



FRIDAY

The fall of the spiritual

WALLS

with the blessed rose



"I couldn't go a single day without using drugs."
- Junior
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Healthy faith vs. Unhealthy faith



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"Free from a blood infection"

- Gary

Join us every Sunday at 10 AM



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

The Fall of the Spiritual Walls

Have you ever felt stuck, like something is holding you back from moving forward or achieving your dreams? Have you hit a brick wall that you just can't seem to get around, no matter what you do? You're not alone. Many people feel this way, but what most don't realize is that the wall blocking them may have a spiritual root.

There are spiritual forces of evil that work tirelessly to stop people—especially believers—from taking hold of God's promises. These forces know that when we achieve victory, our lives will glorify God. But here's the good news: the same God who brought down the walls of Jericho and delivered the Children of Israel from their enemies is alive and ready to do the same for you.

Some of the spiritual walls people face today include:

- Constant losses
- Depression or anxiety
- Impossible situations
- Injustice
- Financial stagnation
- Family division
- Relationship struggles
- Recurring health issues

No matter what wall you're up against, don't give up! Don't accept your current situation as final. Your victory comes when you exercise your faith, trust in God's Word, and adopt a mindset of revolt against the obstacles in your life.

This is why I invite you to join us every Friday as we fight against the spiritual walls holding you back. For the next **13 Fridays**, at every Universal Church, we will put our faith into action and declare victory over the barriers and obstacles preventing you from living a fulfilled life.

13 Fridays for the Fall of the Spiritual Walls with the Blessed Rose. Each week, bring a rose with you. During the meeting, your rose will be blessed, symbolizing the presence of the Lord Jesus entering your home to remove all negativity. Don't let the walls in your life stand any longer. Join us at your nearest Universal Church, and let's fight together for your breakthrough.

| 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!



BEAT DEPRESSION
BEATING DEPRESSION THROUGH THE POWER OF FAITH!

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



Bishop Edir Macedo



Healthy Faith vs Unhealthy Faith

The condition of a person's faith can make a profound difference in their life. Depending on its state, some are able to move mountains, while others are easily swept into an abyss of defeat and despair by the slightest breeze.

This contrast is evident everywhere—even in the church. The symptoms of these two states of faith, **healthy** and **unhealthy**, are unmistakable.

Healthy faith turns the impossible into possible, while unhealthy faith does the opposite—turning calm into chaos and reversible situations into hopeless cases.

Healthy faith shrinks the biggest problems into nothing, but unhealthy faith inflates the smallest, most manageable issues into insurmountable obstacles. Two biblical examples vividly illustrate this:

"In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said, 'Thus says the Lord: "Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live." Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, 'Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight.' And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: 'I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day, you shall go up to the house of the Lord. And I will add to your days



fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.'" – 2 Kings 20:1-6

Now compare this with another king's story:

"In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease, he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians. So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign." – 2 Chronicles 16:12-13

Do you see the difference? Hezekiah's illness was fatal, but Asa's disease, though severe, was reversible. What determined their outcomes was the **health of their faith**. Hezekiah's **healthy faith** kept him reliant on God. He turned to the Lord with humility and trust, and God added 15 years to his life. Asa's **unhealthy faith**, on the other hand, drove him to rely solely on human solutions. His misplaced trust in physicians, rather than God, ultimately led to his death. Friend, take a moment to reflect: **How is the health of your faith today?**



"My whole life was a failure"

others. Spiritually, I was tormented—I heard voices, saw lumps, and constantly felt an evil presence following me wherever I went. It was overwhelming. My life was a complete mess, and I had no idea how to escape this humiliating situation.

Desperate for answers, I sought help from witch doctors, believing they could solve my problems. But instead of improving, my life only got worse. For years, I lived thinking my situation was impossible to fix.

Then one day, my mother invited me to the Universal Church. Reluctantly, I agreed to go, and that decision changed everything.

As I persevered in my chain of prayer and attended the services, I began to understand the power

of faith. I learned that by using my faith, I could fight for the impossible to happen in my life. Testing God's Word and fighting for my spiritual freedom became my focus, and step by step, I started to see change.

Through the Holy Spirit, I discovered that only God's Presence could fill the deep emptiness I had carried for so long. He gave me the peace and strength to overcome the spiritual torment, the addictions, and the failures that had defined my life.

Today, my life is completely transformed. I am free from all addictions, filled with inner peace, and happily married with a beautiful family. What once seemed impossible became possible through the power of faith.

Jason Gallardo

See what's happening on Sundays



Free from asthma.

I suffered from asthma for over 15 years. At first, I was on steroids, inhalers, and various medications. Whenever the weather changed, it would get worse, and I'd have to rely on my pump constantly. One Sunday morning, I went to church and received the blessed water. I drank some of it, and almost immediately, I felt a difference—my breathing improved right then and there. Since that day, I've stopped using the pump altogether. – Mrs. Williams



Free from a blood infection.

I was in constant pain, couldn't keep food down, and had trouble sleeping at night. When I went to the doctor, they ordered a blood test. The results showed that I had a blood infection.

I started drinking the blessed water every morning, and now I feel great. There's no more infection in my blood, no vomiting, and no pain.

I also used the blessed water to wash my face because I was having issues with my eyes that caused dizziness. Now, that's completely gone too.

– Gary



Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church

“I should've been dead.”



I was dealing with an enlarged heart, an enlarged thyroid, bleeding issues, and debilitating migraines. I was taking 17 pills a day and felt like I was on the verge of death. Even after doing blood tests, the doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong with me. My weight dropped from 205 pounds to 145 pounds, and my clothes were hanging off me.

Everywhere I went, people offered me a chair because I was always out of breath. I tried everything, but nothing worked. That's when I decided to come to this ministry and put my faith in God.

Slowly but surely, my physical strength returned. My appetite came back, and I wasn't depressed anymore.

– Maxine





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

Warning: Not for the Faint-Hearted!

I know this is going to spark some controversy, but I'm saying it anyway: when you go to church, Satan goes with you. Yup, I said it.

Now, let me explain.

You attend church, faithfully give your tithes, and are generous with your offerings. You pray regularly and read your Bible. But despite all that, your life feels stuck. It's one problem

after another—problems that drag on for years or maybe never get resolved. You feel like a dark cloud of bad luck is following you, keeping you from moving forward. Every time you take one step ahead, something pulls you two steps back.

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself why this is happening?

Some might tell you to “be patient,” “carry your cross,” or even accept that “it's God's will for you to suffer.” But let me tell you the truth—it's none of those things.

Here's the hard truth: when Satan has a grip on your life, he doesn't stay home while you're at church. No, he's right there with you, mocking your efforts. He loves seeing people praise God with their mouths while their lives show no signs of victory.

This doesn't mean that God isn't listening to your prayers. It means some-

thing else is at work—something spiritual. Negative forces may have taken hold of your life, and what you need is freedom. You need deliverance.

Do you want to be free?

Here's what the Bible says:



“F o r t h o u g h we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not

carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

This means it's not God's will for you to suffer endlessly. But to overcome, you have to stop tolerating these problems and start using the spiritual weapons God has given you. Yes, the fight is spiritual, and once you defeat Satan in that realm, the physical changes will follow—it happens immediately.

Don't be intimidated, and don't settle for the problems Satan is causing in your life. Identify what's holding you back, confront it with the power God has given you, and fight back.

God's got your back.

May the God of the Bible bless you.

She Stopped Being the “Daughter of Darkness”



Pharmacist and biochemist Esther Santana, 35, shares her remarkable transformation. “I was born with the name ‘Meimei,’ which meant ‘daughter of darkness,’” she says. “I was born sick, and my chronic asthma and bronchitis only got worse as I grew up. I was constantly in and out of hospitals—I spent more time there than at home. In my family, we believed that prayer beads and candles could bring light in tough times.”

When Esther was 12, her mother tragically died in a car accident. That moment changed everything. “I started having anxiety and depression attacks, and the pain of mourning stayed with me for years. To escape my problems and avoid the responsibilities of being a woman and housewife, I started dressing like a man, wearing my brothers' clothes,” she recalls.

Desperate to fill the emptiness inside, Esther says she sought solace in the world. “I experienced deception and lies. I tried to avoid drugs and addictions, but because of my immaturity, I ended up chasing sentimental illusions. When I ended a relationship after being cheated on, I was consumed by rage. I carried so much resentment in my heart.”

After graduating, Esther's father gave her a pharmacy. It was during that time that something began to change. “There were church workers who lived nearby. They would give me copies of Universal News, smile, and greet me before leaving. But I was stubborn and ignorant—I'd throw the newspapers away without even reading them. One day, I told a neighbor that I wanted to end my life. I was so out of it, I crossed the street multiple times without even noticing the red lights.”

Then one day, an evangelist stopped to talk to her. “She told me she knew a place where my life could be transformed,” Esther explains. “That's how I found the Universal Church 13 years ago. Before that, I had searched for God in many places, but it was only after coming to the Church that I found peace. For the first time, I was able to sleep at night.”

Even though she started experiencing blessings, Esther admits she hadn't fully surrendered to God. “I was still holding on to hatred and resentment. I was so consumed by anger that I even made plans to return to the city where my ex-boyfriend lived to kill him and then end my own life. For three years, I deceived myself while attending church.”

Eventually, Esther realized that her emotions were weakening her. “I decided to let go of my hatred and forgive those who had hurt me. That's when my inner self truly began to change. I started seeking the Holy Spirit with all my heart, and one day, I received Him. I was filled with an unshakable certainty that the Kingdom of God had come into my life!”

After that, everything changed. “I wanted to be a new person. I even changed my name—it felt like I had died and been born again. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I overcame everything. Only He can strengthen us in times of anguish. Only He can comfort us when life feels unbearable. Through Him, I've learned to persevere with God until the very end.”

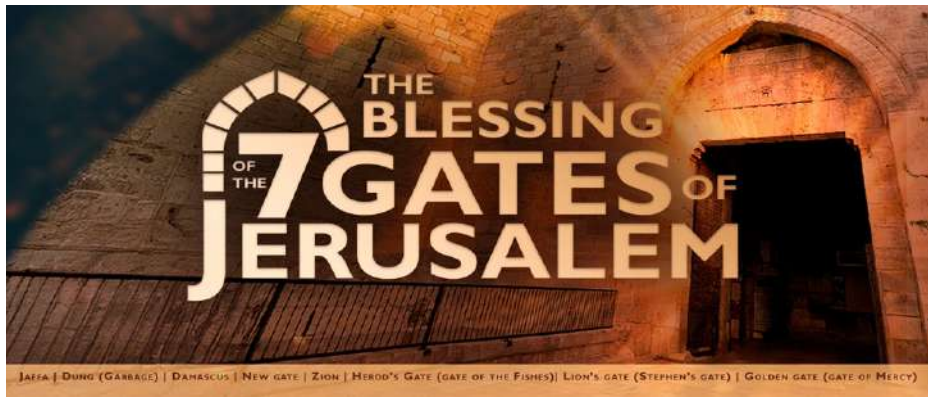
The power to undo any problem and restore the Divine ideal—of being made in His image and likeness—is available to anyone who desires to take hold of it. The Power of God isn't just capable of solving your problems; it goes far beyond that. Through the Holy Spirit, this Power can rescue you from all your struggles and give you the opportunity to start fresh. It transforms you into a new person and allows you to write a brand-new story.

Do you want this in your life?

Take the first step! Begin your chain of prayer this Friday at a Universal Church near you and experience total deliverance.

2025 JAN Bible Reading						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
PRESSING TOWARDS THE GOAL			1 Deuteronomy 1	2 Deuteronomy 2	3 Deuteronomy 3	4 Deuteronomy 4
5 Deuteronomy 5	6 Deuteronomy 6	7 Deuteronomy 7	8 Deuteronomy 8	9 Deuteronomy 9	10 Deuteronomy 10	11 Deuteronomy 11
12 Deuteronomy 12	13 Deuteronomy 13	14 Deuteronomy 14	15 Deuteronomy 15	16 Deuteronomy 16	17 Deuteronomy 17	18 Deuteronomy 18
19 Deuteronomy 19	20 Deuteronomy 20	21 Deuteronomy 21	22 Deuteronomy 22	23 Deuteronomy 23	24 Deuteronomy 24	25 Deuteronomy 25
26 Deuteronomy 26	27 Deuteronomy 27	28 Deuteronomy 28	29 Deuteronomy 29 & 30	30 Deuteronomy 31 & 32	31 Deuteronomy 33 & 34	

What's happening at the Universal Church



Walking through a gate is more than just entering a new place—it's stepping into fresh opportunities, new experiences, and endless possibilities. Now imagine receiving blessings from the gates of Jerusalem, the holy city. Jerusalem, a city of divine purpose, is home to seven gates: Jaffa Gate, Damascus Gate, New Gate, Zion Gate, Herod's Gate, Lion's Gate, and the Golden Gate. Each gate carries a profound spiritual meaning and a unique blessing.

Starting Sunday, February 9th, you are invited to join us for Seven Sundays of Blessings. Over these seven weeks, we will symbolically pass through each of the seven gates of Jerusalem, embracing the blessings God has prepared for every area of your life. There will be a special message, and a powerful prayer at each of these gates.

This is your moment to step into a season of transformation and divine favor. Visit any Universal Church near you and be part of this extraordinary journey. The gates of blessings are open—are you ready to walk through?



Miraculous healing



Growing up, my life was filled with challenges. Coming from a large family that struggled financially, nothing seemed to go right for me. No matter what I tried, it always ended in failure. The difficulties became so overwhelming that I reached a point where I even considered ending my life.

Finding a job was another constant battle, leaving me in a state of hopelessness and despair. One day, I was invited to attend the Universal Church. At first, I was hesitant, but eventually, I decided to give it a try—and that decision changed my life.

As I started attending the services, remarkable things began to happen. The heavy weight of suicidal thoughts lifted, and I was delivered from the spiritual blockages that had caused my constant failures. I finally found a job, something I had struggled with for so long.

But my journey didn't end there. Later, I began suffering from severe pain in my knees and feet, which

made it difficult to walk. I was diagnosed with arthritis, and the pain was so unbearable that I couldn't wear closed shoes for an entire year. Despite this, I refused to give up.

I persevered in my faith, participated in the chain of prayer, and fought for my healing. Miraculously, through the power of faith, I made a complete recovery. Today, I can walk without pain and comfortably wear closed shoes again. God transformed my life in ways I never imagined, delivering me from failure, hopelessness, and sickness.

-Siphiwe

Do You Want to Stop Suffering?
Are you struggling with family problems, unhappiness in your love life, or any other challenges? No matter what you're facing, there is a way out! We invite you to join us this **Friday** at a **Universal Church** near you for the **13 Fridays for the Fall of the Spiritual Walls with the Blessed Rose**. Bring a rose with you to be blessed as we declare God's intervention and blessings in every area of your life. Don't miss this opportunity to experience a transformation and find the peace and answers you've been searching for. **Your solution is just one step of faith away!**



YPG: YOUTH POWER GROUP

“ The Youth Power Group (YPG) is an empowering community for young adults searching for direction, purpose, and a sense of belonging. It offers a safe space for those who may feel forgotten, lost, or overwhelmed by life's challenges. At YPG, young people can explore their potential, connect with others, and grow emotionally, spiritually, and socially. The group also celebrates youth talent and creativity, providing opportunities for individuals to showcase their gifts and make a positive impact in their communities. Through mentorship, engaging activities, and a strong sense of unity, YPG equips young people to overcome obstacles and build a brighter future for themselves and those around them. ”

REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141

SUCCESS STORY

Kevon Harris's Testimony

Before coming to the Universal Church, I struggled with anger, depression, and anxiety after losing both my mother and grandmother within a year of each other. I became so bitter that I even created a hat that read, "Humans are toxic."

To cope, I turned to alcohol, hoping it would fill the emptiness I felt inside. My anger grew so intense that I considered taking harmful actions.

One day, I received an invitation to a YPG meeting. Though I was hesitant, I decided to give it a try. That Sunday, I met new people and had an amazing time. I started attending YPG hangouts and church services regularly, and gradually, I found peace and was delivered from my struggles.

Today, I am a completely changed man, free from my past and filled with God's presence.



YPG.USA

YPG USA



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

When life feels impossible, faith shows the way forward. The Word of God reveals how the impossible becomes possible, just as in the book of Joshua, when the walls of Jericho fell through faith and obedience. If you're facing 'walls' that are stealing your peace, remember that the same God is ready to work in your life.

Join us for 13 Fridays at the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, where together we will use faith to overcome life's challenges. Bring a rose to these services, symbolizing the Lord Jesus (the Rose of Sharon), to be consecrated. This rose will serve as a symbol of peace entering your home and negativity leaving it behind.

Maybe you're facing 'walls' in your family, finances, health, or other areas of your life—situations that feel hopeless and have stolen your peace. The good news is, the same God who brought down the walls of Jericho is alive and willing to do the same in your life. On this special Day of Deliverance (Friday), you'll put your faith into action and declare victory over the obstacles preventing you from living a fulfilling life.

Don't forget to bring a rose! Check the back page for the location nearest you!

Deuzamar Rodrigues shares that she was born on a farm as one of 12 siblings in a large family. Although her parents were loving, she still wasn't happy. "I was a sad child," she says. "As I grew up, I became afraid of everything—being alone, the dark, and even the thought of losing my mother or father. I saw shadows and struggled to sleep. As a teenager, I became rebellious. At school, if someone looked at me the wrong way, I'd get angry. I'd throw chairs at classmates and had a very explosive temper."

At 15, she got engaged to a boy, but he left to work in another city. That's when Deuza, as she is known, experienced her first heartbreak. "My brother also went to that city and sent me a letter—there was no internet back then—telling me that my fiancé was cheating on me," she recalls. "That day, I decided I'd never marry anyone. I felt so lost and told myself I'd get involved with the first man who came along just to have a baby."

Not long after, she secretly became pregnant by an older man. However, this led to her second heartbreak. "While I was still pregnant, I found out he was married and didn't want to take responsibility for me. Deep down, all I wanted was a family," she says. "When my father found out I was pregnant, he said he'd throw me out of the house and wouldn't accept a daughter in



"I became afraid of everything. I saw shadows and couldn't sleep well."

that situation. I ended up staying at a friend's house for a few days until my baby's father rented me a room."

Her child was born with congenital hip dislocation, a condition affecting the development of the hip joint. At age five, her daughter had surgery, but it left her with one leg five centimeters shorter than the other.

Deuza faced more pain in another relationship. "I had no direction in life," she says. "I started dating a man who gave me a ride one day. He became very attached to me, but I didn't feel the same way. We constantly fought—there was both physical and verbal abuse on both sides. Still, I stayed with him for 11 years. I finally left when I realized my life was in danger, and worse, I was putting my daughter at risk." Her love life in shambles and her daughter being bullied at school, Deuza sank into depression. The emptiness and sadness she'd felt throughout her life became unbearable.

"To help me, my sister moved in with me," she explains. "She was already attending the Universal Church and kept inviting me to



go. I resisted at first, but one day, I finally went with her to a meeting."

From that moment, her life began to change. She started attending Friday deliverance meetings,

"I realized my life was in danger, and worse, I was putting my daughter at risk."

letting go of her past mistakes, and realizing how important it was to have the Holy Spirit guiding her life.

"The Holy Spirit came upon me not long after I was baptized in water," she shares. "I remember praying sincerely, asking God not to let me return to an empty home. That's when He filled me

with His presence. All my sadness disappeared, and now I only remember my past to share my testimony. I've been in this faith for 29 years, and I've been happy ever since."

Deuza acknowledges that life still has its challenges, but with God's guidance, she overcomes them. She's also seen many blessings since then. "I married a man of God, and we're happy serving Him together. My daughter was completely healed and now serves God on the Altar as a pastor's wife.

Today, we lack nothing. Everything we have is the result of faith and trust placed on the Altar. God is never indebted to anyone."



"I couldn't go a single day without using drugs."

Addictions, bad influences, parties, and toxic relationships couldn't numb the deep unhappiness Junior Cesar Gomes was carrying. But through faith in the Word of God, he found peace and freedom.

Since his teenage years, Junior had been looking for ways to escape the family issues he faced, like constant fights with his parents. "I started hanging out with the wrong crowd, and they introduced me to alcohol," he shares. "By the time I was 17, I was already addicted to cocaine."

Even when surrounded by people, Junior felt completely alone. He recalls hearing others talk about God, but he wanted to live life on his own terms, despite the growing emptiness inside. "I realized I was addicted because I couldn't go a single day without using drugs, and I became impossible to live with. Still, I refused to give up on my



lifestyle and sank deeper into drugs, parties, prostitution, and even dealings with drug dealers," he explains.

Junior describes how his addiction controlled every aspect of his life. He'd go to work still high or drunk, unable to manage his responsibilities. Desperate for a

solution to his emptiness but unsure where to turn, he met Beatriz Romualdo. "I didn't hide my problems from her and admitted that I couldn't fix them," he says. "That's when she told me she'd help and started bringing me to the Universal Church."

Although he began attending services, Junior hadn't fully committed to changing his life. Even as he hit rock bottom, he clung to the idea that he could manage on his own for a little while longer. But deep down, he knew something was missing. "No matter how much I drank, used drugs, partied, or even spent time with my wife, I still wasn't happy," he recalls. "What I really needed was the Presence of God."

After one particularly bad argument, Beatriz told Junior she couldn't take it anymore and threatened to leave if he didn't change. That was the wake-up call he needed. "I knew I had to act," Junior says. "With faith and determination, I started going to deliverance meetings on Fridays and seeking the Holy Spirit. After eight years of addiction, I began to feel God working in my life."

Junior made the decision to surrender to God through baptism in water, and everything changed. "When I received the Holy Spirit, the transformation inside me overflowed into every area of my life," he shares.

Today, Junior and Beatriz are happily married and have a beautiful daughter. "We have a blessed life—free from addictions, full of peace and joy. Now, we live for God," he concludes.



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.

What does it mean to trust?



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!”

One of the most common things Christians say is something about trusting in God. We’ve all said it at some point to a friend going through a tough time: “You just need to trust that God will guide you through this.”

Or maybe we’ve told our pastor, “I’m trusting God to solve this problem.” We could probably list a dozen variations of these phrases we use with ourselves or others every day. But here’s the big question: Do we really trust in God?

Our gut reaction is to say, “Of course, I do!” But if we’re being honest, do we?

Think about the last time you faced a challenging situation. What did you do? Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still and know that I am God.” But if you’re anything like me, being still is the last thing that comes to mind when life throws a curve ball.

Instead, we pace back and forth, call friends for advice, and when all else fails, we turn to Google to find some kind of solution.

When we’re dealing with a problem that feels impossible to solve, we eventually have to take action. But before we jump into “fix-it mode,” if we truly trust God, we need to pause, stay still, and ask Him to guide us.

We need to find peace in knowing that He’s taking care of us.

Now, let’s be real—this is one of the hardest things to do. Trusting God means letting go of control. It means believing that He knows what’s best for us, even if the situation we’re in feels unfair or overwhelming.

Sure, it sounds beautiful to say, “I trust God,” but do we really trust Him, or do we panic and try to fix things on our own?

Honesty is key here—especially with yourself. How many times have we made things worse by acting on impulse instead of trusting God? We rush to fix the problem, and instead of making it better, we create an even bigger mess.

Maybe if we had taken a moment to pray and waited for God to guide us, not only would the issue have been resolved, but we’d also have experienced His hand moving in our lives, like a father rescuing his child.

So, let’s be honest with ourselves. If you realize you haven’t been fully trusting Him, it’s okay—it’s never too late to start.

Next time you’re faced with an unexpected challenge, pause. Remember Psalm 46:10: “Be still and know that I am God.” Trust Him, and let Him guide you.



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

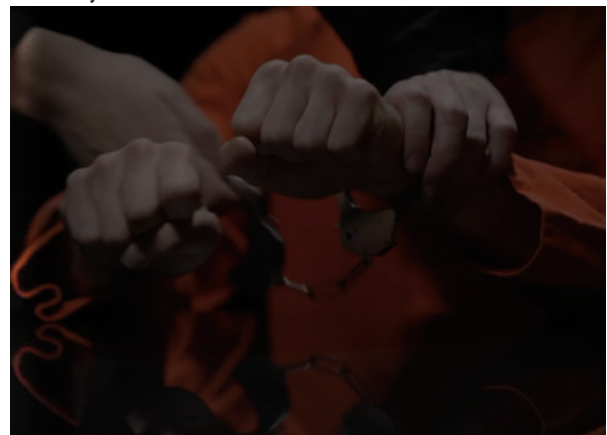
My suffering was unbearable

My name is Albert, and I'm 54 years old. I got involved with the wrong crowd and bad choices pretty early—around 16 or 17. I started using drugs, hanging out with bad influences, and, at first, it all seemed exciting.

Everything felt great, like I had found my place. But without realizing it, I got pulled into committing



crimes, mostly stealing cars. Eventually, I became addicted to cocaine. I lived that reckless lifestyle for 15 years.



Eventually, my luck ran out. My so-called "friends" and I got caught driving one of the stolen cars, and I ended up in prison. During my time there, I did a lot of thinking.

I realized how much pain I'd caused my family. When I was finally released, I promised myself

things would change, but they didn't. I went right back to the same group of people, using drugs, carrying weapons, and getting into trouble.

At the time, I was also in a band. We played at bars, parties—wherever we could book a gig. One night, at a party, I met a girl. I fell for her hard. I started working, and I made a promise to her and to myself: "We're going to get married." We were together for seven years. I even bought an apartment for us to start our life together.

But then everything fell apart. She betrayed me. She got pregnant, and it wasn't mine. My whole world came crashing down. I had poured my heart and soul into loving her, only to be betrayed.

I lost all desire to live. Depression hit me like a train. I stopped working. I got kicked out of my apartment, and my car was repossessed because I had no income. I didn't eat. I didn't shower. I felt like a walking shadow of myself.

Eventually, I couldn't bear the shame anymore, so I left my relatives' home and started living on the streets. In my mind, there was this relentless voice whispering, "It's over. There's no hope for you. You'll never be happy." That voice was so loud. At one point, it told me to end it all.

I tied a rope around my neck and even put a knife to my chest. I just wanted the pain to stop. I can't explain the sadness I felt. It wasn't just in my mind or my heart—it was deep in my soul. One day, as I wandered the streets, I bumped into a guy who tried to rob me. I looked him in the eye and said,

"Man, you're actually doing me a favor.

I've been trying to take my life for a long time and haven't succeeded. Go ahead—you'll help me."

The guy stepped back, terrified. He said, "Buddy, get out of here. No one needs to know anything." That moment stuck with me. I thought, I'm not even worth dying.

One day, my brother came to find me. He was an assistant at the Universal Church. He invited me to go with him and said, "Albert, God's been reaching out to you. Why don't you give Him a chance?" I brushed him off and told him, "The only way I'll go is if God sends an angel Himself to speak to me."

But you know what? My brother was that angel. God used him to reach me.

I decided to go. I surrendered my life to God. It wasn't an instant transformation, but little by little, things began to change. I'd pray on my knees, put my head to the ground, and pour out my heart to God. I got baptized and started seeking the Holy Spirit with everything I had. I kept talking to God, and eventually, I received the Holy Spirit.

Not long after, I met my wife at the Universal Church. We started dating, got engaged, and later married. Today, we have a happy, peaceful home, beautiful children, and a thriving business. But the greatest blessing of all is my encounter with the Holy Spirit.

He loved me and gave me hope when I thought my life was beyond saving.



"I cry out to God; yes, I shout. Oh, that God would listen to me! When I was in deep trouble, I searched for the Lord." Psalms 77:1-2

Speak out, I am all ears! If you want to be added to my E-Message list, send me a letter with the correct info to: 7075 SW. Fwy. Houston, TX 77074.

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FIGHTING THE UNSEEN ENEMY
 4pm with Bishop David

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KINGS THE SERIES | 9pm

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Unemployment, low income, and financial strain can all lead to serious family problems. Maybe you've experienced this yourself.

Many people start their plans, but only a few have the perseverance to see them through. Most give up along the way and, as a result, don't achieve success. However, God works through those who persevere—people who refuse to give up, even when things go wrong, because they place their trust in Him.



HAS FINANCIAL HARDSHIP PUT A STRAIN ON YOUR FAMILY?

Leticia had opportunities at a young age to build a good financial life, but the distractions of youth robbed her of those chances. "I had opportunities when I was younger," she said. "I was in high school, and there was a chance for me to start a business, but I started hanging out with friends who were addicts and ended up not even finishing school."

As she got older, things only got worse. "I had other opportunities and jobs, but something always happened. I would always have a job but then lose it," she recalled.

Then one of the worst things a mother could face happened to her. "There was a very difficult period in my life. Things

"Things got so bad, I ended up losing my children."

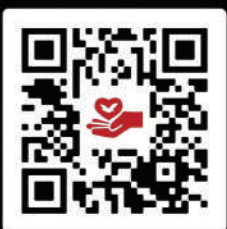


got so bad, I ended up losing my children. I knew something wasn't right. I had to do something different. That's when I heard about the Universal Church. I started getting to the root of my problems. I learned about faithfulness to God." Leticia soon began to see a drastic change. "I didn't even have a high school diploma, but I started getting new opportunities for work. Through my faith, I started believing in myself. That's when I went back to school

and started a career. Doors kept opening. I started getting more hours at work, and my salary increased. All of that happened because of my faithfulness and obedience to God." She also regained her confidence. "I believed I could do anything. Faith was the first thing I conquered. With the peace I had, I could make better decisions."

Today, Leticia proudly shares the results of her faith. "I bought a new car, improved my credit, and moved my family into a better place—a home I can truly call my own." But the most important change, she says, wasn't material. "Out of everything I've conquered, the Holy Spirit is the most important. He leads me to make the best decisions," she concluded.

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