

UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

The Universal Church • The Universal Church of the Kingdom of God • www.universalchurchusa.org • Weekly Edition N° 585 • Facebook / Instagram: @TheUniversalChurch • [FREE DISTRIBUTION] • Enjoy & share!

Why should you start the year in the New Year's Night Vigil? Only with the guidance and protection of God can you ensure a blessed year in 2025. If you've led a life of suffering start the year differently to guarantee a happy year!

Pressing Towards The Goal

New Year's Eve Night Vigil



2025

December 31st
at 10 pm

For More Information:
888-332-4141

*All these people have something in common:
They started the new year in God's Presence,
and experienced a life transformation.*



Page 2
**Bishop
Edir Macedo**

The end of
another year



Watch the new season
at 9 PM ET on ULFN



Her organs
were failing,
and she was
in a coma.

Today

Page 3



SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Pressing Towards the Goal New Year's Night Vigil for a New Life

Around the world, people celebrate the New Year with countless traditions: writing resolutions, watching fireworks, counting down to the ball drop at Times Square, dressing in white, eating 12 grapes, sharing a midnight kiss, and even performing rituals in hopes of bringing good luck. Year after year, these customs are repeated with the hope of starting the year on the right foot and ending it the same way.

Yet, year after year, many are left disappointed, facing the same failures and losses as before. Some may begin the year feeling optimistic, only to find that the same old problems persist, or that unexpected challenges arise, leaving them wondering if all their efforts were in vain.

Why not try something different this year? If you've been following the same customs but haven't seen positive changes in your life, it's time to reflect. Perhaps you've noticed that, instead of improvement, your frustrations and struggles have only grown with each passing year. Consider the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14: "One thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Don't let the disappointments of your past hold you back from embracing a brighter future.

This New Year, I invite you to do something different: enter 2024 in the Presence of God. Entrust this new year and your life into His hands, allowing Him to guide your decisions and plans. At The Universal Church, we will host a special New Year's Eve Vigil, where we'll present our lives, goals, and dreams to God. Only He has the power to transform your life and fill it with true joy and purpose. Keep reading to hear how others, like you, have experienced remarkable changes by starting their New Year in the Presence of God.

| 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.

Around this time of the year depression has been on an all-time rise. With many experiencing a heightened sense of sadness, loneliness as a result of family stress, social pressure, grief over the loss of loved ones, financial burdens, something referred to as the "holiday blues."

In severe cases, depression has led some people to lose even the will to live. It's 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. This is why every Sunday at the Universal Church doors are open to those seeking to overcome depression. If you need support, we invite you to visit a nearby branch. 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 the help of God can truly make a difference. You can be the next success story. You can overcome depression!



Bishop Edir Macedo



The end of another year

What does "new" really mean? According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "new" refers to something that has recently come into existence. That may seem obvious, but in practice, it's not. Many people step into a new year holding onto the same old habits and reactions they've carried for years, turning the upcoming year into little more than a bad remake of the last one.

The Holy Spirit, however, encourages us to walk in the newness of life. There's no better time to reflect on this than at the turn of the year.

Everyone seems to be talking about "new"—new year, new life, new everything. But for true renewal to happen, we must let go of last year's baggage. We need to start with a renewed faith, expecting that the things we've long awaited will finally come to pass. When we allow the Spirit of Newness of Life to transform us, we'll respond to situations in ways we couldn't before, come up with ideas we've never had, and, as a result, experience outcomes we've never seen.

The "new" is filled with possibilities. It offers opportunities and achievements—not by luck or chance, but through faith in God's Word, which assures us that He fulfills His promises.

One powerful way to step into this newness is by participating in the Fast of Daniel during these final days of the year. This fast is a time to meditate on the things of God and strengthen our relationship with Him. Focusing on the new during this time will undoubtedly reshape our perspective as we enter the



months ahead. I thank God for the inspiration to begin anew in this way.

May the year 2025 truly be new for you. May you receive blessings you've been waiting for, answers you've been seeking, and inspirations you've yet to discover. May salvation reach places it hasn't before. May the Church grow and flourish like never before. And may we witness God's power, mercy, love, and guidance in ways that exceed all we've seen so far. May He surprise us, and may we be ready to respond to His calling.

"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." — Isaiah 43:18-19

May God bless you!



"Year after year my life remained the same—one failure after another."

jumping waves, wearing white, or carrying pomegranate seeds—could fill the emptiness inside.

One day, while at my mother's house, a neighbor who knew our struggles approached us. She was aware of the arguments, the fights, and the destructive cycle we were trapped in. She said to us, "There's a place I know where your life can change. If you go there, I'm sure your story will be different. Those fights, those addictions, that curse—it will all end."

Curious and desperate for a solution, we decided to go. From the moment my wife stepped into that church, she said, "I feel something different here. This is where we need to be." That was the moment everything started to change.

God began to transform our lives. He freed us from addiction, ended the fights, and took away the anxiety that used to consume me. Slowly but surely, God removed all the negativity that had been weighing us down. We finally realized that the solution wasn't in rituals or superstitions. It wasn't in jumping waves, wearing white, or carrying pomegranate seeds. It was in the presence of God.

Then we heard about the church's New Year's vigil. People

told us, "If God has already done so much in your life, imagine what He can do if you dedicate the first moments of the new year to Him." So, we decided to give it a chance.

That night was a turning point. For the first time, we spent New Year's in the presence of God. We consecrated the new year to Him and committed our lives to His guidance. And what a difference it made! There were no arguments, no drinking, no tension. Everything was peaceful. That's when I realized that God's presence could fulfill the longing I had been searching for in all the wrong places.

That night, I received the Holy Spirit, and my life was forever changed. The anger, anxiety, and addiction that had once controlled me were gone. With God in the first moments of the year, I felt confident that nothing bad could happen, because I was with Him, and He was with me.

If you're reading this and struggling with addiction, family conflicts, or a sense of hopelessness, I invite you to join us for a New Year's vigil. Give God a chance to work in your life. If He transformed mine, I am certain He can do the same for you. — John

For 30 years, my New Year's celebrations were marked by addiction, arguments, and deep sadness. Every year, I'd wear white, jump over seven waves, eat pomegranate seeds, and put them in my wallet, hoping for prosperity. I'd ask for peace and happiness in my love life. But none of it ever worked. Year after year, I'd do my part in these rituals, but my life remained the same—one failure after another.

We would gather as a family to celebrate. I come from a relatively large family, and every year we'd have our get-togethers, filled with drinks and festivities. But peace in these reunions only lasted until the alcohol wore off. At midnight, we'd hug and forgive each other, but minutes into the new year, the arguments and fights would start all over again.

I was already in my second relationship, and so was my wife. It felt like a curse we couldn't escape. None of those rituals—whether

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



Today

"Her organs were failing, and she was in a coma."

My daughter had heart failure and also had brain surgery. She spent three months in a medically induced coma. Her kidney also stopped working, and she needed dialysis. Her organs were failing, and she was at risk of not being able to walk.

Due to the campaigns of faith that participated, in six months, my daughter was discharged from the hospital. Today, my daughter is a happy child, walks without health problems, and has a good life thanks to the power of God. -Samara



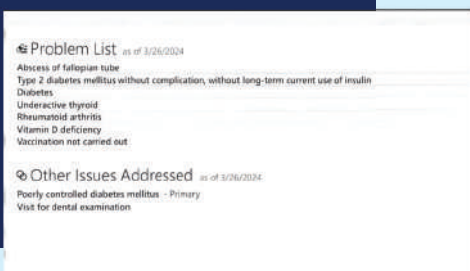
Before



"Healed from an internal bleeding."

In 2022, I was in the hospital for one month. The doctors had found an abscess in my ovaries, and the sugar level was very high.

I was going blind. Last January, when I went to the hospital, there was internal bleeding, and they couldn't find where the bleeding was coming from. I could barely walk at the time.



I learned in the church that I should pray, and God would heal me. I persevered and drank the blessed water every day.

The last test I did confirmed that I did not have any bleeding, and I didn't need to take insulin anymore. I'm healed and happy. - Yvonne



"My medical test results were all negative."

For over a year, I had been silently battling with depression because I spent six months taking different medical tests. I didn't even tell my children about my health battles, and I worried about the test results. I decided to use my faith in God with the Blessed Water; I declared my healing in Jesus' name. All my results came out negative and normal, and I am no longer depressed.

Faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead.
James 2:14



"Healed from Fibroids"

My stomach started growing as if I was pregnant due to fibroids. I was taking medications, but they weren't helping me. I had to use a stick to help me walk because I could no longer walk properly.

After using the Blessed Water by faith, I am healed completely.

- Sonia

**HEALING
WATERS**



**RECEIVE THE HEALING
WATERS THIS SUNDAY**
at your nearest
Universal Church



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

AN EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR ACHIEVING GOALS



At the start of each year, it feels like we're holding a blank page, ready to fill it with new experiences, memories, and accomplishments. The possibilities are endless, and it's up to us to make the most of this fresh start—and to start it right.

Are you tired of setting New Year's resolutions and goals that never seem to stick? You set your intentions, prepare yourself, but each year, something goes wrong and you fail. Have you considered inviting God to guide your path? God offers us an effective method for setting and achieving our goals through His Word. Let's take a deeper look and discover how to let God lead the way in the coming year.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” — Jeremiah 29:11

How to invite God to lead your way:

1. **Present your plans to God through prayer:** As you make your resolutions and set goals for the new year, start by presenting them to God in prayer.
2. **Acknowledge that you are not in control:** Ask God to align your goals with His will. By doing this, you recognize that He is in control, and trust that He will guide you to make wise decisions.
3. **Stay connected with God:** To fulfill your purpose and achieve your goals, it's essential to maintain a consistent connection with God. Read His Word daily for guidance. Don't underestimate the power of faith in helping you reach the life you desire.

Your relationship with God is the bridge that connects your goals to your achievements.

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 CAMPAIGN OF SERVICE			



“Year after year, I remained stuck in the same cycle”

My name is Rogeria Lima, and for many years, I spent New Year's Eve following superstitions. My family served spirits, so we had rituals: wearing different-colored underwear to attract wealth or improve relationships. I believed that wearing white would bring me peace. But every year, nothing changed. December 31st would come and go, and by January 1st, I was still the same—sad, restless, and conflicted.

I tried wearing yellow for wealth, hoping for a life of luxury and abundance, but again, nothing happened. Year after year, I remained stuck in the same cycle.

Then my mother discovered the Universal Church. She kept inviting me to go, but I resisted—I wanted nothing to do with it. But one day, I had reached my limit. I was struggling with insomnia, constantly stressed, and always arguing with my daughters. I was quick to anger, picking fights over the smallest things.

That day, feeling especially tired and broken, my mother said, “Come with me. You're just going to stay here by yourself.” I thought, Why not? and agreed. On December 31, 2016, I attended the New Year's Eve vigil at the church. That night, I finally encountered God.

The pastor preached about the prodigal son, and his words struck me deeply. He said, “If you're suffering and feeling lost, what are you waiting for? God is calling you—surrender to Him.” Those words moved me to approach the altar and pray:

“God, I don't know who You are. I've only heard about You, but I want to know You.”

The first sign that God was answering me came that very night. For years, I hadn't been able to sleep. My mind was always racing, leaving me exhausted and irritable the next day. But that night, I slept peacefully—a deep, uninterrupted sleep, waking refreshed for the first time in years.

That moment marked the beginning of my journey with God. I made a vow to attend the New Year's Eve vigil every year, to dedicate my year to Him and start it in His presence.

Since then, I've experienced true peace and joy—not the fleeting happiness that comes from parties and drinking, which fades the next day. No, this was lasting peace and fulfillment.

Year after year, I continued in faith, bringing not just my life but my entire family into God's presence. My mother, who fought so hard for me, my siblings, and my daughters—I placed them all under the protection of the Most High.



Through this journey, I went through deliverance, leaving behind my old life. I was baptized in water and began living by faith. One New Year's Eve, during the vigil, I had a profound encounter with God and received the Holy Spirit. That moment confirmed to me that God was with me.

Today, my life is completely different. I have peace, joy, and a united family. The arguments and conflicts are gone, replaced with harmony and love. All of this began during that New Year's Eve vigil.

If you're already planning what to wear, what to eat, or where to party on the last day of the year, I invite you to try something different. Spend New Year's Eve at a Universal Church. I promise, it will transform your life as it did mine.

What's happening at the Universal Church



"The rituals I practiced at New Year's only left me disappointed"



All the rituals I practiced at New Year's only left me with a desire to end my life. I spent the entire year preparing for the year-end, hoping that the next one would be better. I followed every instruction I was given—dressing in white for peace, and performing countless superstitions for prosperity and harmony. But nothing worked. In fact, things only got worse.

Year after year, my life spiraled into more separations, fights, family conflicts, and illnesses. The harder I tried to change things, the more everything fell apart. Each new year felt like it was worse than the last. I became a person full of bitterness, even wanting to destroy others' lives.

I sought relationships with married men—family men—out of a desperate attempt to fill the emptiness inside me. The pain I carried was so overwhelming that I began burning cigarettes on my own skin, trying to feel something, yet I didn't feel the physical pain. I drank heavily—not beer, but whiskey and other strong drinks—to numb the anguish inside.

But the depression never left. The entire year was filled with agony, an unbearable weight on my soul. Eventually, I saw no way out and began contemplating suicide, believing that death would finally end my suffering.

One day, my mother, who had been attending the Universal Church, invited me to join her. I noticed a change in her—she seemed so calm and peaceful. That alone made me say, "Yes, I want to go."

The moment I stepped into the

church, everything began to change. For the first time, I felt peace. The desire to die and the unbearable pain in my soul vanished. When New Year's Eve came, I attended the Night Vigil at the church. The pastor said, "Listen to God's Word tonight, and if you apply it, your life will change—not just the calendar year but your entire life."

Before, every year seemed worse than the last. But from that first Night Vigil onward, each year has been better than the one before. My life became filled with peace, unity in my family, and true joy. While challenges still come, nothing robs me of the peace I've found.

Today, I'm a completely different person. I no longer wish to die or hurt others. I'm married to a wonderful husband, and our love grows stronger with each passing year. We're more united, more supportive of one another, and happier than I ever thought possible.

Now, every New Year's Eve, we hold hands and attend the Night Vigil together at the Universal Church. Ending the year in God's presence and starting the new year with Him is so important. It's the foundation of a blessed year.

To anyone reading this who feels tired of spending New Year's Eve in sadness, I invite you to attend the Night Vigil. If you're longing for a change, tired of the pain, and ready for a new story, find a Universal Church near you and come. I promise, the moment you step into God's presence, your life will begin to change. You'll find peace, joy, and, most importantly, a reason to live.

— Rosimeire Leite



"My expectations for a joyful new year were always shattered"

I'm Adriana Costa, and every New Year's Eve, I used to prepare extensively. I always made sure I had a new outfit, specifically white, because it was supposed to bring peace. My husband and I, along with friends, would plan to spend New Year's at a countryside retreat, drinking and celebrating. Alcohol was essential because I need it just to smile.

With friends, we would pose for that perfect New Year's photo, showing everyone a picture of happiness and a perfect family. But behind the photos, there was none of that. I was deeply dependent on others' attention—especially my husband's. But he was always more focused on his friends and drinking. That's where the jealousy began, followed by arguments. We'd end the night fighting, and my expectations for a joyful new year were always shattered.

I tried everything—jumping over seven waves at the beach, following countless traditions people said would bring luck and happiness. But nothing changed. Every year started the same way: with arguments, drinking, and emptiness. My life felt like a never-ending hell. I wanted to die. The emptiness in my soul was unbearable. I wasn't happy, I wasn't fulfilled, and I didn't want to live. Every year, I'd hope for change, but it never came.

Then one day, someone invited me to spend New Year's Eve at church, in the house of God. I decided to go, and it was completely different. For the first time, I felt peace. We prayed, asking God for strength to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past year. After that night, I refused to ever spend another New Year's Eve away from God's altar. I realized how important it is to prioritize God and to start a new year in His presence. That decision changed everything. I began attending church regularly, and my journey of deliverance started. I was set free from alcohol addiction, something I had relied on just to find fleeting moments of happiness. I gave my life to God and was baptized in water—a moment of profound joy. I returned home smiling, declaring to God that I no longer belonged to the world but to Him.

In church, they taught about the im-

portance of receiving the Holy Spirit. I sought Him with all my heart, dedicating myself completely. One Wednesday evening, on my way home from church, the Holy Spirit came upon me. It was a glorious, unforgettable moment. Jesus revealed Himself to me, proving He is alive. From that day on, my life changed entirely. The sadness, the emptiness, the jealousy that consumed me—they were all gone. The Holy Spirit filled me with joy, and a deep desire to share God's love with others. I couldn't stop speaking about Jesus and the transformation He brought into my life.

Today, I am a new Adriana. The old Adriana, the one who depended on alcohol, friends, and superficial happiness, is gone. I have a blessed marriage, a son who is a true blessing, and a family protected by God. I am now an active servant of God, working in the church's Depression Has a Cure group. I dedicate my life to giving others the hope and life that God has given me. If you're reading this and think that spending New Year's Eve at church is just for religious people, let me tell you—it's not. It's for anyone who wants a different, blessed year with God leading the way. I invite you to try it, even if you're just curious. Spend one New Year's Eve in God's presence, and I promise you, it will transform your life. You'll never want to start a new year away from His altar again. Start a new year away from His altar ago.



YPG OFFICIAL

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



YPG ORLANDO OUTREACH

At YPG Orlando, we've hosted numerous events to connect with our local community! From Mega Help initiatives to basketball games and other sports that resonate with the youth in Central Florida, we're always finding ways to engage.

What unites us is the Word of God, and every event is an opportunity to share that message. Through these gatherings, we aim to enlighten young people about the support and guidance they can find in YPG, while offering a safe and welcoming environment where they can truly be themselves.



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

REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141

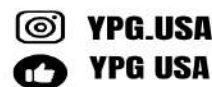


I WAS ADDICTED TO CLUBBING

For years, I went to clubs 2-3 days a week, chasing women and getting lost in the party life. But then, everything suddenly changed. I started struggling with severe depression, panic attacks, anxiety, OCD, and insomnia. I felt desperate and couldn't find a solution—nothing I tried seemed to work.

That's when I discovered the church and the YPG. Today, I'm free, happily married, and blessed in every area of my life. I have the Holy Spirit, and I am a servant of God.

~ Adrian



YPG.USA
YPG USA





Many families welcome the New Year by watching fireworks, while others follow traditional rituals, hoping these practices will bring them peace, prosperity, health, and the love they desire.

However, you may find yourself saying, “Year after year, I’ve followed these customs, but I still haven’t seen any positive changes in my life.” In fact, you might feel that your problems and frustrations have only grown with each passing year.

Entering the New Year in the Presence of God

Instead of relying on rituals, trust not only the new year but your entire life in God’s hands, and let Him guide your decisions and choices. There’s no better way to begin this new journey than by doing so in the first minutes of the year.

That’s why, at The Universal Church, we invite you to join us for the New Year’s Eve Vigil in the Presence of God. It’s a time to present our lives, projects, and dreams to Him—because only He has the power to provide us with a full and happy life. Join us on December 31st at 10 PM at your local Universal Church. See the back page for locations!

“I became obsessed with year-end traditions, thinking they might change something.”

My name is Evelyn Steinhof, and I’m a social worker. Before coming to the Universal Church, my life felt empty. Every year, I would end up frustrated because I could never achieve my goals. I always felt like I needed to be around other people to feel good about myself.

At the end of each year, I’d get anxious. I’d look back at my plans—whether they were about my finances or my relationships—and feel disappointed because nothing had turned out the way I wanted. I became obsessed with year-end traditions, thinking they might change something. I’d carefully plan what to wear on New Year’s Eve—white for peace or yellow for money—and I’d jump into the new year on my right foot, hoping for good luck. I even worried about who I’d spend the evening with because I believed those people needed to stay in my life throughout the year.

When the clock struck midnight, there was always a burst of excitement. Everyone around me believed, “This year will be different!” But deep down, I wasn’t convinced. I’d already been let down so many times that I

expected the new year to end up just like the last one—frustrating and unfulfilling.

Every January, I’d start with this nagging question: “Will this year be any different?” Even with all my rituals, there was always something missing—whether it was in my relationships, my finances, or my social life. By New Year’s Day, I was usually exhausted from staying up late, and I’d spend the next day just sleeping or worrying about whether things would work out.

Back then, God felt so distant to me, like some mythical figure from a story. I had visited the Universal Church a few times, but nothing they said seemed to stick. The messages didn’t resonate, and I couldn’t understand how God’s Word could make a difference in my life.

Then one December, during that same stressful time of year, I decided to give God a chance—as if He needed me to give Him a chance! I made a vow to Him. I was tired of the same old cycle of disappointment, and I wanted something to change. That’s when I started going to church regularly and opening my heart to God. I



realized I didn’t want to be the person I had been anymore.

That December, I got invited to the New Year’s Vigil at church. I decided to go, and that night changed my life. Before midnight, the pastor told us to make a request to God—something we truly wanted for the upcoming year. At that moment, I realized that what I needed most was the Holy Spirit. Without Him, I would never have peace or wisdom. So, I prayed and asked God for His Spirit.

Even though I didn’t receive the Holy Spirit that night, I left with complete confidence that God would give Him to me. And on February 4th, I did receive the Holy Spirit. I remembered the

request I had made at the vigil, and it all became clear: the peace I had been chasing for so long was finally mine. The wisdom I needed to face life's challenges was within me. God had transformed me from the inside out.

Now, every December, I prepare for the new year differently. My focus isn't on rituals or traditions. I prepare to spend those first moments in God's presence because that's what makes all the difference in my life. That

New Year's Vigil marked the turning point for me. The Evelyn I was before no longer exists; I'm a completely different person now. If you're reading this and feel empty—maybe you're planning to spend

New Year's Eve at the beach or with friends—let me invite you to the New Year's Vigil. Come and experience what I did. Let God and the Holy Spirit make a difference in your life as you start the year in His presence.

"I was drowning in depression."

My name is Kleber Kennedy, and I'm a real estate entrepreneur. Before I found God, my New Year's celebrations were completely disastrous. I thought I could find peace in alcohol, but it only brought chaos. I even destroyed a relationship because of the way I acted during those New Year's Eve crises. I'd go out with no plan, no curfew, and no communication with anyone. One year, I just took off to Paraná without telling my family. My focus was drinking—and fighting.

The fights were ridiculous, especially with my siblings. There are four of us: three brothers and one sister. One year, things got so bad that my middle brother grabbed a broomstick to hit me. My sister tried to break it up and ended up with a scar on her leg. That scar was meant for my head. Every New Year's, the same thing would happen—arguments, negativity, anger, and hatred filled our home. I thought drinking would make me happy, but it only made things worse.

The family started every year with

sadness and despair, and I had no goals or plans to improve my life. One year, I got into a car accident while driving drunk, completely out of control. I was drowning in depression, debt, and meaningless relationships. My life was a mess, and I kept starting each year in the worst way possible. My addictions to alcohol and promiscuity were consuming me.

In October 2018, I hit rock bottom after a suicide attempt. That's when a pastor approached me at a local shopping mall and invited me to church. I was going through such a dark time that I decided to give it a try. A few months later, New Year's was approaching again. After years of trying everything else, I told my girlfriend—who is now my wife—that we should do something different. I suggested we spend New Year's at church. Her family, much like mine, had a tradition of hosting parties filled with alcohol, but this time, we chose a different path.

That decision changed everything. For the first time, I experienced God's presence during a New Year's Eve



service. My mom came with us, too, and it was such a peaceful night. After the vigil, we went back home, where my family was still partying, drinking, and doing the same old things. But I felt different. I wasn't aggressive or bitter anymore. My siblings noticed the change in me, especially the brother I used to fight with the most. Today, he's walking in faith with me.

Even though I had peace, I still didn't know true joy. Something was missing, and that something was God—the Holy Spirit. During that first vigil, I prayed, "God, I want to meet You. I want to know who You are, not just hear about You." And God answered. I had a powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit during a New Year's vigil, and it was incredible.

Since then, every New Year's Eve has

been different. I end each year in God's presence and start the new one with Him. I ask for His guidance and trust Him with my plans. That first year, I prayed for a new beginning. I wanted to leave behind the old image of Cleber—the man with debts, bad habits, and a broken reputation. I asked God for direction, and He guided me into the real estate industry.

Today, I'm a successful real estate entrepreneur. I have my own home, something I never thought was possible. I prayed for a marriage, and now I'm happily married. My life is completely transformed. Starting the year with God is essential for me because I know that anything I dedicate to Him in those first moments will succeed.

Just like someone gave me the opportunity to experience God during a New Year's Eve service, I want to extend that invitation to you. If you're struggling with addictions, conflicts, or emptiness, take this chance to experience something new. Spend the first minutes of your year in God's presence, and see what He can do. I promise—when you give those moments to God, He will honor them.

Why should you start the year in the New Year's Night Vigil? Only with the guidance and protection of God can you ensure a blessed year in 2025. If you've led a life of suffering start the year differently to guarantee a happy year!

Remember, how you start is typically how you finish

PRESSING TOWARDS THE GOAL

WRITE YOUR GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

Bring the Pictures of your family for the prayer of protection in the New Year's Night Vigil for 2025



“When I thought I was broken beyond repair, He restored me.”



I came from a broken family. My father cheated on my mother, and my mother also cheated on my father.

Growing up with that knowledge created an immense anger inside me, but I didn't know how to express it. My first escape was alcohol—I started drinking constantly with friends and going to parties.

Soon, I became addicted to having relationships with multiple women, which further fueled my anger and emptiness.

Getting involved with the wrong crowd became second nature to me.

Life on the streets felt like an escape from the chaos at home, but it led me deeper into crime. At 15 or 16, I got involved with the



police for the first time, after being set up by some of the girls I associated with.

By the time I turned 20, I had accumulated several charges on my record, and the police were tired of constantly dealing with me. My addictions worsened—I was drinking heavily and pursuing a lifestyle of recklessness.

But one Sunday morning, after another bad night, I found myself walking aimlessly until I stopped right in front of the Universal Church (UBB).

A helper standing outside approached me, invited me in, and listened as I poured out everything—my problems, my pain, and my regrets.

To my surprise, he didn't judge me or look at me like I was beyond help. He gave me his undivided attention and showed me sincerity and care, something I had never experienced before.

At first, I attended sporadically and didn't take things seriously. But as my life continued to spiral downward, I realized I needed to make a decision. One day, I surrendered completely to God.

I began to obey the teachings, counseling, and advice I received at the church. That decision marked the beginning of my transformation.

I grew stronger spiritually, and I learned about the Holy Spirit.

I realized that without the Holy Spirit, I would eventually return to my old ways. So, I sought Him with all my heart.

“

The day I received the Holy Spirit was the happiest day of my life. He gave me the strength to let go of my addictions, healed my anger and depression, and filled me with a confidence I never had before.

With my newfound faith, I began to fight for other areas of my life.

I prayed for a woman of God to share my life with, and God answered my prayer abundantly in my wife.

Together, we used our faith to build a strong financial foundation. Today, we have a home, cars, and everything we need—we lack nothing.

I live my life from faith to faith, and I am endlessly grateful for what God has done in me. He restored me when I thought I was broken beyond repair.

Now, I have peace, joy, and a life filled with purpose.



“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

Jesus must be your Bishop



Have you ever paused to wonder what it truly means to have a relationship with God? To experience His presence, not as a distant force, but as someone deeply involved in every part of your life? Think about how you'd feel inside—peaceful, confident, and guided. Picture the help He would provide, like a loving Father who knows exactly what you need and works through people around you, such as a bishop, pastor, or mentor, to show you the way.

These spiritual leaders might teach you how to study the Word of God, how to pray, and—most importantly—how to use faith in an intelligent and practical way. Faith isn't just wishful thinking; it's a purposeful, confident trust in God, built on understanding His promises and His will for your life.

Often, God places someone in your path to walk with you as you begin this journey of faith. It could be an assistant, a pastor, or even a fellow believer who takes the time to teach you the basics—how to pray, how to believe, and how to make God the center of your life. They may guide you through the struggles and victories of faith, encouraging you to keep going even when it feels hard. These lessons become so deeply rooted in you that they shape your everyday life, influencing your decisions, relationships, and purpose.

It's natural to feel a strong sense of respect and gratitude for the person who helped you during those early stages of your spiritual growth. Maybe they were patient when you didn't understand or compassionate when you doubted. Their influence might have been pivotal, and their example inspiring. But here's a truth we must not overlook: no matter how much someone helps us, they're still human. Humans are imperfect. They have flaws and weaknesses, just like we do. The Bible speaks directly to this in 1 Peter

2:25: "For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

This verse is a reminder to shift our focus to the true Shepherd of our souls—Jesus Christ. He is the one who truly guides us, sustains us, and transforms us from within. While it's true that God works through people, those individuals are only instruments in His hands. The work of salvation, the regeneration of your heart, and the renewal of your mind are all done by the Holy Spirit. No pastor, assistant, or mentor can claim that credit. Their role is simply to point you to Jesus and His power.

It's worth reflecting on this: have we unintentionally placed the person who helped us on a pedestal? It's easy to do. When someone invests in us, prays for us, and walks with us, we can begin to view them as infallible. But the reality is, even the most faithful servant of God is still human. They will make mistakes, and at some point, they may let us down—not because they want to, but because they're just like us: imperfect. That's why we must always keep our eyes on Jesus, the only one who is perfect and unchanging. Sadly, many people have stumbled in their faith or even fallen away from God because they were hurt or disappointed by someone they looked up to. They focused so much on the person that when that person failed, their faith faltered too. This is why it's crucial to understand that our faith must be anchored in Jesus, not in any human being.

Remember the story of Peter walking on water? As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he stayed above the waves. But the moment he focused on the storm around him, he began to sink. The same principle applies to our spiritual lives. When we take our eyes off Jesus and fixate on people, circumstances, or our own strength, we risk falling. But when we keep our eyes on Him, He lifts us above the waves.

So, what should we do when we see flaws in those who once guided us? First, remember that we are all a work in progress. Think of the many times you've needed God's mercy, patience, and forgiveness. Extend that same grace to others. Instead of becoming bitter or critical, pray for them. Ask God to strengthen them, heal their weaknesses, and continue using them for His glory.

Our journey of faith is personal, but it's also communal. God places people in our lives to help us grow, but He also calls us to rely on Him as our ultimate guide. When we put Jesus at the center of our lives, we build a faith that is unshakable—a faith that can weather any storm, disappointment, or challenge. And remember, the only one worthy of our unwavering trust, devotion, and admiration is Jesus Christ. He is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, and He will never fail us.



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!



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.



WAYS TO WATCH ULFN:



- NEW YORK, CHANNEL 42.2
- HOUSTON TX, CHANNEL 28.1
- DALLAS TX, CHANNEL 28.1
- ORLANDO FL, CHANNEL 50.1
- FRESNO CA, CHANNEL 12.1
- PHILADELPHIA PA, CHANNEL 8.3
- RICHMOND VA, CHANNEL 53.3
- TRINIDAD, CHANNEL 107 (AMPLIA/FLOW)
- TOBAGO, CHANNEL 23



Add ULFN to your list of channels.



APPS (APPLE & ANDROID)



iPhone/iPad users: Download from the **App Store**
 Android users: Download from **Google Play**



WEBSITE

Access our website:
watch.ulfn.org

ULFN PROGRAMS SCHEDULE (ET)

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



SCAN ME



universal online radio



living faith network



Visit our website: ulfn.org

Follow us online: @UniLivingFaith





God's Plan: How faith reshaped my life and finances

My entire life was filled with misery. Growing up, I went to private school, but because of the financial struggles my family faced, we constantly had to transfer to new schools.” Michelder later met his wife, Paloma. Already struggling financially, he decided to get married despite the challenges.

“I got married to Paloma, and at that time, she had everything she needed at home. I was working, but my salary was only six hundred dollars, and four hundred of that went straight to rent. We had to gather coins just to buy our basic needs.”

“When I started attending the Strong Nation services, I began to apply the teachings I received. My financial situation started to change. It wasn't that I wasn't working or that I didn't have money—I had two jobs, but I wasn't moving forward. I learned to exercise my faith and made a pact with God. That's when I began to see a transformation in my finances. God gave me the abilities I needed to glorify Him.”

“Eventually, I left both my jobs and decided to start my



business. I had experience working with elevators, so I expanded into that field. During this time, I kept making my vows to God, as I was taught in the Strong Nation services. I began securing contracts, one after another. I had never had my own home before, but that changed too. I was able to rent a house, and we kept prospering. Soon, I could afford cars and even homes. Our business grew, but this didn't happen overnight. Through



the vows I made with God, we never lost anything. We have something far greater than financial blessings—we have the Holy Spirit.”

“Since we gave our lives to God, the Holy Spirit has come first in everything, because He's the one who gave us direction. Everyone faces problems, but the solution is found only in God. Once we received the Spirit of God, we gained the strength to overcome everything,” he says.

“We've faced many challenges, but we've been at peace because God has



never allowed us to lack anything.” “I have a blessed marriage, my children are happily married, and my financial life is blessed. But, as I mentioned before, the

greatest treasure we have is the Holy Spirit. We take great pleasure in telling people what God has done in our lives—and what He can do for you too,” he concludes.



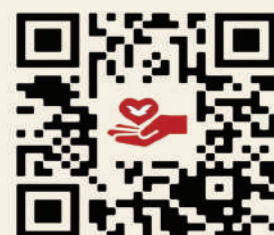
THE STRONG NATION

On Mondays you will learn how to use your faith to transform your financial life.

MONDAYS | 7AM, 10AM, 4PM AND 7PM
[TIMES MAY VARY DEPENDING ON LOCATION]

You can be a sponsor of this ministry by sowing your seed and helping us reach out to those in need.

Scan the QR code



BECOME A SPONSOR OF THIS MINISTRY



Headquarters:

**1091 FULTON ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11238
(BETWEEN CLASSON & FRANKLIN AVE.)**

- THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH - A NONSTOP MINISTRY -

NEW YORK | 1 (888) 332-4141

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BROOKLYN • 1091 FULTON ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11238

ALBANY • 172 N ALLEN ST., ALBANY, NY 12206 • (518) 816-7904

BEDFORD • 2233 BEDFORD AVE., BROOKLYN, NY 11226 • (347) 756-8339

BRONX • 1227 WEBSTER AVE., BRONX, NY 10456

BRONX • 830 ARNOW AVE, BRONX, NY 10467

CANARSIE • 9530 AVENUE L BROOKLYN, NY 11236

EAST BEDSTUY • 2006 FULTON ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11233

EAST FLATBUSH • 972 UTICA AVE., BROOKLYN, NY 11203

FAR ROCKAWAY • 14-25 CENTRAL AVE FAR ROCKAWAY NY 11691 • (929) 604-1991

HARLEM • 65 E 125TH ST., NEW YORK, NY 10035

HEMPSTEAD • 17 N. FRANKLIN ST., HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550

JAMAICA QUEENS • 92-24 MERRICK BLVD., JAMAICA, NY 11433

MOUNT VERNON • 148 EAST 3RD STREET, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550

(BETWEEN S FULTON AVE AND FRANKLIN AVE)

OZONE PARK • 117-06 ROCKAWAY BLVD, OZONE PARK, NY 11420

ST. ALBANS • 187-08 LINDEN BLVD., ST. ALBANS, NY 11412

TEXAS | 1 (888) 691-2291

TEXAS HEADQUARTERS

SOUTHWEST HOUSTON • 7075 Southwest FWY, Houston TX 77074

ARLINGTON • 1100 East Pioneer Pkwy, Arlington TX 76010 • (682) 230-3592

DALLAS • 325 W Saner Ave., Dallas TX 75224 • (469) 427-6586

WEST DALLAS • 3024 Conklin St., Dallas TX 75212 • (682) 337-1585

NORTH HOUSTON • 16800 Imperial Valley Dr, Houston, TX 77060 • (832) 304-0534

KATY • 902 S Mason Rd., Katy, TX 77450 • (281) 899-8744

SAN ANTONIO • 6715 Bandera Rd., San Antonio, TX 78238 • (210) 233-9859

SOUTH PARK • 6945 MLK Blvd., Houston TX 77033 • (346) 704-0336

NORTHWEST HOUSTON • 5003 Antoine Dr. Unit D Houston, TX 77092

CALIFORNIA • COMPTON • 1900 W. Alondra Blvd. Compton, CA 90220 • (855) 332-1900

BROADWAY • 237 S. Broadway, Los Angeles CA 90012 • (323) 975-1019

LONG BEACH • 1235 Pacific Ave Long Beach, CA 90813

EAGLE ROCK • 3912 Eagle Rock Blvd., LA, CA 90065 • (213) 718-4657

FRESNO • 1921 E Belmont Ave. Fresno CA 93721 • (559) 538-9346

SAN BERNADINO • 1745 N. Mount Vernon Ave., San Bernadino, CA 92411

DELAWARE • 807 N Union street Wilmington, DE 19805 • (302) 688-9307

ILLINOIS • 345 W. 95th St., Chicago, IL 60628 • (773) 820 8699

GEORGIA • DECATUR • 3110 E Ponce De Leon Ave. Scottdale, GA 30079 • (470) 575-5222

SAVANNAH • 512 Berrien Street Savannah, GA 31401 • (912) 446-4914

LOUISIANA • NEW ORLEANS • 138 N Broad St, LA 70119 • (504) 484-9503

FLORIDA • FT LAUDERDALE • 2647 N State Rd., 7 Lauderhill, FL 33313 • (954) 870-0609

MIAMI SHORES • 10275 NE 2nd Ave., Miami, FL 33138 • (305) 834-8675

NORTH MIAMI • 12905 NE 8th Ave., North Miami, FL 33161 • (305) 469-8036

POMPANO BEACH • 1840 NE 41 St., Pompano Beach, FL 33064 • (754) 212-7878

ORLANDO • 4470 W. Colonial Dr. ,Orlando, FL 32808 • (689) 233-2409

WEST PALM BEACH • 1270 N Military Trl., West Palm Beach, FL 33409 • (561) 336-1005

JACKSONVILLE • 7137 Main St N, Jacksonville, FL 32208 • (904) 370-3464

MARYLAND • SILVER SPRING • 8241 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, Upper level (elevator access) MD 20910 • (301)-463-7080

BALTIMORE • 3339 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, MD, 21218 • (443) 416-3747

MASSACHUSETTS • 70 Southampton St., Roxbury, MA 02118 • (617) 445-0710

MICHIGAN • 4919 Elmhurst St., Detroit, MI 48204 • (313) 444-6922

MISSISSIPPI • 163 East Mcdowell Rd Suite 141, Jackson, MS 39204 • (769) 218-9472

NEVADA • 2121 East Tropicana #1, Las Vegas, NV 89119 • (702) 517-6367

TENNESSEE • 4916 Nolensville Pike, Nashville, TN 37211 • (615) 457-0527

NEW JERSEY • NEWARK • 100 Clinton Ave., Newark, NJ 07114 • (973) 643-5126

ORANGE • 23 Tony Galento Plaza Orange NJ 07050 • (973) 675-4253

NORTH CAROLINA • 413 Eastway Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205 • (980) 875-9783

OHIO • 3510 W 41st. St. Cleveland, OH 44109 • (440) 462-9595

OKLAHOMA • 1712 N Rockwell Ave, Bethany, Ok 73008 • (405) 679-4499

PENNSYLVANIA • 3801 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19140 • (267)469-2594

SOUTH CAROLINA • 2229 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29204 • (803) 238 6657

GREENVILLE • 1601 Rutheford St. South Carolina 29609 • (864) 551-8651

UTAH • 2196 W 3500 S, Unit C-1 West Valley City, UT 84119 • Sundays at 4pm

VIRGINIA • 200 E Belt Blvd., Richmond, VA 23224 • (804) 430-9500

WASHINGTON DC • 2018 Rhode Island Ave NE, Washington DC • (202) 669-2891

WISCONSIN • 3433 West North Ave Milwaukee, WI 53208 • (414) 914-6086

HAWAII • 94-801 Farrington HWY, Suite W1 Waipahu, HI 96797 • (808) 451-9090

More Locations:

ALABAMA • 2045 Madison Ave. Montgomery, AL 36107 • (334) 840-4656

CONNECTICUT • 324 Madison Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604 • (203) 371-6300

CANADA • 2420 Dufferin St. Toronto, ON M6E 3S8 • 1 (877) 785-8700



Stop Suffering

Web: universalusa.org | Send us a text. Let us chat. We want to help. **1-888-312-4141**