

UNIVERSAL NEWS



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New Year...

Learn how to turn your life around in 2025. Do a chain of prayer today.

NEW LIFE?



“My life was like a living hell.”

Read Ana's story on page 7



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Bishop Edir Macedo

Have you already received the Spirit of Christ?



Page 5

Great social work in Suriname



Watch the new season at 9 PM ET on ULFN



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

New Year... New Life?

How can one have a new life without first letting go of the old? How can we expect new or better results if we continue with the same old habits? With the new year upon us, now is the perfect time to embrace better habits that will lead to success in 2025.

Studies show that forming a new habit can take anywhere from 21 to 254 days. So, what habits are you willing to build in this new year? What changes do you want to see in your family, finances, health, spiritual life, and love life? Our Chain of Prayer can help you replace old habits with new ones that bring positive results.

What is a Chain of Prayer?

A Chain of Prayer is a commitment to attend a prayer meeting for a specific number of weeks without interruption, with the goal of achieving a breakthrough in your life. Whether you need healing, transformation in your love life, spiritual deliverance, or a financial breakthrough, a Chain of Prayer will challenge and empower you to develop the faith, discipline, and perseverance to overcome obstacles.

During these meetings, you will receive practical steps, sound advice, and the power of prayer to tackle your problems and achieve your goals.

How to Start

Our branches are open seven days a week, with services tailored to address specific areas of your life. On Page 7, you'll find the full schedule of services along with descriptions of what each day focuses on. This will help you decide which service best aligns with your goals for the new year.

All you have to do is determine what you want to fight for, pick a day (or multiple days), and commit to your Chain of Prayer. With persistence and faith, your life will not remain the same.

The Key to Success

The success of a Chain of Prayer depends entirely on your perseverance. If you're not determined, it won't work. But if you're truly hungry for change and committed to seeing it through, this is for you.

Take the first step to transform your life in 2025. Join a Chain of Prayer today—because it works!

| 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 and makes even the simplest of tasks seem impossible. In severe cases, depression has caused people to lose their will to live. It's a sickness of the soul. But who or what can heal the soul? Only the Savior, the Lord Jesus, has the power to heal and 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. Join 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



Have you already received the Spirit of Christ?

The miracle of a new life mirrors the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. When the Spirit of the Most High came upon Mary, Jesus was conceived.

A similar transformation occurs when someone is born of the Spirit and receives the Holy Spirit—they become a child of God. Thirty years after His birth, Jesus explained to a religious teacher the path to becoming a true child of God:

"...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

What does it mean to be born of water and the Spirit? Being born of water involves a cleansing—a replacement of human thoughts with God's thoughts. It is the washing away of foolish, sinful, and empty ideas, allowing the holy and living thoughts of God to take root.

Being born of the Spirit is akin to what the angel said to Mary:

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you..." (Luke 1:35 HCSB)



This is the experience that every person needs to have. Those who humbly believe in God's Word will be overshadowed by His power, and through this, they become children of God.

The apostle Paul reinforces this truth:

"But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him." (Romans 8:9 HCSB)

So, the question remains: Have you already received the Spirit of Christ?



"I had no control of my life"

joined a group that broke into homes to steal.

alone, hopeless, and powerless to change.

I knew this life couldn't last—so many of my friends died because of crime, and I'd been arrested numerous times. But I felt powerless to change. When I was sober, I didn't even recognize myself anymore.

One day, as I passed the Universal Church, something stirred within me. Could this be the place where my life might change? That Sunday, I attended a service—and from that moment, everything began to shift.

"My father passed away when I was a teenager. He was the breadwinner of our family, and after his death, everything fell apart. Life became extremely difficult—we often had no food. I'd go to school hungry and come home to the same emptiness. That struggle pushed me into the wrong crowd.

My behavior became violent. Once, I attacked someone so severely that he ended up in the hospital. Seeing the damage I had caused made me reflect on my life. I went to visit the person I had hurt, apologized, and realized how desperately I needed to change. But I didn't know where to start.

Each time I returned to church, I felt a little better. Through the teachings, I learned how to use my faith to transform my life. I began participating in the Chains of Prayer on Fridays for my deliverance. With time, I was freed from my addictions. The desire to smoke and drink left me completely, and I distanced myself from the wrong crowd. Soon after, I found a job, and God continued to bless me.

My new 'friends' introduced me to smoking and stealing, which became the gateway to a destructive path. I started with glue, but it wasn't enough for long. Soon, I was using marijuana and drinking excessively. My addictions fueled my involvement in crime. I began stealing clothes from washing lines to sell for money. Eventually, I

At home, my mother was heartbroken. She begged me to quit my addictions and live a decent life. Her tears only deepened my pain and longing for my father, who I believed would've kept me on the right path. I reached out to my uncles for guidance, but they had no time for me. I felt completely

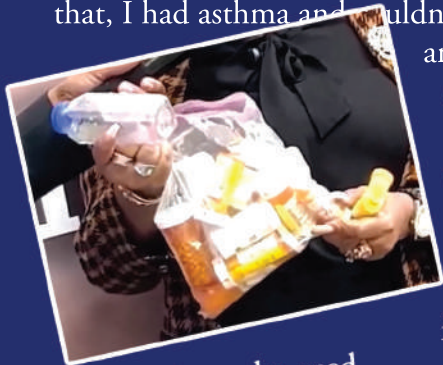
Today, I am a married man, a responsible husband, and a father. I own a house, and I work for a prominent company. My priority now is to serve God and help others the way I was helped."

— Joshua



“Free from asthma, anxiety, sleepless nights, depression, etc.”

After losing a family member earlier this year, I went through a period of deep depression. I found myself in and out of the hospital, unable to eat or sleep. I was suffering from anxiety and dealing with so many struggles. I ended up in the hospital more than six times. On top of that, I had asthma and couldn't breathe properly, so I had to rely on an inhaler.



Medications she used before.

One day, I decided to attend the Sunday service here. I began using the blessed water by faith, drinking it before or after taking my medication. Gradually, I started to feel different—better and better each day. Today, I am completely free from all the suffering I endured. I no longer need any medication. Thanks to my faith in the Lord Jesus and using the blessed water, I am now doing excellently.

- Jannet

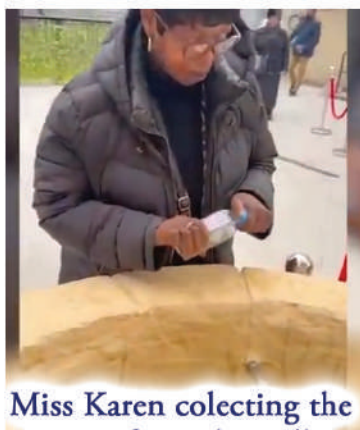


“Healed from Cardiomyopathy”



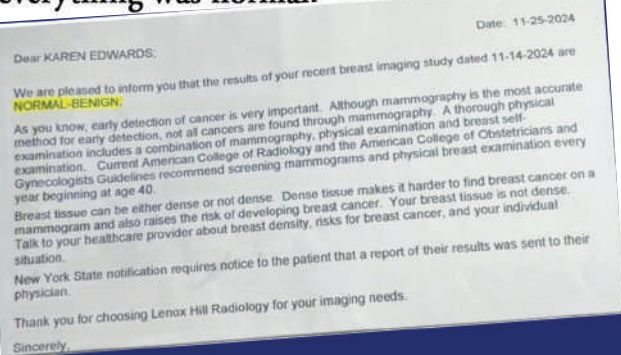
“I no longer have the lump in my breast”

I discovered a lump in my breast, and it terrified me, especially since three of my family members—my mother's sisters—had passed away from cancer. I went to the doctor, who referred me for a mammogram. During this time, I was drinking the blessed water and prayed, “God, You've got to help me,”



Miss Karen collecting the water from the well.

because I feared I was going to die. A few days later, the doctor called me and asked me to come to his office. He informed me that everything was normal.



Results showing that everything is normal..

At first, I couldn't believe him, but then I received the official results in the mail. The report confirmed there was no lump, no cancer.



In 2020, I was diagnosed with Cardiomyopathy, a condition that affects the heart. The doctors told me that my heart wasn't beating properly and that there was no cure for it—that I would eventually die from it. I experienced shortness of breath, especially at night.

It was a process, but I decided to believe that God would be my doctor. By faith, I drank the blessed water. After undergoing new exams, the results showed that my heart is now normal. I no longer experience the symptoms I had before. -Miss Jackson



Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

Realization Despite the New Calendar




The turn of the year often brings with it a sense of excitement, fresh expectations, and dreams for a better future. Many people feel that when the clock strikes midnight, everything will suddenly change for the better, and they believe the new year will be their chance for a new start. However, the truth is that, for many, the changes they expect don't always come, and they are left with the realization that despite the new calendar, things often remain the same. Do you wish for a brand-new life?

The Bible assures us in Isaiah 43:18: **“Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?”** This verse shows that the new life we long for does not depend on the calendar date, but on the transformation that begins within us.

You do not have to wait for a new year to experience a new life. When you receive the Spirit of God, you receive a completely new life—one that doesn't start on the outside but deep within your heart and soul.


May the God of the Bible bless you with the new life you seek!

Steps to starting your Chain of Prayer




Which day or days will you come?

Choose the problem you can't continue living with and start fighting. Choose the days that are best for you. You don't have to attend every day but if you see there's a day that applies to your problem, attend on that day or days until you complete your chain of prayer.



Ask for help:

The purpose of a Chain of Prayer is to teach you to be independent, to depend on yourself and God alone!



Persevere:

When you begin a Chain of Prayer, you are picking a fight with your problems, and things can try to stop you but no matter what happens, **DO NOT BREAK IT! Be serious about this.**

*Have you had enough of suffering?
If so, start your Chain of Prayer at The Universal Church closest to you this week!*

THE PAST DROVE HER CRAZY

Trapped by the guilt and unforgiveness, many are unable to move forward. If this is your case, understand how to break this curse and finally receive a new life

Mary Costa, 39, was married, a mother of three, and had been attending the Universal Church for 17 years when she was suddenly forced to confront a painful memory from her past that had been holding her back. She shares the story of what happened: “I hadn't been in contact with my father for a long time, but when I found out that he had passed away, I was told that a family member needed to go to the hospital to identify his body so it could be released. When I arrived and did the identification, I felt dizzy, fainted, hit my head, and lost my memory.

I don't remember how long it was, but eventually, my memory started to return in flashes. I began to recall that when I was 4 years old, my father tried to abuse me.”

Shaken by these memories, Mary was haunted by visions of her father, who would accuse her of causing his death. He told her that if she didn't want to be arrested, she would have to kill herself. Overcome by guilt for his death, she saw herself covered in blood and, during her breakdowns, screamed for it to be removed.

Her family captured her outbursts on video. On several occasions, her 14-year-old son had to physically intervene when she grabbed a knife, attempting to take her own life. There were other times when she would wander into neighborhoods far from her home, putting herself in dangerous situations. She says, “I ended up drinking fabric softener, detergent, and eating soap, and had to be taken to a psychiatric hospital.” But even after leaving the hospital, the crises continued, and she was eventually brought to the church, where several people had to hold her down. It was there that Mary began to understand what was happening to her. She reflects, “For 38 years, I kept all this pain to myself. Even though I attended church, I couldn't fully surrender to God and live His Word because I held onto resentment toward my father. I said I forgave him, but saying it and truly forgiving are two different things.”

When Mary reached out for help, the pastor spoke to her, urging her to surrender her life to God. He explained that the



first step was to leave the past behind and live from that moment forward. If she did this, he promised, she would soon share her testimony of overcoming. Mary made that decision. “I decided I didn't want to carry that burden anymore. I was baptized, and at the end of last year, during a campaign of faith, I saw my chance, because I was still missing the Holy Spirit.” She describes how she sought Him: “My greatest sacrifice was forgiving my father. He had already passed

away, but I let go of all the bitterness, saying, ‘Father, I forgive you. I no longer hold a grudge.’ After surrendering my vow to God, I came down from the Altar feeling lighter, like a truck had been lifted off me. I could finally smile and talk about my past without having a crisis.”

A few weeks later, Mary received the Holy Spirit, and from that moment on, everything changed. She says, “What has happened since receiving the Holy Spirit has been beyond anything I could have imagined. My husband and my children, who had never attended church, are now in God's presence with me. My home is peaceful, and I can talk about my past naturally. Nothing scares me anymore.”

Mary emphasizes the importance of repentance: “What happened to me led me to a sincere surrender, to real repentance, because until we truly repent and learn to forgive, our lives can't change. We just keep trying but don't move forward. There has to be a true surrender, and that's something that happens on the Altar,” she concludes.

I carried resentment towards my father for 38 years and because of this, my life was stuck

What's happening at the Universal Church



UniSocial reaches the people of Suriname

During a time of year when many celebrate abundance, especially during the festive season, there are still those who need a helping hand. In these challenging times, as the people of Suriname struggle with inflation, the Universal Church, through UniSocial, shows that it is indeed possible to follow the teachings of the Lord Jesus: "For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." — Matthew 25:35

With this in mind, UniSocial brought people from the country's most underprivileged neighborhoods to the center of the capital, Paramaribo. Volunteers welcomed families—parents and their children—and guided them to the Universal Church in the city. According to the spiritual leader of the Universal Church in Suriname, "At this event, we welcomed about 650 people who came to the Universal Church for the first time. They were individuals from various cultures and religions, seeking both physical and spiritual nourishment."

The event gathered nearly a thousand attendees, including 100 volunteers who gave their best with love and joy to help others. "What each person received at this event was far more valuable than anything they'd ever received elsewhere. They found peace and the assurance that, no matter their situation, God is always taking care of them," shared Diana Saikem.



Basic food baskets and clothing were distributed. Children were treated to snacks, juices, sodas, and popcorn. There were also fun activities like inflatable castles,

bounce houses, and plenty of laughter.

Several professionals joined the event, offering services such as dermatological consultations, women's health care, and talks on topics like teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and crime prevention. Blood pressure and diabetes checks were also provided, along with general health counseling. Police officer Verwey addressed sensitive topics like sexual abuse and assault, often occurring even within families. She noted that many parents, overwhelmed by busy schedules and multiple jobs, struggle to keep a close eye on their children. This lack of supervision exposes children to harmful influences, leading to issues like teenage pregnancy and drug use. "Parents, pay attention and exercise your authority. Don't leave your children unsupervised," she urged.



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

As the event drew to a close, the pastor shared a message of hope, teaching that when we find God, we find relief. Even when life feels overwhelming or problems seem endless, God offers peace for the soul.

After hearing these words, many opened their hearts, experienced immediate freedom, and received salvation. "This event was truly special. You could clearly see the Holy Spirit moving in everyone who attended. The attention people gave to every detail and the impact of the preached message were remarkable. I saw people leave with joy and a positive outlook," shared Sonny Cadogan.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



YPG ROYAL HALL

The YPG Royal Hall Event in New York City brought together youth branches from across the state to celebrate a year of growth and accomplishments in 2024. During the event, the youths were honored with awards that recognized their remarkable transformations and achievements, both within the YPG and in their personal lives.

The celebration included powerful plays that offered guidance on overcoming holiday depression, engaging competitions, and an uplifting message of faith. The inspiring words encouraged the youths and equipped them with motivation and direction as they prepared for the year ahead.



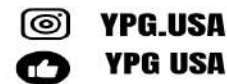
**BE A PART OF SOMETHING GREAT!
JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 1PM
REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141**



I wanted to end my Life

Before I came to Jesus, I battled depression, crippling anxiety, and constant thoughts of suicide. I even tried to take my life but stopped because I was terrified of what would happen to my soul. I felt completely alone, unable to open up to anyone, despite my attempts to seek help. One day, while walking with my mom, a pastor approached us and invited us to church. I decided to attend, and from the very first service, I felt a sense of peace. Gradually, my suicidal thoughts, anxiety, and depression began to fade. Over time, Jesus completely healed me. My depression is gone, and I now have a peace that truly surpasses all understanding. I smile—a simple thing I couldn't do before. Jesus changed my life, and if He did it for me, He can do it for anyone!

-Maya Graves



Forming new habits in the new year

Studies suggest that forming a new habit can take anywhere from 18 to 254 days, depending on your consistency and commitment. With the new year ahead, this is the perfect time to take steps toward positive change in your life.

What habits will you form this year?

Think about the changes you want to see in your:

- Finances
- Health
- Spiritual life
- Love life

Whether you want to improve in one or all of these areas, the key is to take intentional steps toward your goals.

Introducing the Chain of Prayer

A Chain of Prayer is a powerful way to create lasting change by committing to regular prayer meetings over a period of weeks. This practice builds faith and perseverance, helping you fight for breakthroughs in areas like health, finances, relationships, or spiritual growth. To support your Chain of Prayer, review the weekly service schedule and select the one(s) that align with your goals. Each service is designed to address different areas of life.

How does it work?

1. **Identify Your Goal:** Decide what specific change or breakthrough you want to achieve.
2. **Choose Your Days:** Pick the day(s) of the week you'll attend prayer services.
3. **Commit to Sunday Services:** Attending Sunday services weekly is a crucial part of the chain.
4. **Be Consistent:** The success of your chain depends on your perseverance.

Missing a day breaks the chain, so determination is essential. Start your journey toward a transformed life today.

Take the challenge, form new habits, and see the changes you've been longing for!



"Every time something happened, I thought about killing myself."

Maurício's story begins with a childhood marked by rejection and suffering. At eight years old, he was sent to live with his father after his mother, struggling with emotional instability, could no longer care for him. Without proper guidance, Mauricio sought companionship on the streets, leading to a life of delinquency and drug use.

By age 15, he was using cocaine and committing crimes, including vandalism and assault. His aggressive and rebellious nature strained relationships, and depression consumed him, driving him to attempt suicide three times. Mauricio recalls the dark moments:

"Every time something happened, I thought about killing myself. Once, during a fight, I was drunk and high, and I stabbed a man. In my rage, I drank some of his blood. It was something diabolical."

Hitting rock bottom

At 23, Mauricio was arrested for his crimes. Alone and abandoned, even his family rarely visited. He describes this time as a period of deep suffering but also as a turning point.

In prison, he encountered volunteers from the Universal



Church's Prison Ministry (UBB). Their persistence and compassion caught his attention. Though not yet fully committed to God, he began attending services and prayed:

"God, I've reached a point where I can't take it anymore. I need an answer."

A new beginning

After nearly six years in prison, Mauricio was released in 2020. Determined to leave crime behind, he struggled to let go of drugs and alcohol. Nights were filled with tears and emptiness.

However, his time in prison had planted seeds of faith. Inspired by a book given by the UBB, *In the Footsteps of Jesus*, Mauricio sought help at the Universal Church. On his first visit, he experienced a life-changing prayer:

"I surrendered and told God, 'I will leave differently.' From that day, I never smoked, drank, or used drugs again. The urge was gone."

He was baptized in water and set his sights on receiving the Holy Spirit.

Transformation through faith

Maurício embarked on a spiritual purpose of faith, dedicating himself entirely to God. He abstained from worldly distractions, meditated on Scripture during work breaks, and immersed himself in sermons and prayers.

On the ninth day of his purpose, Mauricio received the Holy Spirit:

"I felt immense joy. I was born again. The peace I sought for so long was finally mine."

A life renewed

Today, Mauricio is free from his past. He is married to a woman

of the same faith, and together they dedicate their lives to helping others through the Gospel. Despite facing skepticism about his transformation, he remains

steadfast:

“Nothing shakes me. I can face the whole world because he who is born of God overcomes.”

Mauricio’s story is a testament to the power of faith, perseverance, and God’s ability to transform even the darkest of lives.

"My life was like a living hell."

Although Ana Natalia grew up attending the Universal Church with her family, she walked away from it as a teenager and chose a path that nearly destroyed her. She says it all started because she wanted to "see the world."

At just 14, Ana Natalia met a young man at a party. She explains how things unfolded:

"I got involved with him, and a few days later, he was arrested. Everything happened so fast. I was deeply in love. I started visiting him in jail, and when he got out three years later, we moved in together. That's when I found out he was deeply involved in crime and addicted to cocaine. My life started to spiral into hell. Even before that, I was already sad, empty, and using drugs myself. I had started smoking marijuana and drinking almost every day."

She admits her boyfriend's influence played a big role in her downfall:

"If you live with someone who uses drugs, it's almost impossible not to be influenced, especially if you don't have God in your life. He was controlling, possessive, and jealous. He monitored everything I did, even my phone. If I went to visit my mom, he would question why I wasn't staying with him. He'd let me go alone but would show up at my mom's house looking for

me. I ignored all the red flags because I liked him. Looking back now, I realize I had put all my expectations on him."

After eight years together, the relationship ended. "When he broke up with me, I started going out to clubs more often and getting involved with other people, but I still felt sad and empty," Ana Natalia recalls.

By mid-2023, she hit rock bottom and made a life-changing decision. "In June, I decided to go back to Universal. I realized I needed



God in my life. By December, I was facing a tough time—I was unemployed and had only a little money in the bank to survive. I prayed and told God, 'It's all or nothing: either You change my life, or You take it.' I didn't see any other way out."

She says her journey of deliverance wasn't easy, especially when it came to giving up drugs. "I would smoke marijuana all day and then go to Universal meetings. But God was already working in me. I



started reading the Bible and waking up at dawn to pray. It took me a while to understand that being baptized in water wasn't enough to free me. I needed something more."

That "something more," Ana Natalia says, was surrendering her entire life to God. She completely gave herself to Him at the Altar, and in return, she received the Holy Spirit.

From that moment on, her life transformed completely. She found true peace, felt fulfilled, and even saw progress in her career. After nearly two years of frustration, she finally got a job in her field of study.

For Ana Natalia, her story is a testament to the truth of Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." She says that's exactly what she did.

"Today, I know that with God, we always have another chance, no matter what situation we're in—whether it's a physical or spiritual prison. If we give our lives to Him and let Him guide us, we'll find success in every area of our lives," she concludes.

MAKE A CHAIN OF PRAYER IT WORKS!

A Chain of Prayer is when you attend a prayer meeting for a certain number of weeks without interruption in order to see a breakthrough in your life. Whether it is healing, a financial breakthrough or spiritual deliverance that you need, a Chain of Prayer helps you develop the faith and determination to overcome.

Monday - Strong Nation
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm



Learn the secrets to overcome financially. Receive direction to grow and become a successful person.



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

Receive prayers for your physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

Wednesday - Night of Salvation
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm



A meeting will be held for those who want to invest in a genuine relationship with God.



Thursday - Family & Love Therapy
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm

The goal of the family meeting is to bring families together. No family is perfect, but they can be free from any hate, separation and other underlying issues.

Friday - Deliverance
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm



There is a root to every problem. No issue can be dealt with permanently without removing its root. Every Friday, strong prayers is provided for anyone who is facing a problem that is influenced by negativity.



Saturday - Impossible Cases
8am & 12pm

Have you ever looked at a problem or situation and thought, 'this is impossible, there is no solution to this?' If you want to see the 'impossible become possible', join us every Saturday.

Sunday - Gathering of Faith & Miracles
7am, 10am, 3pm & 6pm



These meetings aim to help people connect with God, to empower people and teach them how to use their faith to achieve what they want in their lives.

Accepting the truth

“Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.” (Job 38:3)

In the book of Job, God calls on Job to be a man—to stand strong—because He is about to deliver some profound truths. What follows is a wake-up call, a message that reveals God’s sovereignty and power.

The Word of God is truly extraordinary. It has the ability to comfort us in our lowest moments, yet it can also correct us when we are on the wrong path. It can encourage us to press on but also guide us toward the truth—even when that truth feels uncomfortable, like a slap in the face.

It’s important not to treat the Bible as a motivational book where we cherry-pick what we like and ignore what challenges us. Every word of Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and those who follow it diligently are deemed wise:

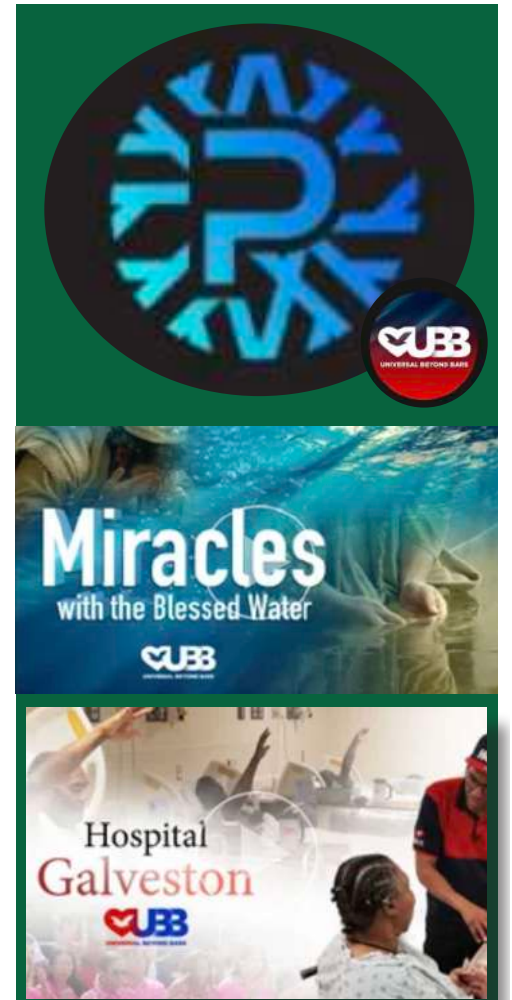
“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24)

“

When you sit down to read the Bible, remember this: what you hear may not always be easy to accept, but it will always bless you and bring freedom. The Word of God is meant to shape, mold, and equip us—not just affirm us.

If you’re going to embrace the Bible as God’s Word, embrace all of it—not just the parts that are convenient or comforting. As it says in 2 Timothy:

“All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17



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

“All I wanted was happiness.”

My name is Fabiano, and for as long as I can remember, all I wanted was happiness. In my search for it at a young age, I got involved in the wrong things. I was introduced to drugs of all kinds—marijuana, sniffing enhanced perfumes, acid, and alcohol.



I eventually started buying and selling steroids, which led to my arrest and a brief stint in jail. That experience woke me up. I realized I needed to change my ways before things got worse. So, I stopped selling steroids and abusing substances,



determined to make a fresh start. When I got out, I wanted to do something meaningful with my

life. I became interested in real estate and pursued a career in the field. Things started looking up—I was doing well financially, networking, and growing my business.

But despite my success, there was an emptiness inside me that I couldn't explain. No matter how much I achieved, happiness eluded me.

When my business took a major loss, it sent me into a deep depression. I stopped caring for myself entirely—barely showering or leaving my room. Sometimes, I wouldn't step outside for weeks.

I sought help from psychiatrists and psychologists, who prescribed antidepressants, but nothing seemed to work.

I went back to work, hoping to distract myself, but my efforts didn't lead to results. My life felt stagnant, and I couldn't figure out why.

“

One day, I confided in a coworker about my struggles. That conversation led to an invitation to attend the Universal Church. With no expectations, I decided to give it a try.

During the first service, I felt an incredible peace come over me. I soon realized that the Universal Church was more than a place of worship—it was a school of faith.

I began applying everything I learned to my life. I was once arrogant and proud, but I

understood that God had to come first. I got baptized in water and started seeking the Holy Spirit. After about three months of sincere effort, I received Him.

That moment changed everything. The



emptiness I had carried for so many years was instantly filled. I finally understood what true happiness and fulfillment were. Today, my business is thriving because God is guiding it. I've been blessed with a wonderful wife, a woman of God who serves alongside me in the church. Together, we help others who are lost and suffering, just as I once was.

The greatest riches I have now aren't material—they are the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life.



“Who can I count on?”

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“Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:20

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"The suffering you've been going through may be the result of the person you've been until now."

"Who is to blame for your pain and financial struggles?"

Henrique Bidinoti, a 55-year-old self-employed man, reflects on the difficult journey he's had. "I was never an easy person to deal with. From a young age, I was involved in drugs and crime. I lived this way for 12 years until one day, my mother invited me to learn about the work of the Universal Church. Soon after attending services, I lost the desire to use drugs and began to experience blessings," he shares. As time passed, Henrique married and had four daughters. However, he soon found himself unemployed. "The situation became so difficult that I couldn't support my family. I knocked on many doors looking for work until I finally found a job. Six months later, I was a full-time employee, and not long after, I got promoted. I thought everything was going well, but in reality, I was turning my back on God," he admits.

During this period, he focused solely on his professional life and neglected what was truly important—his salvation. "I hadn't yet received the Holy Spirit, and I had no direction in life. I prioritized providing for my family's needs and ignored my relationship with God. I realized that I was only going home to sleep, and my life revolved around parties, drugs, and being with other women. I didn't act like a married man or a father. I felt like I was living as if I were single," he acknowledges.

He recalls specific incidents to illustrate his behavior: "I would come home in such a way that my daughters were

afraid of me, so they pretended to be asleep. I didn't feel at ease at home, I didn't want commitments, and I only thought about living life my own way," he says.

One day, Henrique became seriously ill and required two surgeries on his head. While bedridden, he reflected deeply on his life. "It hit me hard, and I felt desperate. So, I asked my wife to bring a pastor to baptize me because I wanted to change my life. I had wasted everything, and I regretted everything I had done. I didn't want to wait until I was discharged—I didn't know if I would leave the hospital alive, so I decided to be baptized right there in my bed," he describes.

When he was discharged, Henrique went straight to the Universal Church. He shares, "I went to confirm my vow to be faithful to God. I didn't just return to church, but I returned to the Presence of God." He explains that he seized the opportunity given to him by God, and since his baptism, he has longed to become a new man. To do that, he changed his behavior, abandoned his old lifestyle, and freed himself from addictions. Thirsty for the Holy Spirit, he relentlessly sought Him until the day he received Him.

"It is the Holy Spirit Who guides me,

ensuring I never go back to being the person I was before.

Today, I am a new man. The first change was inside of me, and it has reflected in my whole life. My family lacks nothing, I no longer need to work for anyone, and I live near the church because I want to be close to God's house—the place I was once distant from. Of all the blessings I've received, the Holy Spirit is my greatest possession and my priority," he concludes.





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