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# KINGS



## THE BLESSING OF THE 7 GATES OF JERUSALEM

Read page 5 for more details.

# UNIVERSAL NEWS



The Universal Church • The Universal Church of the Kingdom of God • www.universalchurchusa.org • Weekly Edition N° 596 • Facebook / Instagram: @TheUniversalChurch • [ free distribution ] • Enjoy & share!

## Anxiety disorder:

Do you know all the symptoms and how to overcome it?

Many physical and psychological reactions caused by anxiety go unnoticed. Learn what they are.

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*"I drank to sleep, to escape, to feel some kind of peace."*

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**Bishop Edir Macedo**

Faith and Peace



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He had a 4% chance of survival

HEALING



### SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

NOT TO BE SOLD

## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Anxiety

We've all been through stressful situations where we've felt some level of worry or nervousness—whether it's preparing for a test, going to a job interview, getting ready for a big game, or trying something new. Feeling nervous is natural, but when does worry and fear become a real problem?

It becomes a problem when these feelings become intense, frequent, and start interfering with our daily lives and relationships. When anxiety becomes constant and overwhelming, it can develop into an anxiety disorder.

According to the Mayo Clinic, anxiety is defined as an intense, excessive, and persistent worry or fear about everyday situations. Some of the most common symptoms include difficulty breathing, irregular heartbeat, sweating, muscle tension, and a constant fear of the future. But there are also lesser-known symptoms—like gastrointestinal issues and restlessness—that often go unnoticed, making anxiety even harder to recognize.

Do these symptoms sound familiar? Are you or a loved one experiencing any of them? If so, you may be struggling with anxiety. Maybe you've tried everything—you've tried to think positively, you've gone to counseling, but no matter what, you just can't shake that feeling of fear and worry.

The good news is, God can set you free. He said in His Word, "Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a good (encouraging) word makes it glad." — Proverbs 12:25.

That good word is the Word of God. That's why I invite you to join us this Sunday at a UCKG near you for our Gathering of Faith and Miracles. I guarantee—you won't leave the same.

## | 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**



### Faith and Peace

**D**oubt steals our sleep, unsettles our soul, and destroys us from the inside out. Without peace, even the best food, company, leisure, or job won't bring true satisfaction.

Every day, from the moment we wake up, we face a choice: **faith or doubt**. We can choose to see people and life's circumstances from God's perspective or through a purely human lens. We must decide whether to walk in the Spirit or in the flesh—there is no middle ground.

When someone wavers in their trust in the Most High, they open the door to doubt. From that moment on, an inner battle begins—a struggle between believing in God's promises and giving in to unbelief.

It's important to remember that emotions like **fear, anxiety, and worry** can weaken our faith and rob us of our peace, just as doubt does. But faith, unlike doubt, brings **peace, balance, and security** to our soul.

**Without peace, even the best of life's pleasures will never be enough...**

When we live by faith—when we walk



in the Spirit—there is no room for fear, stress, or uncertainty. That's why **faith and peace go hand in hand**. This harmony and strength come from practicing the Word of God.

Those who set their minds on **divine truths** overcome everything. For them, bad luck, envy, threats, or criticism hold no power. That's why the Almighty urges us to live from **faith to faith**—because without faith, doubt will take over. But when we put our faith into practice daily, God fills us with peace, and no obstacle can make us stumble. As it is written:

"Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble." — Psalm 119:165



### "I was diagnosed with depression and anxiety."

cigarettes, and alcohol, hoping to fill the void inside. He also sought comfort in friendships and relationships, but none of it brought the relief he was looking for.

Despite all these distractions, Brian started withdrawing from the world. He didn't want to leave the house—or even get out of bed some days. "After a while, I decided to see a psychologist. That's when I was diagnosed with depression and anxiety," he says. But therapy sessions didn't heal the pain in his soul. Over time, things got worse, and he began **self-harming**.

**A Turning point**  
Brian's sister already knew about the Universal Church, but it wasn't until a funeral that he finally accepted an invitation to attend a service. "When I got there, I saw a banner from the Help Project, part of the Universal Youth Group (YPG). It said there was a solution for anxiety, depression, and other struggles I had been trying to

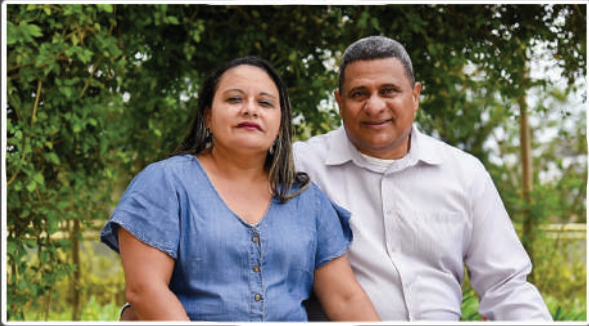
deal with through professionals. That caught my attention," he shares.

He started attending YPG meetings and, before long, he wanted to know God and rewrite his story. He decided to surrender his life to Jesus and let go of everything that was harming him. "I made seeking the Holy Spirit my priority. I asked God what He wanted from me. I even wrote a letter listing everything I could do to please Him. Then came the Fast of Daniel. I already knew what I needed to do. On the very first day of the Fast, I was baptized with the Holy Spirit. The emptiness inside me disappeared. Now, I have peace, joy, love, and true happiness," he says. Today, Brian and his entire family are living a new life, firm in the presence of God.



**Before**

# See what's happening on Sundays.



**"He had a 4% chance of survival."**

In May 2020, Mr. Vilaca, a 53-year-old security guard, faced one of the toughest moments of his life. After feeling unwell and being rushed to the hospital, he was diagnosed with respiratory failure due to COVID-19.

He spent 23 days intubated. During that time, he suffered a cardiac arrest, a hemorrhagic stroke, a clot in his left leg, thrombosis, and kidney failure.

His wife remembers how she responded to the situation: "There were so many words of fear and death being spoken, but I refused to accept them. Instead, I used my faith with the blessed water." Mr. Vilaca recalls, "The doctors told me I was a living miracle. With only a 4% chance of survival, my recovery seemed nearly impossible."

Sixty days after being extubated, he was discharged from the hospital. He credits his full recovery to his faith: "Even while I was still in the hospital, I lived by faith, believing that my healing would be complete. Today, I have no lasting effects. Thank God, after this battle, we had victory. They even said I might never walk again, but God restored my health. I am grateful for what He did. All honor and glory to the Lord Jesus."



**"The pain is gone."**



One morning, I woke up with severe pain in my arm. I went to the doctor, but after running tests, they couldn't find anything wrong. I had to get an injection that cost \$125—money I didn't have at the time because I wasn't even working.

Since the pain kept me from sleeping well, one night around 3 a.m., I was flipping through TV channels when I came across the Universal Church program.

I decided to attend a church service, where I prayed and drank the blessed water. I also applied some to my arm.

That water became my medication.

One day, I realized the pain was completely gone. From that day on, I have been free!

- Louburn



**"I am free from COPD."**

I suffered from COPD for about ten years. The doctors told me there was no cure. It was so bad that I couldn't even clean my house or walk properly without losing my breath. I constantly felt pressure in my chest. I started doing the chain of prayer for healing and drinking the blessed water. Sometimes, I would even pour some on my spine.

Today, I no longer lose my breath, I can clean my house, and the pressure in my chest is completely gone. I am healed because I had faith in my prayers.



**Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church**



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## Medicine for Anxiety



**Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about your body, what you will wear. (Luke 12:22)**

Many people come to church regularly, yet they still haven't received answers to their prayers. They pray, they fast, they receive prayers, but their problems remain. They start thinking, "God has abandoned me. I've prayed so much, I've done everything I could, but nothing has changed..."

Why does this happen?

The Bible says, "Do not worry..." But when people face problems or great affliction and their answer is delayed, what do they do? They get anxious. Anxiety is a sign of doubt and a lack of faith—it's how evil keeps working in a person's mind. No matter how much they pray, fast, or even stay in church all day, their

minds remain focused on their problems, making their faith unfruitful.

Doubt brings darkness, while faith brings light. And what fellowship can light have with darkness? It's useless to show faith if doubt still lives in your heart—doubt cancels faith. Listening to doubt means listening to the devil's words.

When you pray, don't focus on your problem—hand it over to God. You've already done your part. How can you receive anything without trust? How can you be answered if you don't believe? If you spend your time worrying

about your husband, your son, or any other situation, neither they nor you will receive anything.

Don't be afraid or troubled—this is the key to overcoming all kinds of problems.

Fight anxiety because it neutralizes your faith.

**When you pray, don't focus on your problem; give it to God**

MARCH 2025 BIBLE READING						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 AMOS 1
2 AMOS 2	3 AMOS 3	4 AMOS 4	5 AMOS 5	6 AMOS 6	7 AMOS 7	8 AMOS 8
9 AMOS 9	10 OBADIAH 1	11 JONAH 1	12 JONAH 2	13 JONAH 3	14 JONAH 4	15 MICAH 1
16 MICAH 2	17 MICAH 3	18 MICAH 4	19 MICAH 5	20 MICAH 6	21 MICAH 7	22 NAHUM 1
23 NAHUM 2	24 NAHUM 3	25 HABAKKUK 1	26 HABAKKUK 2	27 HABAKKUK 3	28 ZEPHANIAH 1	29 ZEPHANIAH 2
30 ZEPHANIAH 3	31 HAGGAI 1 & 2					

## "Anxiety took over my life"



**B**runa, now 22, first felt the weight of anxiety in 2014. It started with an argument with her father that left her feeling unsettled. On top of that, she was deeply worried about her mother, who was struggling with debt from a failed business.

"My parents were on the verge of separating, and things kept getting worse. My mom would tell me everything that was happening," Bruna recalls. The tension at home kept growing, and so did her desperation and insecurity. "There were fights at home every single day."

Things escalated when both her father and brother lost their jobs. "I suddenly felt responsible for paying the bills, and it overwhelmed me," she says. The stress affected her ability to concentrate and sleep.

The physical and emotional toll Bruna's anxiety soon began taking a toll on her body. She experienced shortness of breath, stomach pain, and a weakened immune system. "Then I developed sinusitis. I was constantly feeling sick at work and had to go to the hospital often."

Doctors prescribed medication for a stomach infection, but one of them pointed out the real issue. "He told me I was having an anxiety crisis. He asked if my routine was stressful and said I needed to calm down."

Her struggles also affected her love life, leading to a breakup. But the worst moment came when she lost her job. "My life fell apart. It felt like I was trapped in a room with no way out," she says.

A turning point After months of suffering, Bruna began seeking advice from friends and family. "I just wanted to fix everything as soon as possible—I was desperate." She had already found another job, but the anxiety wouldn't go away.

At the end of 2014, she turned to her faith for strength. "I talked to my pastor, and he told me I couldn't fix all my family's problems on my own. That's when I realized I first needed to heal what was inside me."

Bruna joined the Godlywood meetings, a Universal Church program that helps women develop their faith and self-worth. "I started completing the suggested tasks, shifting my focus away from problems and strengthening my faith." She also attended spiritual support meetings, where she found strength through the Holy Spirit.

At the start of 2015, she made a monthly plan for the year—a decision that changed everything. "Today, I see problems as opportunities to get even closer to God."

Bruna

**Feeling anxious seems like a natural reaction and is often considered normal. Nowadays, it's rare to find someone who doesn't experience anxiety, as everything around us seems to fuel this dormant seed within human nature.**

**While secular views accept anxiety as a normal part of life, for those who belong to God, it shouldn't be. Worry and stress are signs of a lack of trust in the Almighty's care. When we allow anxiety to take over, we are, in a way, doubting that our Father is faithful enough to provide for our needs.**

# What's happening at the Universal Church

**“I was diagnosed with depression and generalized anxiety disorder.”**



I was always a very closed-off person, carrying deep trauma and feelings of inferiority. A while ago, I was diagnosed with depression and generalized anxiety disorder. I would hear voices, see shadows. Sometimes, I'd be asleep and hear voices calling my name. Other times, I was terrified to be alone at home or in the dark. Fear consumed me.

My father was an alcoholic—he drank excessively and even fell into an alcohol-induced coma twice. I remember one time he passed out in our hallway, and my mother screamed in desperation. I ran out in the middle of the night to get help. The last time he nearly died. Around that same time, my mother lost her job. She felt completely helpless, and to make things worse, she had just lost her father. One night, she was talking and laughing with me and my brother, but the next morning, she didn't recognize us. She had no idea who we were.

Imagine my situation—I was battling depression, lost and confused. The only people who could have supported me, my parents, weren't able to. My father was addicted to alcohol, and my mother was trapped in her own depression.

Then, one day, my father made a terrible decision. He had decided to take his own life—and ours too. But that night, when he turned on the radio, it was tuned to a church program. He heard a message saying there was a way out, that his life could change. That was how he found the Universal Church. I remember asking him, “Where are you going?” And he said, “I'm going to church.” My father had never set foot in a church before. Never. But that night, instead of listening to the voice telling him to end everything, he heard a voice telling him that his life had hope.

#### A new beginning

Through the chains of prayer at the Universal Church, I was introduced to the promise that I could be free—free from depression, anxiety, trauma, and all the burdens I carried. That I could finally have peace.

So, I took that step of faith. I stopped just believing and started truly trusting. I let go of toxic relationships and friendships. I used to bury myself in work to fill the emptiness inside me, but I let that go too. I kept just one job and dedicated myself to seeking God. I dove into reading the Bible, watching

faith-based content on Univer Video, studying books by Bishop Macedo, and spending time in prayer. I fasted, gave up social media, and completely immersed myself in faith.

By the last day of that journey, I was already free from depression, anxiety, and my past struggles. But I still felt that something was missing. I realized that I needed the Holy Spirit.

I cried out to God and said, “Lord, I've given You everything. What more do I need to do?” And deep inside, the answer was simple: Believe. It was a decision. I chose to believe, and at that moment, God honored my faith. He filled me with His Spirit. The desire I had to become a new person—He made it a reality. The Holy Spirit transformed me into a new Deise. I found true peace and joy. Before, I relied on people and things to feel whole. Now, I depend only on the Holy Spirit. Words can't describe the joy I felt. It was a happiness beyond explanation.

Just as I made the decision to go from doubt to faith, you can too. The Holy Spirit is a gift, and He can make you a new person. You can be free from trauma, overcome insecurities, and truly have peace. Today, I am happy.

**“I lost job opportunities because of anxiety.”**



Anxiety was a constant companion in Leandro's life. Now 32, he recalls how it started affecting him as early as age 11. Even during simple activities like playing soccer, the overwhelming pressure would take over. “My heart would race, and I couldn't perform well,” he says.

But it wasn't just sports—anxiety disrupted his daily life and relationships, too. “I was always in a hurry, couldn't sleep well, was constantly worried and nervous, and barely ate,” he remembers.

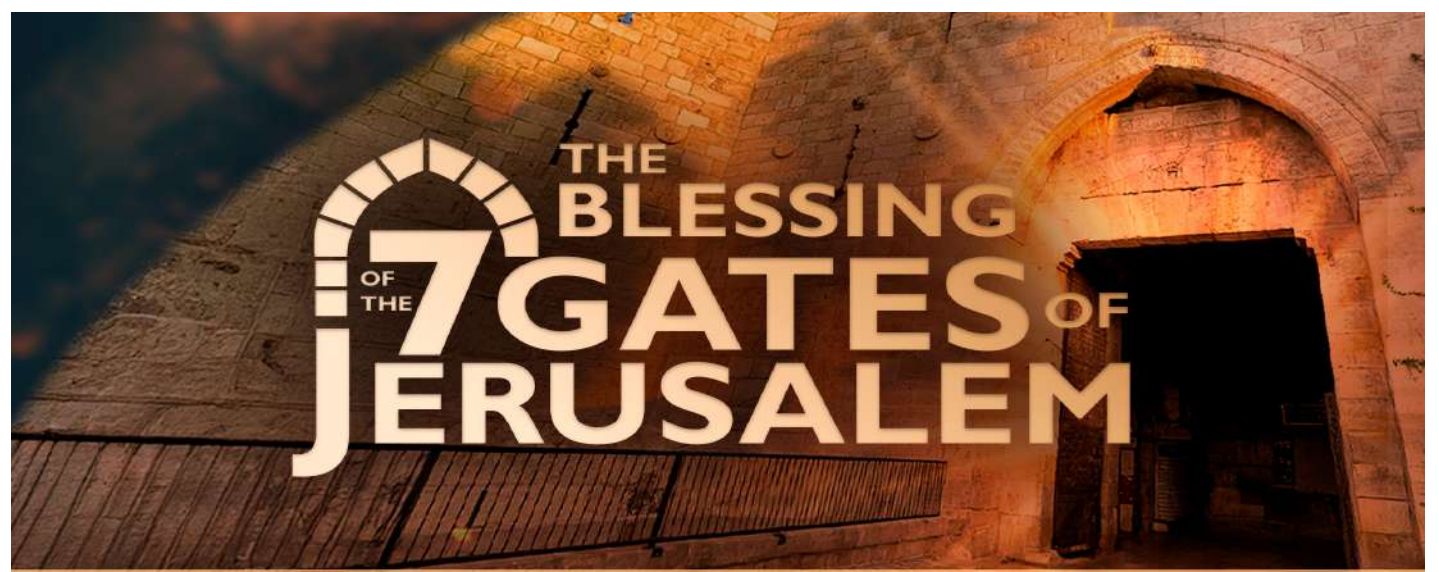
At just 16, he got married, and by 18, he was a father. But his anxiety made

it hard to maintain stability, and before long, his marriage fell apart. His struggles didn't stop there—they also affected his career. “I lost job opportunities because of anxiety. I would perform poorly in interviews and even stutter,” he admits. Desperate for relief, he turned to alcohol, but it never truly solved the problem.

By 22, Leandro knew he needed a real solution. That's when he turned to faith. “The Bible teaches us not to be anxious about our lives,” he says. Little by little, he learned patience and self-control. “I changed my mindset and my behavior.”

Through the Young Power Group (YPG) at the Universal Church, Leandro found the support he needed. Today, he has a steady job and enjoys spending time with his wife, Daiane. “The church meetings helped me so much. I learned to fight my inner struggles through God's Word,” he shares.

The emptiness he once carried in his heart is gone. “It has been filled by the Lord Jesus. I don't worry anymore.”



## The blessing of the 7 Gates of Jerusalem – Herod's Gate

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Bishop Edir Macedo, along with other bishops from around the world, traveled to Israel to present to God the requests of those who participated in the Campaign of Israel at the Jordan River. During this journey, they were led to start a powerful movement of faith based on the seven gates of Jerusalem.

In the Bible, Jerusalem holds deep spiritual significance. It is the city the Lord chose as His dwelling place and where the first Temple was built. It is known as the city of the covenant and the place where the Holy Spirit was poured out, among many other profound meanings.

Each gate of Jerusalem carries rich spiritual symbolism that we, as believers, can learn from and be blessed

by. That's why, while in the Holy Land, the bishops walked approximately seven kilometers around the city of Jerusalem, stopping at each gate to pray on behalf of the church.

This led to the launch of *The Blessing of the 7 Gates of Jerusalem*, a purpose of faith that began on February 9th in all Universal churches worldwide. Each week, a special movement is held based on the significance of one of the gates, with prayers for the blessing and transformation of those who take part in this journey of faith.

As there are seven gates in total, this movement spans seven Sundays. Five Sundays have already passed, but it's not too late to join us for this powerful movement of faith

**Recognizing and overcoming anxiety**

Difficulty breathing, irregular heartbeat, muscle tension, and an overwhelming fear of the future—these are some of the most common symptoms of anxiety disorder. However, anxiety can also trigger lesser-known physical and psychological reactions, leading to serious consequences for those affected.

Understanding and recognizing the signs of anxiety is the first step toward overcoming it.

Physical symptoms:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest and/or abdominal pain
- Tremors, nausea, or vomiting
- Dry mouth, dizziness, or fainting
- Ringing in the ears or hearing unusual noises
- Blurred vision or cold hands
- Muscle stiffness

• Tingling or numbness

• Excessive sweating

• Loss of appetite or overeating

Psychological symptoms:

• Persistent anxiety, nervousness, and stress

• Mood swings and emotional instability

• Impatience and irritability

• Pessimism and low self-esteem

• Difficulty concentrating, remembering things, or learning

• Procrastination and trouble communicating

• Poor sleep quality and distorted perception

• Depersonalization (feeling detached from reality)

• Fear of dying

Anxiety is a natural human response to urgent or high-pressure situations. However, it becomes a disorder when excessive worry, fear, insecurity, and uncertainty about the future dominate a person's thoughts, harming their emotional and physical well-being.

If left untreated, anxiety can negatively impact a person's quality of life in both the short and long term, leading to:

• Social isolation and loneliness

• Addictions or compulsive behaviors

• Extreme weight loss or obesity

• Neglect of self-care and overall health

Seeking help and overcoming anxiety

If anxiety is affecting your physical, emotional, or mental well-being, professional medical and psychological support is essential. Therapy, medical guidance, regular exercise, and a balanced diet can all help manage anxiety.

However, if you've been struggling despite treatment and are searching for another solution, the Universal Church offers support and guidance.

You don't have to face this alone. Contact us or visit a Universal Church near you to learn more about how faith can help you find peace and overcome anxiety.



## Anxiety disorder: Do you know all the symptoms and how to overcome it?

I had no peace. I struggled with anxiety and depression, and it all started in my childhood. I grew up in a home where both of my parents were alcoholics. There were constant fights, and I was never truly happy. I longed for my parents' presence, but they worked a lot, so my sister and I were always left with someone else. I kept searching for happiness.

I remember one birthday when I was little—I fell asleep holding my new doll. My mom came home late at night, drunk, as she often was. The next day, she told me she had seen me crying in my sleep. That moment stayed with me because it reflected the emptiness I felt.

As I got older, I looked for love in relationships, trying to fill the void my parents left. I started dating early, and by 15, I was pregnant. At 18, I got married, thinking it would bring me stability, but instead, I found myself in a relationship full of fights. My husband worked night shifts, and I developed terrible insomnia. To cope, I started drinking just to fall asleep.

The anxiety got so bad that I couldn't even tell my therapist what I was going through. I was afraid she'd prescribe medication, and I didn't want to take pills. Instead, I turned to alcohol. What started as an occasional drink became a dependency. I drank to sleep, to escape, to feel some kind of peace. But no matter how much I drank, how many relationships I got into, or how many places I went, the emptiness never left. I even tried drugs. But nothing worked. The pain in my soul was overwhelming. So many people are going through the same thing. I see it all the time at my salon—people trying to fill a void. And I was one of them. I wasn't happy. You can even see it in old pictures of me—I never smiled. People would comment on how serious I looked, but they didn't know

the sadness I carried inside. Anxiety and depression took over my life.

The worst moment came when my 12-year marriage ended. I had always depended on relationships to feel whole, so when my divorce was finalized, my anxiety and depression hit their peak. I felt completely alone. In desperation, I jumped into another relationship, which turned out to be abusive. It only made everything worse. I became so angry and unstable that I even had thoughts of hurting him. I had reached rock bottom. One day, a church worker came to my salon to get her hair done. She started talking to me and invited me to a church service. I didn't believe in it—I had a marketing degree, and I thought pastors just used psychological triggers to manipulate people. But she said

**I drank to sleep, to escape, to feel some kind of peace. The emptiness never left...**

something that stuck with me: "Well, if that's marketing, it changed my life." Then she shared her testimony, and I broke down in tears.

She told me to just go once and see for myself. So I went. And that day, everything changed.

During the service, something inside me shifted. I walked in feeling empty, and I walked out feeling different. I didn't know how to explain it, but I finally had peace. That night, I slept like I hadn't in years. My thoughts became clearer. I started attending more services, and little by little, my way of thinking changed. My actions changed. I joined a church group, and that's when my true transformation



happened.

Today, I am a new person. I am happy—truly happy. I no longer need a relationship to feel complete. Even when my father passed away, I had the strength to handle it because God sustained me. If it weren't for Him, that loss would have broken me. But instead, I felt peace.

Now, my life has color. I want to live, to travel, to enjoy my family and my daughter. I have a great relationship with my mother, something I never imagined before. I can be a good example for my daughter, and I finally have a stable life.

I own a successful business with over a dozen employees, and I take the time to help and support them. Before, I was so consumed by my own pain that I couldn't think about anyone else. But today, everything is different—completely transformed by God.

Looking back, I realize how lost I was. I had tried everything—drinking, partying, relationships, even drugs—but nothing filled the void. I suffered in silence, pretending everything was fine on social media while, in reality, I was falling apart. No one knew I had insomnia, depression, or that I drank just to get through the night.

Then, one day, after four days of lying in bed crying, I got up and prayed, asking God for help. And He answered. That prayer changed everything.

Thanks to the Holy Spirit, my life has been completely transformed. Today, I have peace, joy, and a reason to live.

## A Journey of Faith and Transformation

### Hawaii



### Colorado



For nearly two years, The Universal Church in Hilo has been a pillar of faith, serving the community despite not having a permanent location. Holding services in temporary spaces, we ensured that anyone in need could always find a place to seek



God and receive spiritual support. During this time, our commitment to outreach never wavered. We hosted a Back-to-School event, where families not only received school supplies but also experienced faith-filled encouragement while enjoying children's activities and a cookout. Our mission extended beyond church gatherings—we visited nursing homes to bring comfort and prayer to the elderly and made hospital visits to offer spiritual encouragement to the sick.

The youth of Hilo also found a place in our ministry. We organized activities at local parks, providing them with a positive and faith-filled environment to connect, grow, and stay away from negative influences. Another cornerstone of our work was house prayers, where we brought the presence of God directly into people's homes, strengthening families and deepening their faith. Despite the challenges, The Universal Church remained steadfast in its mission, reaching people from all walks of life. Then, on February 2nd, a long-awaited dream was fulfilled—the grand opening of The Universal Church in Hilo. People from different backgrounds and nations gathered to celebrate this milestone, a powerful testament to faith, perseverance, and God's provision. Now, with a permanent home in Hilo, our mission remains unchanged: to help those in need, transform lives through faith, and welcome anyone seeking a fresh start. This is just the beginning, and we look forward to reaching even more souls with the message of salvation.

Colorado is home to one of the largest Micronesian communities in the U.S., including Chuukese, Marshallese, Hawaiian, and Chamorro people. The state also has a diverse population from Central Africa, Nigeria, and Panama.

The work of the Universal Church in Colorado began just over a year ago. The first events were held in a hotel, drawing 91 people to the first gathering and 85 to the second. Soon after, meetings moved to a local fire station, and later to Eisenhower Chapel, where attendance grew to 95 people.

Many families were reached through our official Facebook page (UniColorado) and through personal referrals from family and friends. We have visited hospitals, homes, and nursing facilities, meeting people in deep distress—many of whom had lost hope and were seeking a miracle. Prayers for healing and deliverance were offered for entire families.

In hospitals, we witnessed incredible manifestations of God's power, with healings that defied medical expectations. Visits to shelters also opened doors for regular meetings in Denver, where we provided not only spiritual support but also practical help. Through social outreach, we distributed food to those in vulnerable situations, offering them faith, love, and acceptance.

The YPG (Youth Power Group) has been instrumental in transforming young lives. Many of the youth we encounter struggle with suicidal thoughts, addictions to vaping, betel nut, alcohol, and other substances. On December 15th, we hosted a volleyball championship, bringing together 83 young people for a time of connection and positive influence.

On February 2nd, a new Universal Church location officially opened its doors, providing a place where those in need can find hope and experience the power of God every day.

At our inaugural Sunday service, 116 people attended, seeking prayers for their families, marriages, deliverance, healing, and a deeper connection with God through the Holy Spirit.

If you or someone you know needs spiritual support, visit us at:  
6738 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80220 | (720) 353-7571

### Iowa



The Universal Church in Iowa held its first service on Sunday,

May 26, 2024, marking a significant milestone in our mission to bring faith and hope to the community. This special event took place at 10 AM in the conference room of Stoney Creek Hotel in Sioux City, where families, friends, and many members of the Micronesian community traveled from across the region to be part of this momentous occasion.

In July, we began holding weekly Sunday services at the hotel's conference room. These gatherings became a place of transformation, where prayers were offered for healing to those suffering from illness, deliverance to those battling addictions, depression, and spiritual struggles, and family restoration to bring peace and salvation into homes.

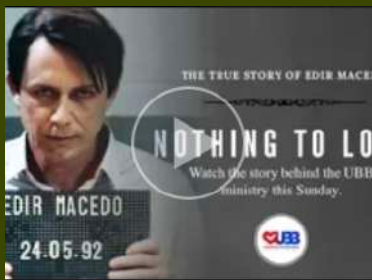
Then, on Sunday, February 23, 2025, we celebrated the Grand Opening of our church building. A total of 212 people attended the dedication ceremony, witnessing this incredible milestone. Despite the lack of chairs to accommodate everyone, the joy in the room was undeniable—people were grateful to finally have a permanent place to seek God and grow in faith.

Now, The Universal Church in Iowa is open seven days a week, offering daily services to support the community and provide spiritual guidance to those in need.



When I first came to The Universal Church, my life was in shambles. I was caught up in drugs, and I wasn't a good person. I carried a lot of pain and struggles, but everything changed when I stepped into this church. Thanks be to God, my life has been transformed. For the past year, I've been battling an illness—one specific to women. It made me weak, and I struggled daily. But then, I received the blessed water, and I am truly grateful for it. Since I started drinking the water, I have felt my body getting stronger, and most importantly, I feel relieved and at peace. I want to thank the pastor for all he has done for me and for our Chuukese community here in Iowa. This is my testimony—the power of God is real, and He has worked in my life. Thank you so much. - Carla

# Jesus cannot be your “side piece.”



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 cruelest things you can do to someone is pretend to care about them more than you actually do. The feeling of being used by someone you love and trust is painful—it can leave deep scars and make it hard to trust again.

## And yet, it happens every day.

It’s the husband, wife, or lover who was only interested in you for what you had. It’s the bunkie who only speaks to you when they need something. The one who suddenly wants to “befriend” you when it’s commissary day.

That person in the day room who only comes to you when they need your help.

Even that family member who uses your incarceration as a way to get sympathy—and whatever else they can out of it.

If you’ve ever been on the receiving end of that kind of behavior, you know how it feels. Hopefully, you wouldn’t wish it on anyone.

But what if I told you that Jesus is on the receiving end of this kind of treatment every single day? You might shake your head in disbelief, but think about it.

On Sunday, you act like an angel—you pray, sing, and offer to help wherever you can. When you’re facing a problem, you’re the first to run to the altar. But once life is “good,” God doesn’t cross your mind.

When you get angry, you curse like everyone else. When you’re tempted, you give in without a fight. When it’s time to forgive, you scoff, saying, “They don’t deserve my forgiveness.

Look how they did me dirty.” And when it comes to reading your Bible—you don’t even remember where you left it.

“When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.” (Proverbs 16:7)

Think about that for a moment.

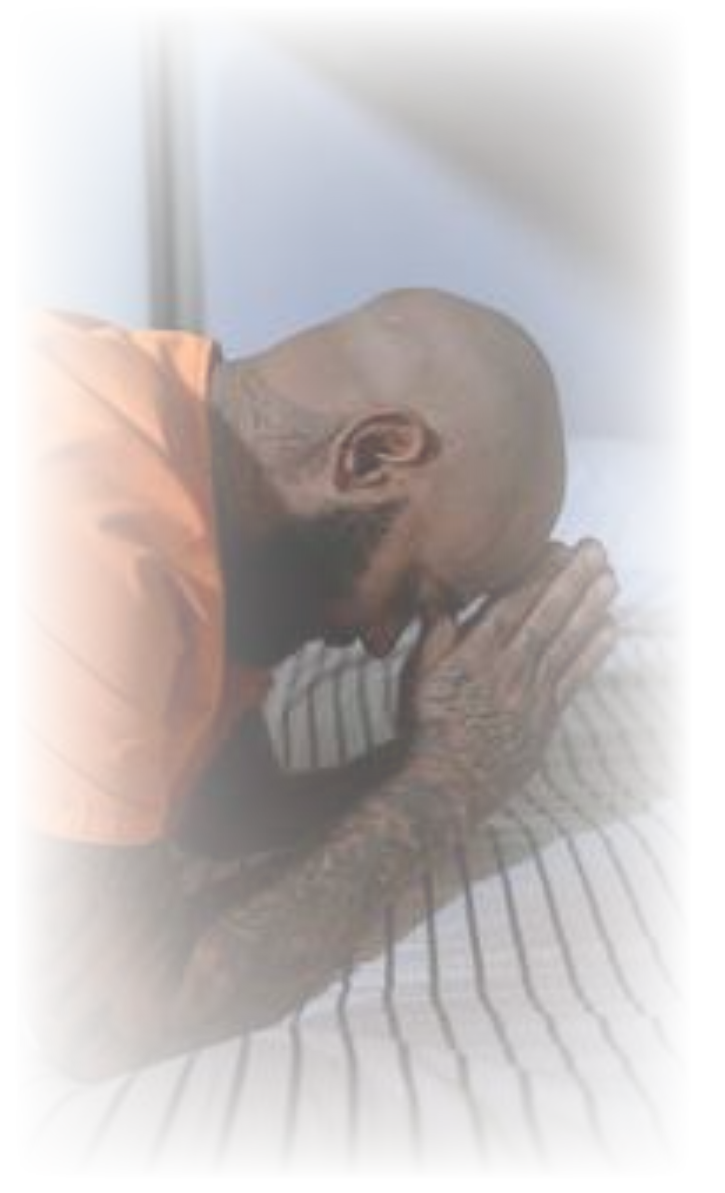
Maybe a lot of your problems, frustrations, and failures could be avoided if you focused on pleasing God all the time—not just when you need something from Him.

Don’t treat Jesus like a side piece—someone you flirt with when you want something, only to forget about Him the moment you get what you asked for.

The same love you show Him on Sunday is the love He wants from you every single day.

When you please God, He will take care of you. But when you turn your back on Him, you’re walking away from His protection, blessings, and salvation.

**Fix your life before God. Your soul is your responsibility.**





# UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

*You are NOT alone!*



## “MURDER CAME KNOCKING AT MY DOOR, AND I ANSWERED.”

Everything started when I was a teenager. My relationship with my father was complicated—I saw a lot of fights between him and my family. Because of this, I left home when I was 14. I spent the next five years living on the streets, surrounded by all kinds of people.

“During that time, I stayed in random places and was constantly around drugs—cocaine, crack, and marijuana. I was a heavy user and got involved in robberies. At one point, I started stealing cars with some guys I met.”

There was one night when we went to steal a car, and a couple was inside. We assaulted them and took them hostage. The plan was to kill them and leave their bodies behind. But when my friends said they were going to do it, something inside me spoke up, and I told them, “No, don’t do it.”

We took the car and left the couple, but then one of the guys turned to me and said, “I want the girl.” Once again, I stepped in and said, “No, don’t do that.” We left them and drove off.

Later, I met a guy who was in deep trouble—he owed a lot of drug money, and we needed to get the money back. He didn’t have it, and neither did his family. A week passed, and I called him, trying to give him a way out. But instead of taking the opportunity, he just wanted more drugs. Then, I was told to kill him.

Two shots ended his life, and I ran to another

state. But no matter where I went, I had no peace. I was always looking over my shoulder, haunted by what I had done. My conscience was heavy. I couldn’t sleep, so I drowned myself in drugs. I overdosed six times. Two years later, when I finally came back home, the boy’s family was still looking for me. That’s when I made a decision—I turned myself in.



In court, I stood before the judge, and the boy’s family was there too. I couldn’t even look them in the eyes. My sentence was 14 years. When I got to prison, my cell was meant for eight people, but there were 30 of us packed inside. Those who weren’t sleeping had to stay outside the cell, and we had to take turns. I

lost everything—every last thing I had of value. I felt like garbage. My life had hit rock bottom. That’s when I met a man of God inside the prison. The UBB was there, and one of them came straight to me and started talking about Jesus. But I couldn’t understand how Jesus could love someone like me.

I felt worthless. “With everything I’ve done, could there really be forgiveness for me?” I asked.

By the mercy of God, I was eventually released under certain conditions. I told my parents I would start going to the Universal Church. But as I walked this new path, I realized something—I

hadn’t forgiven myself. That was the worst thing I could have done because Jesus had already forgiven me. I remember going to the altar and surrendering my life to God. I told Him, “Either deliver me or take my life.” I got baptized in water and started meditating on God’s Word, putting it into practice.

I made vows with God, committed myself to Him, and, in time, I received the Holy Spirit. That’s when everything changed. I finally had peace. I no longer needed to feel anything to know that God was with me.

From that moment on, I knew my purpose—I had to help others who were in the same situation I once was. God’s mercy is so great. I once took a life, and now He has given me the chance to save many young people and guide them toward a new path. I’ve helped those struggling with addiction, broken families, and lost souls searching for meaning.

Today, my life is nothing like it used to be. I have my own business, a blessed marriage, and a complete life in Jesus. To those who feel like there’s no way out—the way out is at the altar of God.



*“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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# Can life get any worse?

"

"Joselinda Tortorelli was in such a tough spot that she made a move she never thought she'd make."

"



Joselinda Tortorelli, a 66-year-old cook, once harbored deep resentment toward the Universal Church. She was filled with anger and distrust, convinced by negative press that the church was a scam. She often judged those who attended, accusing them of being deceived.

But while she criticized the church, her own life was crumbling. Her family was constantly fighting, finances were tight, and their home was filled with tension instead of peace. "My family was always arguing; no one got along. We had money problems, and there was no real sense of hope. I was constantly stressed, tormented by bad thoughts, and couldn't find peace. It felt like I was reliving my parents' struggles in my own marriage," she recalls.

Her husband battled addictions to drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes, making their situation even worse. Even after having children, nothing changed. "I became that mother who was always crying, mistreated by her husband, and completely neglecting herself," she says.

Joselinda's nights were a nightmare. She saw a shadowy woman moving in and out of her room, heard unsettling voices, and felt an overwhelming sense of unease.

Then one day, everything shifted. Her daughter and sister-in-law attended a service at the Universal Church. "When my daughter came back, she told me she couldn't stand the way we were living anymore and that everything we had heard about the church was false," Joselinda shares.

Her daughter's words planted a seed, and soon, Joselinda found herself inviting her husband to go with her. He laughed, mocking the idea. "Are you crazy?" he asked. But Joselinda had reached her breaking point. "I told him, 'Our life can't get any worse.' I was desperate—I either had to end it all or hurt

my husband. I couldn't take it anymore. We went to the Universal Church, and I prayed, asking God



"

"I told him, 'Our life can't get any worse.' I was desperate..."

"

to help me change and to make my life different from that moment on," she says.

Letting go of her pain and doubts wasn't easy, but she kept moving forward. Over time, she witnessed a transformation. Her husband overcame his addictions, and she finally found the peace she had been searching for. Today, Joselinda is a happy woman, with a blessed and united family.

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