



SCAN ME

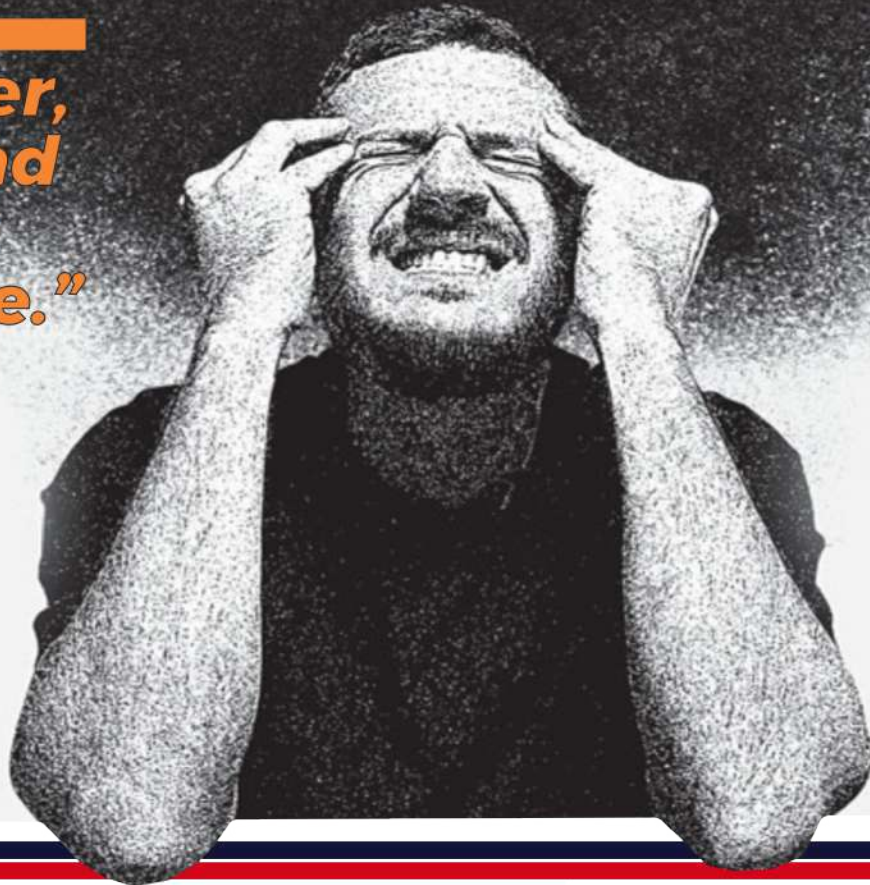
Are you tired and overwhelmed?

If problems have been suffocating you and robbing you of your peace, know that there is a way out. Discover what to do to get rid of all the weight that afflicts you.

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"I was bitter, broken, and without perspective."

- Jane



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Approaching the Comforter



SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING ON SUNDAYS

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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Are you tired and overwhelmed?

Have you ever felt so overwhelmed that nothing seems to make sense anymore? Do your problems feel suffocating, stealing your peace and making you believe there's no way out?

Life can be tough, and we all need help at some point—especially when we've exhausted every option and still don't know what to do. That's why, when you've reached your breaking point and feelings of hopelessness or uncertainty take over, seeking the right support is essential.

Too many people suffer in silence, weighed down by the pressure of raising children, financial struggles, heartbreak, or the loss of a loved one. Maybe that sounds like you. You've been trying to handle everything alone because you don't want to burden anyone else. But there is someone you can turn to—someone who will never be overwhelmed by your problems. That someone is God.

1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." God not only cares about you—He wants to help you overcome the challenges you're facing. He wants to give you peace.

If you've done everything you can and nothing has worked, why not give God a chance to step in? Visit a Universal Church near you today. Our doors are open seven days a week, with pastors and counselors ready to assist you. Come and discover how you can finally let go of the weight that's been holding you down.

| BEATING DEPRESSION |

Depression is more than just feeling sad—it's a deep, overwhelming sorrow that weighs down the soul. It brings feelings of hopelessness, drains motivation, and makes even the simplest tasks feel impossible. In severe cases, it can even rob people of their will to live. Depression isn't just a state of mind—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.

Every Sunday, **The Universal Church** opens its doors to those who are battling depression. If you need support, we invite you to visit a nearby branch. Join a **Chain of Prayer**—a seven-week commitment where you'll receive spiritual strength through powerful prayers, practical guidance, and one-on-one counseling.

You are not alone in this battle. Thousands around the world have found hope and transformation through faith, 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



Approaching the comforter

The main reason many people struggle and fail is that they lack a close relationship with the Holy Spirit. He is the One who guides, directs, and protects—He is life itself. Without Him, pain and suffering take hold.

The prophet Jeremiah once witnessed Israel's devastation and lamented:

"For these things I weep; my eye, my eye overflows with water; because the Comforter, who should restore my life, is far from me. My children are desolate because the enemy prevailed."—Lamentations 1:16

Jeremiah recognized why his people were suffering: The Comforter had turned away, and as a result, the enemy prevailed. They had no strength to fight. But why did He withdraw?

The Bible reveals that disobedience, sin, and a refusal to fully commit to God caused the Comforter to turn away. Israel's downfall wasn't just military defeat—it was the loss of their identity as a nation, and their people were taken captive to Babylon for 70 years. But in truth, they were the ones who had turned away from Him first.

The same thing happens today. Countless people—whether they attend church or not—are exhausted from fighting for their families, marriages, careers, and even their own lives. Many feel so defeated that they consider giving up entirely. They assume



their exhaustion is due to stress or the passage of time, but deep down, their weakness comes from the absence of the Holy Spirit.

Not that He has turned away—but that they have. And when He is not present, problems consume them. Meanwhile, the enemy (the devil) takes advantage, bringing defeat after defeat. Without the Holy Spirit's guidance and protection, they are left fighting alone.

But there is hope. Those who come to the Altar with a sincere and repentant heart, determined to change, will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will restore their strength, renew their lives, and drive away the enemy who has been prevailing against them.

Will you approach Him or turn away? The choice is yours.



"My suffering started as a child"

Despite endless medical exams and different specialists, no one could find the cause of her suffering.

"I felt sad and depressed because I couldn't live a normal life like other kids my age. My body was covered in bruises, I had frequent hemorrhages, and my health kept declining. One by one, my dreams faded, leaving little hope for the future. But I hit rock bottom when doctors told me I might have cancer. The news devastated my entire family, who were already struggling with my sister's illness. I felt like there was no way out, no future left for me. At my lowest point, I began having suicidal thoughts. I figured if I was going to die anyway, why not just end it all?"

But then, an invitation changed everything.

"Someone invited me to The Universal Church, and I decided to go. As I began attending the services, I received words of faith that gave me a new sense of hope. The first change I noticed was that I could finally sleep at night. Then, little by little, my health started improving—the pain disappeared, my strength returned, and I was completely healed.

But the greatest blessing of all was receiving the Holy Spirit.

"Today, I have peace, joy, and love, and my entire family is blessed as well."

— Adriana del Carmen

See what's happening on Sundays



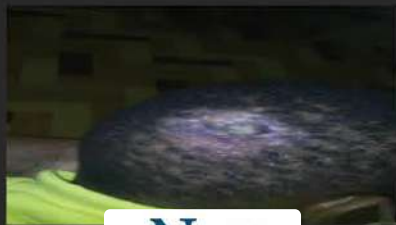
"My grandson had a sore on his head."

My grandson had a sore on his head. When his mother took him to the doctor, they said no hair would grow in that area.



Before

I kept a picture of my grandson on my phone, and every morning, I prayed for him and used the Blessed Water with faith.



Now

In about six weeks, the sore completely healed and disappeared!
— Fay

Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church



"My mother had gangrene in her toes."

My mother developed gangrene in her toes. At the time, the doctors wanted to amputate her leg due to poor circulation.



Her mother's foot before.



She was in a lot of pain. I gave her the blessed water every day and prayed for her healing in Jesus' name.

I even sprinkled the water on her toes, believing in God's power. Today she is standing and walking.
— Sandra



Her foot today.

"He is free from stage 3A lung cancer"



I was reckless with my life—I smoked two packs of cigarettes a day. In 2022, I was diagnosed with stage 3A lung cancer. As I began treatment, my father was also diagnosed with cancer and sadly passed away. During that difficult time, a friend invited me to the Universal Church. I attended a service on Sunday and received the Blessed Water. I used it with faith because I had learned to trust in God.



Orlando smoking before.

On the morning of August 17, 2023, I went in for therapy, and the doctor told me, "The cancer I was treating you for is no longer detected." Months later, I took another test, and once again, there was no sign of cancer. God has given me another chance at life!



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

How is it going so far?



because you entered it weighed down with problems. If you're struggling, fighting to make ends meet, battling negativity, then maybe it's time to take a closer look at your relationship with God.

The fireworks have stopped, and the salutations have faded away. The lead-up to the New Year is always filled with expectations and well wishes, but this time was no different.

Many anxiously waited for the clock to strike twelve, hoping to leave behind what may have been the hardest year of their lives. For many, there was little to celebrate in 2024. Loved ones were lost, jobs were lost, freedom was lost, plans fell through, and confidence took a heavy blow. News stations were flooded with stories of hardship and misfortune.

Well, the clock did strike twelve, and here we are, almost into the second month of 2025. But what has really changed? A flip of the calendar, a list of resolutions, and some well wishes aren't enough to bring the changes you're seeking. Real change comes from God. Consider this:

"The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you." — 2 Chronicles 15:2

Maybe you're not even sure what to expect from this year

Make sure you're not forsaking Him—pushing Him aside to pursue your own desires. Walking with God means trusting Him enough to obey what He says. It means seeking Him and living in a way that pleases Him.

Is it easy? Not always.

Is it a popular way of life? Sadly, not.

Is it impossible? Absolutely not!

Is it worth it? Just ask those who truly walk with the Lord.

For them, 2024 was a year of triumphs. That's right—they had peace when chaos surrounded them. They thrived while the world was in crisis. Problems came, problems went, but they stayed strong and hopeful. That's what happens when you are with the Lord.

Thank God your life's transformation doesn't rely on the calendar, because that means your change can happen right now. If you haven't been walking with God as you should, don't feel defeated or beat yourself up; just make a change. Seek God. Today can be the fresh start you need.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

Perseverance brought the miracle



Jonathan lived a normal life until the day everything changed. His mother, Janette, vividly remembers June 5, 2014, when she asked her 16-year-old son to go to the supermarket near their home to pick up something for dinner.

"He always rode his bike when running errands nearby, always staying on the sidewalk. But that day, I noticed he was taking longer than usual to return. I stepped onto the balcony and saw some commotion on the street. When I called out his name, someone else answered: 'Your son was run over.'"

The accident involved a motorcycle, and Jonathan hit his head on the



ground, immediately falling into a coma. He was rushed to the hospital, intubated, and diagnosed with a severe head injury. Doctors gave him only a 5% chance of survival. He underwent an eight-hour surgery.

Jonathan's family had been seeking God for years at the Universal Church, and in that moment of crisis, their faith became their greatest strength. "We united in prayer. Just 48 hours after the surgery, while he was in the ICU, the doctors predicted brain death because he had lost brain mass in the accident. That's when our fight truly began," says Janette.

After two months in a coma, Jonathan finally opened his eyes and was transferred to a hospital room. However, doctors said he would remain in a vegetative state. He had lost so much weight that he was down to just 30 kilos. For many, giving up would have been the only op-

tion—but for his family, this was their moment to fight for a miracle.

As if his condition wasn't critical enough, Jonathan then contracted a hospital infection and had to be transferred to another facility. "He was very weak. In addition to the trauma, now there was the risk of the infection taking his life. The family took turns staying by his side," Janette recalls.

Alongside medical treatment, the family also relied on spiritual treatment. "Whoever was with him at the hospital would bring consecrated water to bathe him. We anointed his clothes and made vows at the Altar. We followed every direction of faith that God gave us. It was a period of great struggle, pain, and faith—it was our baptism by fire," Janette shares.

Her husband, Marcos, adds: "I told God that if Jonathan was to live, it would be to glorify His name. God placed an unshakable certainty in me that my son would be healed. We sur-



rendered everything in faith at the Altar, and when we came down, we knew his healing was assured."

Day after day, Jonathan shocked the medical team. His brain regenerated, he underwent surgery to receive a cranial prosthesis, and he slowly regained his ability to eat, walk, and talk. After a year and two months in the hospital, he was finally discharged and began physical and speech therapy.

Though he doesn't remember the accident, he knows his life is a miracle. He finished his studies and now lives a normal life. Alongside his parents, he continues to seek God and care

for his physical and spiritual well-being at the Universal Church.

"I'm doing great, thank God. What He did in my life was glorious," Jonathan concludes.



Feb 2025 Bible Reading						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						ACTS 1
	ACTS 2	ACTS 3	ACTS 4	ACTS 5	ACTS 6	ACTS 7
ACTS 8	ACTS 9	ACTS 10	ACTS 11	ACTS 12	ACTS 13	ACTS 14
ACTS 15	ACTS 16	ACTS 17	ACTS 18	ACTS 19	ACTS 20	ACTS 21
ACTS 22	ACTS 23	ACTS 24	ACTS 25	ACTS 26	ACTS 27	ACTS 28

What's happening at the Universal Church

“Five years of suffering from crippling pain”



For five years, Carlos endured the agony of kidney failure, a condition that left him in unbearable pain and with little hope for recovery.

“My kidneys were functioning at only 40%. Doctors prescribed various medications, hoping for some improvement, but nothing worked. The situation became even worse when I was diagnosed with hepatitis—an illness for which there was no effective treatment. Even the experimental options my doctors suggested weren't covered by my health insurance.

Feeling trapped with no way out, I fell into deep depression. Every solution presented to me was far too expensive, and I had no

means to afford them. I began to believe that ending my life was the only escape.”

It was during this dark time that Carlos met people from The Universal Church, who invited him to attend a service. They assured him that through faith, he could find the path to healing.

“I decided to go and began attending the services. I committed to a Chain of Prayer for healing. Then, one day, the Holy Oil from Israel was distributed at the church. I received a small bottle, and every day, I would pray, anointing my kidneys with faith, believing that God could restore my health.

As time passed, I began noticing a gradual improvement. My kidney function increased to 80%, and with it, my spirits lifted. Encouraged by this progress, I continued praying, trusting in God's power. Eventually, the impossible happened—I was completely healed. My kidneys were fully restored, functioning at 100%. It was truly a miracle that only God could do.”

Carlos no longer needs treatments or medication. Today, he is a completely healthy man, free from any illness threatening his life—all thanks to the power of faith.

Do you feel like you're constantly searching for relief but never truly finding it? Are you exhausted—physically, emotionally, and spiritually?

Maybe you've tried to find comfort in different ways, yet nothing seems to fill the void. If this sounds familiar, know that there is hope. No matter what you're going through or how long you've been struggling, a new beginning is possible.

Join us this Sunday for the Gathering of Faith and Miracles at The Universal Church near you. Come experience the peace, joy, and transformation that only God can provide.

This invitation is for you—don't miss it!



Radical CHANGE

The Radical Change event at our YPG branch in San Antonio, Texas, brought together young people eager to transform their lives through faith and guidance from God. When we welcome the Holy Spirit, true and lasting change becomes possible.

This uplifting event featured sports, games, food, and, most importantly, a powerful message of encouragement to help youth navigate their journey with confidence and purpose. If you're searching for real transformation, YPG is here for you. All it takes is trust—believe that change is possible, and it will happen in your life.

REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141



SUCCESS STORY

Bryan Ramirez's testimony

Before coming to YPG, I struggled with anger and frustration. Growing up, I saw my parents fight constantly, and those moments left a deep impact on me. I didn't know how to deal with the pain, so I turned to bad influences and substance abuse, thinking it would help me escape. But no matter what I did, the emptiness never went away. One day, a family member invited me to YPG. At first, I wasn't sure if it would make a difference, but as I kept coming, I realized I didn't have to live that way. The Born of the Altar event was a turning point for me—it helped me understand that I needed to surrender my past completely. That's when everything changed. Today, I'm free from depression, anger, and addiction. I no longer carry the weight of my past, and I have real peace. Now, I serve God and do my best to help other young people who feel lost, just like I once did, find true happiness.



YPG.USA



YPG USA



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

“Are you tired and overwhelmed?”

“Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). This beautiful invitation was given by the Lord Jesus to

all who are tired of carrying burdens. He wants to lift their pain and give them peace. But to receive this relief and find rest, we must take the step of seeking the Savior above all else. It’s important to understand that the person must also



fulfill the call and come to Him. Going to Him means placing your life in His hands. Perhaps up until now, you’ve been fighting alone, relying on your own strength, only to accumulate more suffering. But now, Jesus wants to take that burden from you. Recognize that you need Him and submit to His will, because He will never force Himself

into anyone’s life. Committing to Jesus means renouncing your own will and seeking to live in a way that pleases Him. When you do this, all the weariness and burden from your problems, worries, and struggles will be replaced with peace. Are you feeling tired and overwhelmed by your troubles? Join the Chain of Prayer at the nearest Universal Church, and receive the peace that only Jesus can give.

“I suffered from insomnia, anxiety, and panick attacks.”

Jessica’s struggles began in her childhood when she saw the crisis in her parents’ marriage. “When I was really young, I experienced my dad’s absence when he chose to be with another family,” she says. The pain from her mom’s suffering over her dad’s betrayals led Jessica to feel rejected and needy.

“Since I was little, I struggled with insomnia, anxiety, and panic attacks, but things got worse during my teenage years when my parents finally separated. When I was 11, a man close to us molested me,” she reveals. Along with the sexual abuse, Jessica also faced mistreatment from her mom’s partner, who wouldn’t let her have fun. “I thought everything that happened was my fault, and that made my feelings of neediness and inferiority grow. So, I started trying to get attention from boys, especially at school,” she says.

At 14, she suffered a second sexual assault by the same man, who was under the influence of drugs. “Because of the pain and my need for love, I

gave myself completely to someone. When my mom and her partner found out, they kicked me out of the house, and I moved in with my dad. But my problems didn’t stop there,” she recalls. Jessica says the resentment she felt toward her dad made it hard for them to get along, and that created constant conflict. All of these struggles led her into depression. “I started having panic attacks and crying all the time. I lost hope in life; I just wanted to lock myself in my room and be alone.”

“I just started to accept the problems and even normalized unhealthy behaviors, like mistreating myself and my husband.”



After a while, Jessica faced rejection again when her dad told her she could no longer live with him. She then decided to move in with her boyfriend, who later became her husband. At first, she felt relieved, but soon the emptiness and sadness grew. Looking for something to fill the hole in her heart, Jessica suggested to her boyfriend that they have a baby.

So, at 17, she got pregnant. However, this attempt to fill the void didn’t work. “Over time, I just started to accept the problems and even normalized unhealthy behaviors, like mistreating myself and my husband,” she says. At 20, after realizing that her strength alone wasn’t enough to change things, Jessica decided to attend a meeting at the Universal Church.

“I knew it was time to stop feeling sorry for myself and give my life to God. It wasn’t easy, but I made the decision that my story would change from that point on,” she says. Since then, her life has turned around, especially on the inside. She says that her faith has given her the confidence that God is with her, and through His Word, her feelings of neediness and sadness were replaced with comfort and joy.

“Today, I have peace within myself and in my home. I’m able to be a good wife and mother. I’m happy no matter what the circumstances are, all thanks to the Holy Spirit,” she concludes.

"I was bitter, broken, and without perspective."

In mid-2005, Jane went to the Universal Church for the first time. "I freed myself from my addiction to alcohol, from the emptiness, and from all the sadness I carried inside me. I had such an inferiority complex that I didn't think I could ever progress in life. These conflicts made me bitter," she says.

She explains that the first change she experienced, after learning about faith, happened within herself: "I overcame the complex, the fears, the doubts, and the uncertainties. The more I got involved with faith, the more I began to feel peace."

Her experience with God sparked a desire "to go out into the streets and talk about the Lord Jesus so that people could know the God I knew," she says. She became an assistant, but after four years, her commitment to serving Him wasn't enough, and His presence was no longer a priority.

By constantly chasing thoughts of a better life, which seemed logical at the time, Jane gradually found herself more focused on satisfying her ambitions. "Because I wanted a better life financially, I started dedicating



myself to achieving results. This is where many, like me, make a mistake: when they change their focus, they let their spiritual life fade away. They become weak and lose the desire to be at the feet of the Lord Jesus. In my search for stability, I distanced myself from the Church and the presence of God," she confesses.

During her separation, Jane made more compromises. "I started drinking again, partying, and hanging out with the wrong people. I spent my salary on myself in an attempt to fill the void that had returned to my soul. One night, I ran into some

women who were planning to attack me, but I didn't know why. The beating happened. I found myself on the ground, having been hit on the head, and when I touched it, blood was gushing out. The next day, I began to reflect on what I was doing. That life wasn't for me."

In total, she spent 12 years away from the presence of God. Tired of the reality she had created, she sought out the nearest Universal Church three years ago. "God gave me another chance to return to His arms. Inside, I was bitter,

insisting on living it, thinking the joy I felt was real. But it was momentary, and the next day I woke up devastated and sad. What made me return was the desire to be completely happy, not just halfway. I immersed myself in the Word of God, received spiritual renewal, and, with the baptism in the Holy Spirit, I became convinced that God was upon me. The Holy Spirit is everything, and without Him, we cannot remain in God's presence."

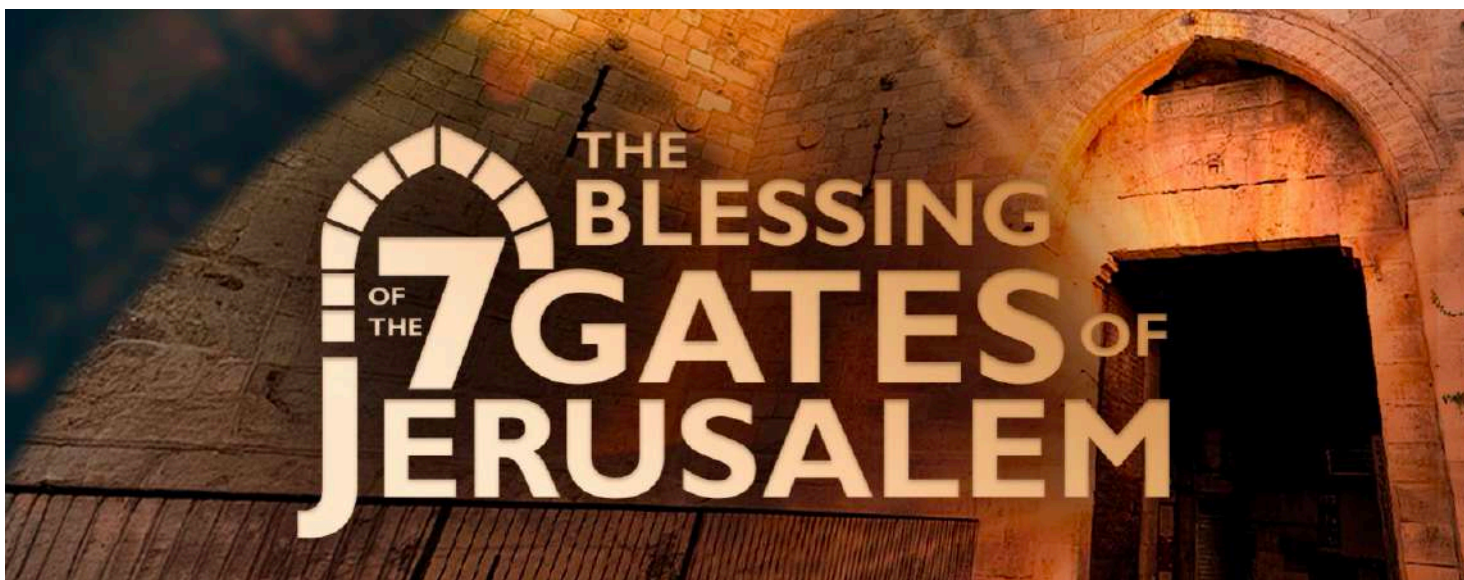
She emphasizes that it is not achievements or blessings, but the Holy Spirit who completes a person's life:

"When we have Him, we have the strength to fight evil. And when problems arise, we remain strong and grounded in faith. It's like the woman from Samaria (described in John 4) to whom Jesus said, 'Whoever drinks the Water that I give him will never thirst.'

That was how my life was: I needed, I was thirsty for that Water, which is the Holy Spirit. He is the greatest source of joy we can have. Today, I am a happy, fulfilled woman, and I have peace because my inner being has been transformed," she concludes.

I found myself on the ground, blood was gushing out.

broken, and without perspective. But God's care and guidance were clear. That life was not for me, yet I kept



Passing through a gate isn't just about entering a new space—it's about stepping into fresh opportunities, and boundless potential. Now, picture receiving divine

blessings from the gates of Jerusalem, the sacred city. Jerusalem, a place of spiritual significance, is home to seven gates: Jaffa Gate, Damascus Gate, New Gate, Zion Gate,

Herod's Gate, Lion's Gate, and the Golden Gate. Each one holds deep meaning and brings a special blessing.

Beginning Sunday, February

9th, you are invited to take part in Seven Sundays of Blessings. For seven weeks, we will symbolically walk through each of these gates, embracing the divine favor meant for every aspect of your life. Every gathering will include a powerful message and prayer of blessing.

Visit any Universal Church near you and be part of this great blessing.

The gates of blessing are open—will you step through?



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!”

God NEVER forgets vows

By the time Jacob finally left Laban’s household, he had spent 20 years with that family. He ate with them every day, shared stories, and, most importantly, they all had the chance to witness his character and faithfulness—qualities rooted in the vow he had made with God at Bethel.

During those years, he got married and had children with his two wives: Leah, and the one he truly loved and was devoted to, Rachel.

But developing God’s character isn’t something that just rubs off on you simply because you spend time around someone who has made a vow with Him. Rachel is a perfect example of this:

“Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father’s.”
Genesis 31:19

Rachel had seen her husband’s faithfulness to God, she had witnessed how the Lord blessed him, and she had observed his character firsthand.

Yet deep inside, she never truly let go of her past or the wrong roots she carried. Even today, history repeats itself. Many people come to church, and over time, they pick up habits and behaviors from those around them.

They start talking like people of God, mimicking their mannerisms, and, on the surface, they seem to fit the part. Unless you look closely, they appear to be truly committed, as if they have made their own vow with God.

But in reality, they’re just “riding the wave” of someone else’s faith. And sooner or later, just like Rachel, they drift back to their old ways.

We must remember that a vow with

God is deeply personal—it brings a profound, intimate transformation of our nature, thoughts, and habits.

No matter your position in the church, ask yourself: Have you ever truly made your vow of sacrifice to God? Can you remember the moment when you turned your back on your old life and chose to live a life of sacrifice for Him?

If not, there’s a good chance that this vow—and the new birth that comes with it—never really happened. It may be that your heart still longs for the idols of the past.

Don’t let your title or responsibilities in the church stop you from examining yourself and confronting your true nature.

If Jacob—a man who lied and even used God’s name for his own gain (Gen. 27:20)—could be forgiven when he made his vow, so can you. But the first step is recognizing whether that moment ever truly happened in your life.

We may forget our vows, but God never does.



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

“I don’t know what God saw in me.” – Rafael

I was raised by my grandparents. I didn’t know my father, and I only met my mother when I was a little older. That left me feeling angry—like I had been abandoned. I was trapped inside my own mind because of it.

At 13, I started using drugs. A childhood friend of mine introduced me to smoking, and from that moment on, my life took a turn for the worse. Drugs completely changed my mindset.

During that time, I got into a lot of fights with rival gang members. I was involved in stabbings, and my reputation as a dangerous person grew. I went to jail multiple times. Eventually, I moved in with one of my uncles, who was well-known in the neighborhood for assaults and robberies.

I lived with him for three years and learned everything he knew. I was also involved in drug trafficking. That period of my life was rough, especially because my uncle had killed a police officer, and we were on the run.



My grandparents reached out to my mom, explaining how bad things had gotten and asking her to come and take me. That’s when I met her for the first time. The encounter was complicated and awkward. I had no idea she had been staying at my grandparents’ house, so when I walked in that day, there she was. My grandma looked at me and said, “This is your mother.” I had no reaction.

I just turned around and walked out. I was filled with anger toward her. She stayed for about two weeks before going back home, but even while she was there, I didn’t change. Still, I felt stuck. All I knew was a life of crime, and my so-called “friends” were involved in the same things.

“

People looked at me and said, “There’s no hope for him.” My own cousins told me I was going to die, and honestly, I believed them. From the outside, it seemed like I had no desire to change, but deep down, I did.

How could I just walk away? That was the thought that haunted me. But in reality, the problem wasn’t my friends—it was me. Was I really willing to let go?

I even moved to another state and started going to school, trying to make a fresh start. But I still kept bad company and lived a double life. At school, I acted like a good person, but after class, I went right back to drug trafficking. Even so, that thought of change never left me. One night, I looked up at the sky and said, “God, if You exist, do something for me.”

I was lost and had no idea where to turn. One night, as I was flipping through TV channels, I stumbled upon the Universal Church program. The pastor’s words felt like they were directed straight at me. He was talking about people who felt like their lives had no purpose. Then he invited us to come to church just as we were.

At that moment, I had already smoked two blunts and had another one in my bag. But I decided to



go anyway. I walked into that service as high as ever.

Afterward, I went home, looked at the drugs I had, and made a decision. I told myself, “Never again.” And I threw them away. From that day forward, I never touched drugs again.

I got baptized in water, and that’s when the real battle began—the battle to surrender everything so I could receive the Holy Spirit. I was determined. I remember sleeping on the floor with my Bible as my pillow because I wanted to be filled with His presence more than anything. And He came.

Today, I love people. Before, I hated them. When I see those who are suffering, I believe in them because I know there’s hope—just like there was hope for me.

I always say, “I don’t know what God saw in me, but He had mercy on me.” God is amazing. He is merciful. He saved me when I was at the bottom of the pit.



“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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Faith, hardship, and triumph: The story of Bruno Bello



Bruno Bello, 33, grew up facing many hardships. Coming from a modest family with limited financial resources, he started working at the age of 13 to help his father at a street market. Despite

their hard work, the family struggled financially. "It was a tough life, and there were no perks. Sometimes, they cut off the electricity at home because of unpaid bills," Bruno recalls. He felt trapped and unsure where to turn, even trying different churches in search of an escape, but nothing seemed to change.

Bruno believed that education could be his way out. With determination, he completed a mechatronics engineering course. However, despite graduating in 2008 and landing an internship, financial struggles struck again. "I earned my diploma, and the company offered me a permanent position. But due to a financial crisis, they had to cut the vacancy, and I ended up unemployed. I had no choice but to return to the street market. People mocked me. They would ask, 'Now, do you have to be an engineer to work in the market?'"

THE TURNING POINT

His life began to change when his father started attending seminars at The Universal Church. "My father couldn't sleep at night. After attending church, I noticed a major shift in his behavior, and that got my attention," Bruno shares. Inspired by his father's transformation, Bruno decided to give it a try. "I gave myself to Jesus. I had always been dedicated to my studies, so I applied the same commitment to the Word of God. I obeyed the teachings and asked God to heal my heart after a difficult breakup and open new doors for me. Early the next year, I was called for a job interview at the same company where I had worked before. It was an internal position, and I was the only external candidate invited. I got the job. That was a miracle for me."

ACHIEVEMENTS AND GROWTH

Bruno quickly rose to a prominent position within the company. "I pursued an MBA in business strategy management while continuing my engineering career. I evaluated customers and products, and had opportunities to travel abroad to represent the company."

Bruno attributes his success to what he calls "Intelligent Faith." "I sought answers at the altar. I rode my bike to church, and God opened doors for me. I met my wife, Bruna, and together, we strengthened our spiritual and financial lives through faith. Sacrifice is a daily commitment. We apply what we learn."

THE NEW CHALLENGE

Bruno was later offered a higher-paying job at a competing company, but he decided to take a leap of faith. "I wanted to start my own business with my wife. I resigned, even though I had no idea what would come next. My boss thought I was crazy, but I trusted God would show me the way."

In April of last year, Bruno and Bruna launched their own company, providing consultancy for developing

new products and businesses. "We now have a contract with a company in China, handling the American market."

Today, the couple enjoys the fruits of their labor, living in a high-end condominium with a home office and traveling for business. "We have the Holy Spirit, and our financial life is a testament to God's presence with us. But to make our dreams a reality, we had to take action and follow His teachings," Bruno concludes.



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