul was confronted by the prophet Samuel about his sin, he admitted his wrongdoing but quickly shifted focus, asking Samuel to honor him before the people. His confession had a condition, marked by pride and concern for appearances.

On the other hand, when David was confronted by the prophet Nathan about his sin, he admitted his guilt without excuses or conditions. He didn't seek to justify himself, blame others, or preserve his reputation. His confession was final: he sought nothing but forgiveness from God.

The Outcomes

David's genuine repentance led to God's forgiveness, though he faced the consequences of his actions. He remained in God's grace, remembered as a man after God's own heart. Saul, however, allowed pride to consume him, ultimately leading to years of torment and his tragic death by suicide.

The Lesson

Mistakes are inevitable—sin is part of the human condition. But our response to sin defines the course of our lives. True repentance isn't about



shifting blame, making excuses, or hiding sin. It's about confronting guilt head-on, acknowledging it before God, and seeking His mercy.

Repentance is challenging because it requires the sacrifice of ego. It's a humbling process, but it's the only path to forgiveness, mercy, and transformation. Without repentance, there can be no fresh start, no renewed relationship with God, and no real change in life.

If you desire a new beginning, start with repentance. Surrender your pride, confess your sins, and trust in God's mercy. He is faithful to forgive and to renew those who truly seek Him.



"I was freed from disease and addiction by faith"

There, I learned how to fight for my spiritual deliverance and, most importantly, to put my faith in God to the test. By doing this, I was set free from the addictions and the tormenting thoughts that had controlled me. To my amazement, the illness I thought had no cure started to improve, and I was completely healed.

As I continued seeking God, I experienced His presence in my life—I received the Holy Spirit. At one point, I decided to take a leap of faith through the Campaign of Israel. My dream was to own my own business, and I trusted God to open the doors for me. Praise God, my faith was rewarded. Miraculously, I got the opportunity to start a business.

Since then, incredible things have happened. I've established two business properties, regularized my legal paperwork, settled a \$5,000 debt with the IRS, and even bought my own house.

Still, something was missing—I wasn't fulfilled in my love life. Once again, I decided to step out in faith, seeking God's blessing in this area. Today, I am completely delivered, healed, prosperous, and happily married to an amazing woman.

God transformed my life. What you see now is a testimony of what happens when you choose to trust Him and put your faith to the test.

— Miguel

"The sores took over her whole body."



I had sores all over my body. I couldn't sleep, bathe, sit down, or even wear clothes. I was on multiple medications, including an injection every two weeks, but I became allergic to it. The other treatments didn't work either. I had to leave my job and stay home, often wearing little to no clothing because anything on my skin felt unbearable. I couldn't go outside because the sun would burn me.



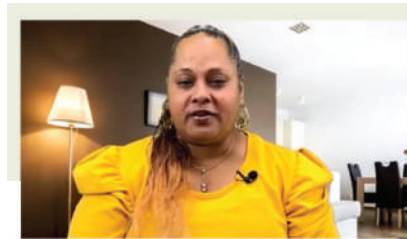
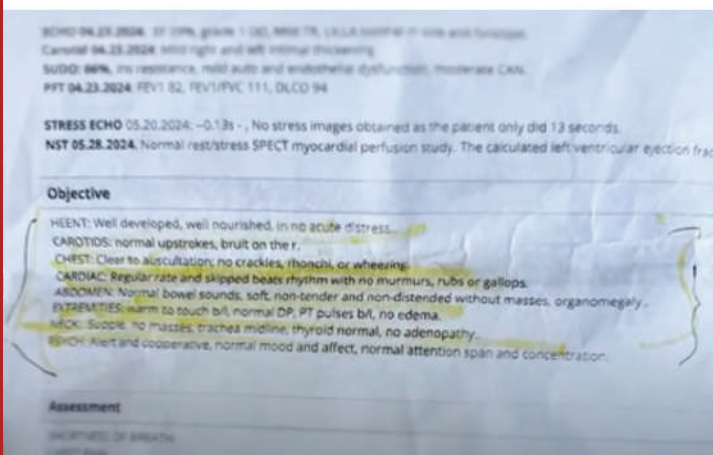
When I started coming here regularly, I used the water by faith—I drank it and even poured it over myself since I couldn't bathe at the time. I remember needing a nurse to visit twice a week just to help me apply some of the medication. Today, as you can see in the pictures, I am completely healed. All it took was faith and belief!



"Free from panic attacks"



I had been diagnosed with high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and panic attacks. I suffered from panic attacks for about ten years, and it was absolutely terrifying. It wasn't just physical—it was a spiritual problem, and no medication could fix it. For my cholesterol, I was taking two different medications. But for my panic attacks, I turned to faith. I drank and sprinkled the blessed water over my body, believing it would help me. Here are the results from my recent examination—everything is normal now. My health is restored, and I finally have peace!



"Free from addictions"

When I was really young, around six or seven years old, my dad used to send us to light his cigarettes back home. That's how I got addicted before even reaching high school. At 19, I got pregnant with my daughter and was diagnosed with rheumatic fever. It caused damage to my heart valves, and I had to undergo heart surgery to replace all of them. Even after the surgery, I couldn't stop smoking. I'd try to quit but always went back to it.



I was depressed, so started smoking marijuana, drinking and going to the nightclub. When I came to this ministry, I came on Fridays, Sundays and I started a chain of prayer.

Since then, God has delivered me. I feel so at peace now. I don't smoke anymore, and I have no cravings. I feel like a completely new person. Even my doctor was amazed—my blood levels, which used to fluctuate, are now steady and normal.

Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

THE SECRET TO A NEW LIFE



Who wouldn't love to start fresh? To wipe away all the mistakes, regrets, disappointments, and shame of the past? Imagine erasing all those bad memories, as if they never happened. It's a desire most people share, but many feel it's impossible after living through so much. Well, let me share a powerful secret with you:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." – John 3:3

This simple phrase spoken by Jesus holds the key to a completely new life. If you want something new, you have to leave behind the old. But what does this mean? It means starting fresh—unlearning the past and making God your teacher. It's a new beginning, just like being born again, with a clean slate.

To receive this new life, one must let go of their old ways and habits. This decision comes from within—you must choose to change. Once you make that decision, with God's help, nothing can stop you from experiencing a transformed life.

This is why people often come to church, and in a short time, their lives are radically changed. They made the decision to 'die' to their old self and surrender fully to God.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." – John 12:24

Maybe this is the missing piece you've been searching for. Now that you know the secret, the question is: What will you do about it?

May the God of the Bible bless you!

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

Trapped by addictions and hurt from an abusive relationship, Ana Natalia gave God an ultimatum.



Salvation isn't always easy to understand. Sometimes, what love doesn't teach us, pain does. But even in suffering, we should be thankful when the lesson changes our lives for the better. Ana Natalia, 28, is an example of this transformation. Though



she grew up in the Universal Church, her life took a dark turn

in her teens as she sought to "see the world."

The Beginning of the End

At 14, Ana Natalia met a young man at a party. She recalls:

"I got involved with him, and a few days later, he was arrested. I was deeply in love and started visiting him in prison. When he got out after three years, we moved in together. That's when I found out he was involved in crime and addicted to cocaine."

Her life spiraled. "I was already using drugs—marijuana, acid—and drinking every day. Living with him made it worse. He was controlling, possessive, and jealous. If I visited my mom, he would question me, show up there uninvited. But I ignored it because I liked him."

After eight years, he broke up with her. "I went out more, met others, but still felt empty. In June 2023, I decid-

ed to return to the Universal Church. I knew I needed God."

Turning Point

By December, Ana Natalia faced a tough choice. She was unemployed, with little money left. She made a bold prayer: "God, either you change my life or take it away. I have no other way out."

She started attending services while still battling drug use. But God was already working in her life. "I began reading the Bible, praying at dawn. I realized it wasn't just about being baptized in water—it was about surrendering my whole life."

During the Campaign of Israel, Ana Natalia gave herself fully to God



on the Altar. She received the Holy Spirit, and from that moment, everything changed.

She found

peace, fulfillment, and even a job in her field after two years of searching.

Today, she lives by Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you." Ana Natalia believes that with God, we always have a chance. "No matter what we're going through—whether in physical or spiritual prison—if we surrender our lives to Him, He'll guide us to success in all areas."

What's happening at the Universal Church



"I had everything, but I wasn't happy"



One day, I received a newspaper from the Universal Church, and the title caught my eye: 'Do you have a void?' For the first time, I realized that even though I had everything I'd dreamed of—a loving husband and a newborn child—I still felt empty.

The first time I attended a service at the church, I understood something that changed my life: with God's help, it was possible to find the peace I had been longing for. Day by day, as I kept coming and applying what I learned, I started seeing real changes in myself and in my relationships. I made a decision to leave my old life behind and give myself completely to the Lord Jesus. I forgave those who had hurt me and sealed this transformation by getting baptized in water.

I then began seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit, understanding that only He could fill the void in my heart and bring me the peace and joy I yearned for. I dedicated myself to doing God's will in everything. Even my husband noticed the changes in me and began praying with me at home.

As I continued seeking, God blessed me with His presence. From that day on, I was no longer the same person. For the first time in my life, I was at peace. The anxiety, depression, and panic attacks were gone. I sleep well now, and I'm no longer plagued by fear. I feel love inside me, and for me, that is priceless. Today, I have a beautiful relationship with my loving husband, my children, and my grandchildren. I get along well with everyone around me. I'm truly happy now, living in the presence of God," shared Gloria.

"My six siblings and I grew up in a wholesome family environment. But despite the love around me, I often felt left out. I believed my siblings were loved more than I was. At the time, I didn't think much of it, but those feelings stuck with me, leaving me insecure and with a deep sense of being unloved.

As I grew older, I became a negative person with very low self-esteem. Anxiety, depression, and panic attacks became part of my daily life. I feared rejection so much that even the smallest sign of it would torment me. If I sensed that a partner wasn't fully committed, I would end the relationship before they could reject me. Fear and insecurity consumed me, and I couldn't imagine a positive future for myself.

Eventually, I met someone who truly loved me, and we got married. But those unresolved feelings of inadequacy seeped into my marriage and every other part of my life. I couldn't admit that I was depressed—I just felt misunderstood and completely alone.

"Bullying led to depression and suicidal thoughts"



"I carried a deep void inside me, feeling invisible and hopeless. I didn't believe I deserved happiness. Life felt like an endless, futile loop, as if no one truly saw me.

It all began in primary school, where I was bullied—a cycle that continued into high school. By the time I was nine, I constantly had suicidal thoughts. I started self-harming and took anxiety pills from a friend to try to cope. On the outside, I pretended everything was fine, but inside, I was falling apart.

At 16, I was diagnosed with severe depression, stress, and anxiety. Doctors recommended antidepressants, but I didn't want to depend on medication for the rest of my life. I was raised in a Christian home and believed in God's power to heal and set people free, but battling depression clouded my mind. I'd hear stories about others overcoming it, but I struggled to believe the same could happen for me.

I felt alone and empty, isolating myself from others and often lashing out at those closest to me, especially my mother. I hated myself and couldn't see any reason to keep living. Those feelings were unbearable, and I finally reached a breaking point—I was tired of living in constant darkness.

I decided to seek counseling at the Universal Church near my home. There, I learned something that changed my perspective: no matter how I felt about myself, God loved me and wanted to dwell

in me through the Holy Spirit.

I chose to fully commit myself to God and live in a way that pleased Him. I began studying His Word and seeking the fullness of the life He promised. As I wholeheartedly sought Him, God blessed me with His Spirit. I'll never forget the moment He assured me of His presence and love. It wasn't just a feeling—it was a deep certainty that filled the emptiness I had carried for so long.

For the first time, the darkness lifted, and it felt like I was finally seeing the world in color. I am no longer suicidal, and I am completely free from depression and anxiety.

Today, I have true joy and happiness that come from God. Even when challenges arise, I know I'm never alone. God is always with me, guiding and encouraging me to become the best version of myself," shared Buhle.

YPG USA



YPG Georgia Dodgeball Tournament

In Georgia, we're all about creating opportunities for youth to connect, grow, and have fun in a safe environment. Recently, we hosted an exciting Dodgeball Tournament that brought together over 100 young people from the community for a day filled with energy and positivity.

Participants not only enjoyed thrilling games but also received backpacks and school supplies, ensuring they were well-equipped for success in school. The event also introduced attendees to the YPG (Youth Power Group), a safe haven where they can discover their talents and learn to lead productive lives—away from crime, bullying, and the dangers of the streets.

The YPG in Georgia hosts monthly events like this one, providing consistent support, encouragement, and fun for young people. Everyone is welcome to join! Stay tuned for our next event and come see what the YPG is all about—you won't want to miss it!



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 believed I was ugly and couldn't even find the strength to smile. As I got older, things only got worse. I started drinking heavily and partying at clubs all the time. It got so bad that I was going out to nightclubs every single day, drinking non-stop. 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 this new chapter with God and my new family. Now, I love myself. I actually enjoy smiling and taking pictures, something I never thought I would feel.



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

“Pressing toward the Goal New Year’s Eve Night Vigil”

2024 has undoubtedly been a year filled with challenges for many people. From the rising cost of living and increasing crime rates to the toll on health and mental well-being, it's easy to understand why some may not be looking forward to the new year, while others are eager to leave 2024 behind in hopes of a fresh start.

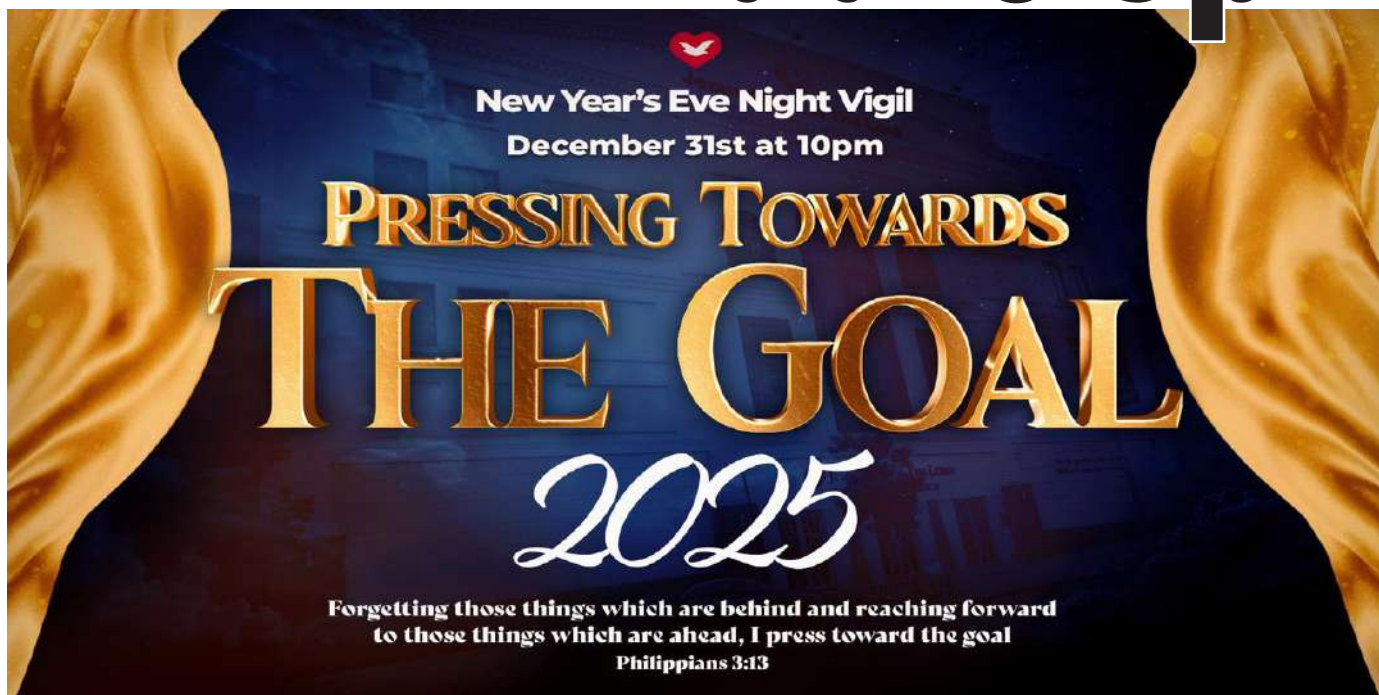
But how can you ensure that the next 365 days will be different? While no one can predict the future or guarantee it will be free from obstacles, there is one constant: God knows what lies ahead, and He is the One who can guide and help us through the challenges the new year may bring.

Have you considered ending 2024 and beginning 2025 in the Presence of God? As the year draws to a close, many of us reflect on what we've achieved, the resolutions we've made, and those left incomplete. Every New Year's Eve brings with it the hope of a fresh start, the desire to improve, and the belief that the coming year will be better. But for some, the weight of past disappointments makes it feel like nothing changes.

If this resonates with you, know that a transformed life begins with a single step: “Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5). This verse reminds us that by entrusting our hopes, plans, and futures to God, He will guide us toward the fulfillment of His purpose for us.

The New Year’s Night Vigil offers a unique opportunity to begin the year with renewed strength, purpose, and a fresh outlook—not just for yourself, but for your family as well. There is power in starting the year in God’s Presence, committing to trust Him for what lies ahead, and aligning your path with His will. Make this New Year's Eve different. Step into the new year with God by your side, ready to face whatever comes your way, knowing that He is with you every step of the journey. It will happen on December 31st at 10 PM, at every Universal Church nationwide.

Write down what new things you want for 2025:



“I had no expectations whatsoever; I felt like a horrible person.”

John’s life story is a testament to perseverance, faith, and transformation through the power of God. Growing up in a difficult environment, he experienced hardship from a young age. “We had a difficult childhood: my father survived on harvests, and there were times when we harvested produce from the plantations and others when we went hungry. Sometimes, we didn’t even have rice and beans and picked fruit in the forest to survive,” he recalls.

At the age of 23, John moved to another city in search of a better life. He worked as a bricklayer’s assistant, but his financial situation was dire. “Since I didn’t have enough money to pay rent, I asked to live at the construction site, where the bags of cement were stored. I made a makeshift bed out of pieces of wood and put a mattress on top. The construction workers would bring me lunch boxes, and for dinner, I would drink half a liter of alcohol. I stayed like that for about two years,” he explains.

Despite these struggles, John dreamed of building a better future. He bought a shed and married his fiancée, Maria Nilva. However, their wedding night didn’t go as planned. “When we were going to have our first honeymoon, everything in our shed was stolen by robbers. We spent the night in a room at my sister’s house,



which didn’t even have a door,” he remembers. That year, 1994, was the worst of his life. “My wife just cried and said that if she had to go back to that shed, she would leave. I ended up selling it, but I didn’t get the money. With difficulty, I rented a small space in a backyard with a bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom,” he says.

It was in this low point that John learned about the Universal Church from his sister. At first, he had little faith. “I was completely discredited. No one believed a bricklayer’s assistant could achieve anything in life. I drank a lot, had no education – I only completed the fourth grade – and didn’t know how to do anything,” he admits.

A transformative encounter But everything changed when John received the Holy Spirit. “When I arrived at the Church, the pastor spoke about baptism in water and the importance of receiving the Holy Spirit. He explained that a person who has the Holy Spirit is truly happy. I embraced that Word, and in about a year, I received Him,” he recalls. The change in John was immediate.

“When I received the Holy Spirit, an immense joy filled me. It was so unexpected that my wife asked me what was happening. At that time, she hadn’t attended church yet. I was still working as a bricklayer’s assistant but wanted to do something different,” he says.

Through his faith and determination, John's life took a new turn. He met someone who worked at a cosmetics company and was hired as a salesman. "People thought I didn't have the skills and that I wouldn't even pay my rent. But I insisted, and God gave me direction. Today, I own my own company selling kitchen utensils," he shares proudly.

A life transformed

John's transformation was not just in his work, but in his entire life. "My life is

complete in every way. We've acquired rentals and assets. I have three children, two of whom have doctorates. I was a person who didn't have the means to study, and today I lack nothing. That's only God who can do it," he concludes.

What began as a life full of struggles and uncertainty was now a story of faith, growth, and fulfillment.

"I spent New Year's Eve locked up at home, depressed and crying."

Simone Nakama's life was once a painful cycle of despair, depression, and hopelessness. The traditions she followed during New Year's Eve were filled with superficial attempts at change. "I used to wear new clothes, but they were always donated. I wore the color corresponding to the area I thought I needed to have favor because they said the colors had meaning, but nothing brought results. I liked the excitement of the fireworks and the food, but that same week, reality would return, with misery and family fights. Nothing changed, only the date on the calendar. In fact, everything got worse," she recalls.

Simone's childhood was marked by hardship and trauma. "My stepfather would beat me, and when he was drunk, he would threaten to kill us. I slept with a knife under my pillow. We ended up living in a tenement, in a basement below a bar, with one bathroom for 20 families. Many times, our main meal consisted only of cornmeal," she says.

Depression followed Simone at every stage of her life. "From the age of 20 to 24, I was locked up at home. I got into a relationship and seemed better for a while, but after I got pregnant, I suffered from postpartum depression. There was always an excuse for me to live like that: first, it was my father's death, then it was this," she explains.

As her mental health worsened, Simone turned to prescription drugs. "I couldn't sleep, so I started taking sleeping pills. Then I took pills to stay awake and pills to make me happy, but nothing worked. I stopped going to work, I didn't shower, I didn't get dressed, I didn't even go out in my backyard. Psychologists and psychiatrists kept increasing the dosage of my medication." The consequences of her condition were devastating. "I tried to



commit suicide multiple times—cutting my wrists or drinking cleaning products. After one attempt, I had my stomach pumped, and the doctor mocked me, asking why I hadn't taken rat poison if I was serious."

Simone recalls spending New Year's Eves in misery. "I stayed locked up at home, depressed and crying. I would hear the fireworks and get angry because I wasn't happy. I spent New Year's Eve taking medication and under a blanket."

A turning point

Simone's life took a dramatic turn five years ago. "I knew about the Universal Church, but I had distanced myself. I returned in 2016, right at the end of the year, and I threw myself into it with all my expectations and desires because I really had nothing left to lose. I was sure that everything would be different."

Her faith was rewarded when she received the Holy Spirit. "The depressed Simone, full of complexes, ceased to exist. I no longer have depression, and I am complete. The Holy Spirit is the reason for my life."

A new life, a new year

Today, Simone's life is a testament to transformation and hope. "I simply endured life before, but now, the Holy Spirit has given me purpose. I serve God, and our priority is to enter the new year in His Presence," she concludes.

Shake off the HOLIDAY BLUES

Depression has a cure

Sunday, December 22nd at 10am

www.universalusa.com

1.888.332.4141



The holiday season is a period well known for spending time with loved ones, eating your favorite meals and enjoying some well-deserved rest from work. However, not everyone is very enthusiastic about this time of year, for some the holiday season causes them increased levels of grief.

There are many things that can trigger these seasonal blues, such as not being able to see family members and friends, or financial strain. Whatever the cause, these feelings can prove to be very overwhelming when left unmanaged, so knowing what to do is essential.

According to Healthline, one of the common causes of the Holiday blues is overscheduling yourself and trying to please everyone. That's why they advise learning to say "no" when necessary, and staying firm on your decision.

Another way to manage your mood during this season, is to get plenty of sleep. Preparing to receive guests at home, amongst other responsibilities during this period can be exhausting. Giving your body and mind the correct hours of rest is essential, as being well-rested improves your general mood and energy levels.

Moreover, spending time with your friends and family is another great way to improve your overall holiday experience. If the holiday period is usually a very lonely and isolated season for you, get in touch with us!

There are many ways you can reach out to us, but if you'd like to speak to someone immediately and receive spiritual guidance and support, call us on 1-888-332-4141. Alternatively, message us on 1-888-312-4141. There is someone available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day to speak to you on the line.

If you prefer to speak with one of our Pastors in person, visit your nearest Universal Church, which is open 7 days a week to meet your spiritual needs. Regardless of the method you resort to, you can expect to be heard, understood and to receive a prayer to empower and strengthen you. If the holiday season is usually a challenging experience for you, don't endure this holiday season alone. We are here to help! December 22nd at 10am at a Universal Church near you!

Upset with God?

The Bible tells the story of a woman who lost her husband and her two children. This loss made her so unhappy that she decided to change her name.

She was called Naomi, which means “sweet,” but she changed it to Mara, which means “bitter.” She said, “For the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”

Naomi blamed God for the hardships she faced and never recovered from the pain. She spoke with bitterness and felt as though she would never be happy again.

On the other hand, her daughter-in-law, Ruth, went through the same tragedy. She lost her husband and, to make matters worse, she was a foreigner.

Her chances of remarriage were slim. But unlike her mother-in-law, Ruth kept a cheerful spirit and chose to believe in a better future. She eventually married Boaz, became the grandmother of King David, and entered the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

See the difference in attitude? I’ve known people who turned into atheists after facing a loss, and that’s a serious mistake. After all, where’s the logic in turning against the one person who can help you?

The truth is, if you don’t understand life’s reasons, you’re not God. I don’t understand many “whys” myself, yet He still allows us to trust, even without understanding.



For example, I don’t understand aviation. I don’t know how an airplane can fly with all that weight, yet I’ve never stopped flying.

I trust the pilots, and I trust that God will keep the weather favorable for a safe flight.

People trust medicine, even without understanding how it works, believing it will solve the problem.

But when it comes to God, people often demand reasons, explanations, and every detail. When someone is bitter, they sometimes think they are superior and capable of taking God to court.

Take a moment to stop and think. Be humble before God.







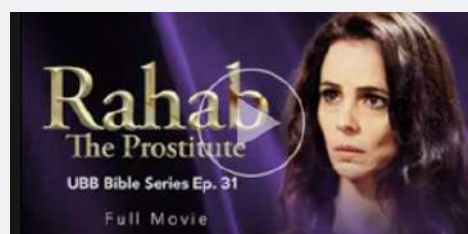
Every day the UBB has a new episode for you.

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

Restoration found me

At the age of 10, I was hurt by my father, and I became angry. The hatred I felt was so deep that I didn't want to see him again. By 15, I had fallen heavily into drugs and alcohol. By 16, I was trafficking and getting more involved in dangerous activities. When the head trafficker died, he had already taught me everything, so I had to take his place. I started giving orders on what drugs to sell and had armed men on the corners for protection, because my lifestyle had created a lot of enemies. I began stealing to support my addictions and buy weapons.

The first time I went to prison was after getting caught for a robbery. I spent some time behind bars, but by the time I was released, I was even worse. I learned more in prison and got involved with worse people. Not long after my release, I ran into some rivals and ended up getting shot—twice.

One shot hit my arm, and the other went into my rib. As I ran, I was bleeding out, and I ended up stumbling into a church, The Universal Church. I collapsed on the floor, feeling weak. My body felt numb, and my face went pale. I remember seeing a dark shadow next to me, just a presence, with no face. Deep inside, I said, "Lord, forgive me for everything I've done. If You give me one more chance, I will



change my life." And then I started breathing again. The ambulance came and treated me. When they sent me home, I thought to myself, "I'm going to kill those guys who tried to kill me." I never truly repented in the church. I was just feeling remorseful, still angry, and still stuck in my old ways. Then, I heard a knock on my door. It was the pastor and the church group. I said, "Pastor, are you really at my door?" The pastor asked

me how I was doing, and I told him I was alright, but not the best. He shared with me the word of Jesus, who invites the weary and burdened to come, offering them rest. He invited me to come to church on Tuesday, but I said, "No, you're crazy. If I go, I'm going armed. Did you see that those guys tried to kill me next to the church?"

The pastor responded, "Boy, if they try to kill you, they'll have to kill me first, because the God I serve will protect us. You won't be going alone. It's the angels who go with us." So, I went. When we arrived, I saw two motorcycles with four guys—two on each. I told the pastor, "Those are the guys who are trying to kill me." He said, "Enter the church." I obeyed and went in. The pastor told me the assistants were praying at the door, and they were all in prayer as we walked in.

The pastor began the service, and it felt like he knew my whole life. That service was for me. I made a real vow that night. The word entered my heart, and I said, "God, if I get out of here without any harm, I will serve You." That's when I truly repented. As I left the church, one of the mothers of the rival group that was trying to kill me spoke to her son from the church. She said, "You will not touch him. I saw him praying at the altar, giving his life to God, and he wants to change."

That's when I decided to make peace in the community. I called everyone to meet at the church for a prayer of peace. I said, "Who killed, killed. Who died, died. Who had drama, it's over." I told them I was no longer involved in trafficking. I was going to church and making peace. I even invited everyone to join me for the service, and they came. The church was packed, even the worst traffickers showed up. Within three months, I had stopped using drugs. I started doing what was right before God, and a new opportunity came—The Campaign of Israel. I gave everything, I fasted, and I prayed. I did everything right before God. When I made my sacrifice at the altar, I came down with certainty. It felt like God said to me, "I am with you. Today, you are full." That's when I knew I had to talk about the Holy Spirit. I met my wife at church, and she also received the Holy Spirit. She looked at me and said, "I want to serve God on the altar. Have you decided?" I replied, "We are going to the altar." She said, "Let's go." By then, I had already built a company and

achieved financial success. But we sold everything and said, "Now let's surrender to the altar and win souls for God's kingdom." This life is not mine; it's God's. Why did God prosper me? Why did He give me a family? Why did He give me health? It's to preach the gospel.



Today, I have happiness, peace, a blessed marriage, stability, and we are here at the altar, winning lives and souls for God. Within three months, I had stopped using drugs. I started doing what was right before God, and a new opportunity came—The Campaign of Israel. I gave everything, I fasted, and I prayed. I did everything right before God. When I made my sacrifice at the altar, I came down with certainty. It felt like God said to me, "I am with you. Today, you are full." That's when I knew I had to talk about the Holy Spirit. I met my wife at church, and she also received the Holy Spirit. She looked at me and said, "I want to serve God on the altar. Have you decided?" I replied, "We are going to the altar." She said, "Let's go." By then, I had already built a company and achieved financial success. But we sold everything and said, "Now let's surrender to the altar and win souls for God's kingdom." This life is not mine; it's God's. Why did God prosper me? Why did He give me a family? Why did He give me health? It's to preach the gospel. Today, I have happiness, peace, a blessed marriage, stability, and we are here at the altar, winning lives and souls for God.



"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!

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KINGS THE SERIES | 9pm

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WHY AREN'T THE RESULTS OF YOUR HARD WORK WHAT YOU EXPECTED?

If you haven't seen the results you have been expecting from your hard work and dedication to your financial life this article is for you. Understand what you need to do to actually see your life move forward.



Fabiano Forte says he did everything to find happiness. His search began in his adolescence, but his life remained stuck. "I worked with my father in the family business and played some sports, but I would start and not continue. I played soccer for a well-known club, I did jiu-jitsu, but I always quit halfway. I attended six months of Physical Education college, but stopped—nothing worked," he reveals.

Fabiano's love life wasn't successful either. "From the age of 17 to 21, I was in a relationship where I told a lot of lies, went out clubbing, cheated on my girlfriend, and used almost every kind of drug and alcohol. So, the relationship came to an end."

With no clear direction, Fabiano decided to buy and sell steroids, but was arrested and spent five days in jail. After his release, he decided to change career paths. "I received an invitation to join the real estate market and had a quick rise within the company. I started as a broker, then became a coordinator, sales manager, and eventually the director of the largest real estate company in Latin America. There, I got to know the world of glamor, and my addiction grew. Along with it, I became addicted to prostitution and pornography," he says.

Fabiano's professional life seemed to take off, but as quickly as he gained success, he lost it. He set up a large real estate company with business partners, but something unexpected happened. "There were large sums embezzled by some partners, and then the partnership ended. I fought with all my strength to keep the company, but it destabilized and went bankrupt with the loss of assets and debts with the banks. I owed money to employees, and many people were affected." The problem even affected him internally. "I fell into depression and didn't feel like doing anything. I stayed up to 15 days without showering and locked myself in a room without seeing the light of day. I stayed like that for almost a year and a half."

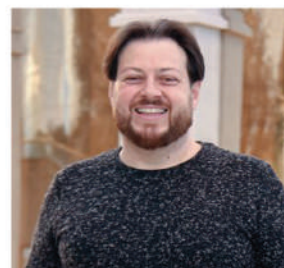
During this time, Fabiano sought help from a psychologist and psychiatrist, and managed to return to the real estate market. However, he didn't achieve the results he had hoped for. "I made an effort, but nothing worked out. I didn't understand why," he says. After a year of negotiating the sale of land, with a buyer he didn't know, Fabiano decided he would only continue the business if he met the buyer in person.

"I was putting all my strength into this business because it had a very high value and could solve my problems. So, I insisted on meeting the businessman. He arranged for us to meet at The Universal Church, where I attended a service specifically for businessmen," he explains. Fabiano went to the meeting, and as he reveals, he felt peace and a desire to return. "I started to obey the Word of God, which made me see the reality of my situation and distanced me from everything that

led me to sin. So, I abandoned drugs, alcohol, gambling, prostitution, and everything that could pull me away from the path of the Lord Jesus. I was baptized in water, expressing my desire for a new life."

He heard about the Campaign of Israel and understood what an intelligent revolt was. "God spoke to me and said He wanted all of me. I didn't have much, but I depended on God. I placed my life on the Altar and came down from it like a giant, with the strength and certainty that everything would work out," he says.

Fabiano received the Holy Spirit, and explains what it meant to him: "The Holy Spirit filled my emptiness with peace, joy, and love, and confirmed that He was with me. I found the joy I had been seeking for 42 years. God told me, 'Go ahead, my son,' and that filled me with an inexplicable strength."



Fabiano says that now he has the direction of God and depends only on Faith and the Altar. While attending The Universal Church, he met businesswoman Andrea Martins Forte, with whom he dated, became engaged, and married. "Today, I'm happy, faithful to my wife, and together we have a successful financial life. God has blessed us every day with the best," he concludes.

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