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HOLY WEEK

It starts on Palm Sunday, April 13th

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# UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

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"I spent sleepless nights, not knowing where my son was."  
(Read full story on page 6)

## PALM SUNDAY

Jesus' Triumphal Entry in your Life  
with the Anointing from Mount of Olives

Sunday, April 13th at 10am

Jesus entered Jerusalem after coming down from the Mount of Olives. In the same way, this Sunday, April 13, we will celebrate Palm Sunday—the day Jesus will enter your life. On this special day, everyone will be anointed with oil blessed at the Mount of Olives. When this happens, problems and suffering will have to leave! Read this special edition for more details.



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**Bishop Edir Macedo**

Like a palm tree

"I am able to walk again."

Page 3



MIRACLES

"The only way I found to support myself was through prostitution."  
(Read her story on page 11)

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PROSPERITY



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NOT TO BE SOLD



## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday signifies the commencement of Holy Week, a period leading to the pivotal events in history: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On this day, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, thereby fulfilling a prophecy made four centuries earlier by the Prophet Zechariah:

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zechariah 9:9)*

In biblical times, it was customary for kings to make grand entrances into their cities, with citizens gathering to welcome them. On that particular Sunday, as Jesus approached Jerusalem, the townspeople, having heard of His arrival, rushed into the streets, waving palm branches and laying down their garments in celebration. It was as if they were welcoming Jesus as the King of their lives. Although Jesus did not come to reign as an "earthly king," He did come to offer salvation and transformation to all who seek and follow Him. Spiritually, He becomes the Lord (King) in the lives of those who accept Him, reigning both on Earth and in Heaven.

This is why Palm Sunday holds such profound significance. But what does it mean for you today?

Many individuals are familiar with Jesus, yet only a few truly know Him on a personal level. Most miss out on the fulfillment, joy, and completeness that only He can provide due to the absence of a personal relationship with Him. While they may attend church, possess a Bible, or recite verses, their lives remain distant from Him, and they have not yet acknowledged Him as the Lord of their lives. They continue to pursue their own desires and follow worldly paths, thus failing to grasp the joy and excitement that Palm Sunday is meant to embody.

Are you interested in getting to know Jesus better? Would you like to develop a personal relationship with Him? We warmly invite you to celebrate Palm Sunday with us at a Universal Church nearby for our Gathering of Faith. Together, we will honor the triumphant entry of the Lord Jesus Christ into our lives. Join us on Sunday, April 13th, at 10 AM, as well as at 7 AM and 6 PM.

## | 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**



### Like a Palm Tree



**T**he righteous will thrive like a palm tree, growing strong like a cedar from Lebanon. Those who are rooted in the Lord's house will prosper in His courts.  
*Psalm 92:12-13*

When necessary, a palm tree's roots can extend for great distances underground in search of water. Typically found in warm, arid climates, it grows tall and resilient, able to withstand fierce winds and storms.

Palm trees often stand alone, bearing fruit where other trees cannot survive due to their unique resilience. Stay focused on the Altar.

The righteous are those who faithfully follow God's Word, regardless of whether they see immediate results.

They understand that the foundation of their faith is nourished by the River of Living Water, which fosters their growth.

On Palm Sunday, celebrated at the Universal Church around the globe, many new palm trees will be planted in the Lord's house. The outcome relies on your faith! It's time to stop waiting for others' prayers and validation and instead seek the source directly at the Altar.



### "In a million, it happened to me..."

waiting, I underwent several tests, but nothing conclusive was found. The diagnosis pointed to a neurological issue."

Fernando was sent home to await an appointment with a specialist. At that time, he was attending the Universal Church and using blessed water daily. He followed the doctor's advice but also sought divine intervention for his healing. "I tried to maintain my normal routine while waiting for my appointment, but when I got up for work on Monday, I noticed my speech was slurred," he remembers.

Still unaware of the severity of his condition, Fernando returned to the hospital, where he was promptly admitted. He was taken directly to the ICU. "My symptoms worsened; I completely lost my ability to speak and my physical strength. Unable to

communicate verbally, I attempted to write, but I had no sensation in my hands. I fluctuated between consciousness and unconsciousness; I was having a stroke."

"I experienced a rupture in my left carotid artery, which severely affected the blood flow to my brain. This was an extremely rare occurrence, yet it happened to me. The doctor expressed disbelief at my survival, noting that in cases like mine, only one in a million manages to live, and those who do often suffer severe disabilities. Each day, I express my gratitude to God, as my survival without any lasting effects is nothing short of a miracle. The medical community struggles to explain how I can live a normal life. My faith and God's intervention have been pivotal in my recovery, and I am eternally thankful."

- Fernando



# See what's happening on Sundays



**"I had problems with my vision for more than 20 years."**

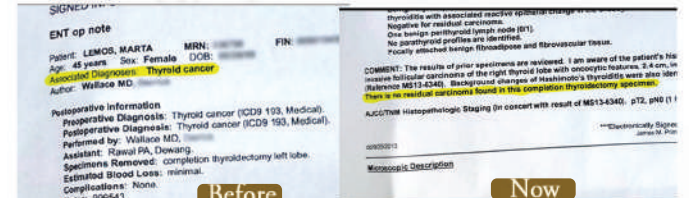
I struggled with vision problems for over 20 years, but last year, my eyesight worsened. Even with a 3.75 prescription, everything was blurry—I couldn't read, cook, or see people's faces, especially with my right eye. That year, I started attending church. On my first visit, I received blessed water and used it daily, drinking three sips and applying it as eye drops while praying for healing. I told God, "You are my 20/20 vision," trusting He would restore my sight. By the end of the week, I could see clearly. I remember picking up a shampoo bottle and realizing I could read the tiny print! Overjoyed, I gave away my glasses because I no longer needed them. Now, I see perfectly!

If Beatrice received her healing through faith and the blessed water, you too can experience miracles and restoration.

**"I was healed from Thyroid Cancer."**



One day, while eating, I suddenly started vomiting. Concerned, I went to the doctor, who diagnosed me with thyroid cancer. I was already attending church when I got the news, but I still broke down in tears. Then, I reminded myself—I was doing my spiritual treatment with the blessed water. I went straight to church, where the pastor advised me. I refused to accept the diagnosis. My medical report confirmed cancer, and doctors said there was only a 50/50 chance that treatment would work. I told my family, and my mother encouraged me to keep my faith. I trusted that God had the final word—He said, **"I am the Lord who heals you."**



Chemotherapy and radiation weakened me, but I never stopped seeking God. When I couldn't go to church, my son brought me the blessed water. I drank it, washed with it, and even mixed it with my medication—believing in my healing.

Today, I am cancer-free! My final medical exam confirmed it, and I have the papers to prove it. I feel alive again! Don't wait—come as you are. —Martha

**"I am able to walk again."**

I was in an accident while riding in an Access-A-Ride vehicle. The driver was out of control, and we crashed on Williams Bridge. Rescue workers had to carry me out because I couldn't move. In the hospital, I fell into a coma, and when I woke up, I was unable to walk. Even after surgery and therapy at a rehabilitation center, I had no balance.

I was given a walker, but I still kept falling. I took so much medication—seven to eight pills a day—that it left me in a daze, unable to think clearly.

Then, I started using the blessed water daily. I prayed, drank it in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and poured it on my neck and back. At first, I couldn't even reach my back, but I kept trying and asked my sister for help. Over time, I regained movement.

Today, I am healed. I feel strong, have no pain, and no longer need a walker or medication. God restored my health! —Zulma



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





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## Until Death...



“Until death do us part” are the famous wedding vows you’ve probably heard a thousand times—maybe you’ve even made these vows yourself. But here’s the thing: you’re still alive, your spouse is still alive, yet somehow, you’ve ended up apart.

Many people don’t even stop to figure out what went wrong or what they could have done to save their marriage. They just take the “no use crying over spilled milk” attitude and move on.

On the other hand, some take the time to reflect, seeking to understand the problem and fix it to avoid making the same mistakes in the future. Through soul-searching, they uncover the real issues: lack of communication, no longer doing things together, and eventually, just growing apart.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Where do you hear these words quoted the most? That’s right—at funerals. But did you know Paul was still alive when he gave this testimony? Yes, he was alive, standing strong in his faith, fighting the good fight, finishing his race, and holding on to his belief.

**You may lose anything, anyone, job, money, etc., but you must never lose faith.**

This tells us that the good fight happens here and now. Life is a journey, a daily race. Some days you win, some days you lose, but no matter what, you must hold on to your faith. You

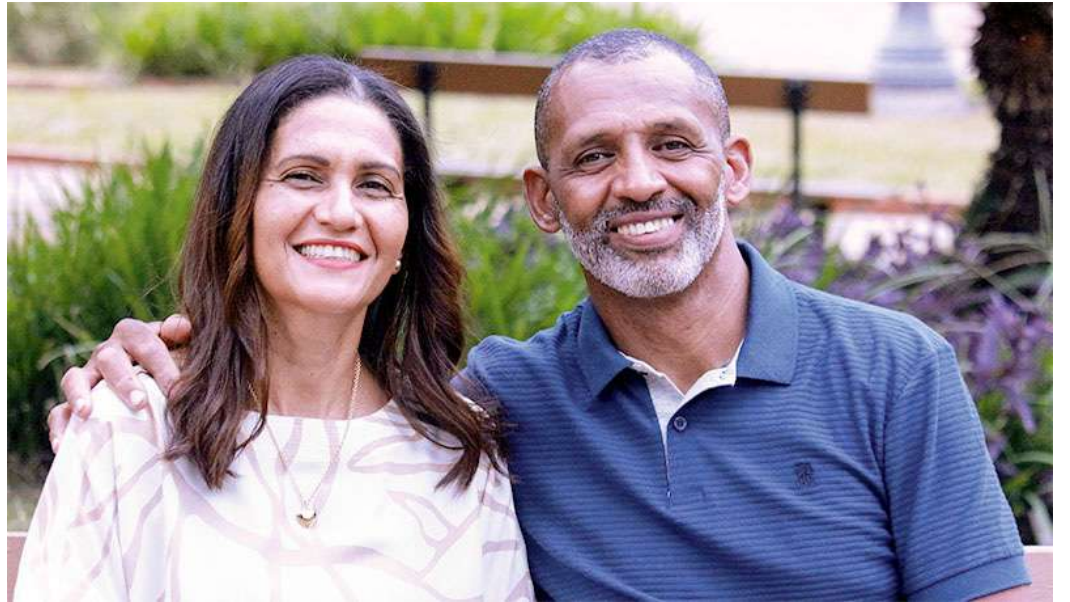
may lose people, jobs, money—anything—but you must never lose faith.

Keep your faith alive by reading the Bible, praying, and attending church. Don’t let your faith fade away. This must be your vow regarding faith: until death do us part.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

## “I started to believe that a happy marriage wasn’t real”

*Lack of self-esteem made Gisela Mariano accept crumbs to feel loved, but after meeting the Author of Love, she understood her value. Together with Luiz Mariano, who also overcame his past, today she lives the Divine promise.*



Low self-esteem led Gisela to accept mere scraps of affection just to feel loved. But after meeting the Author of Love, she finally understood her worth. Together with Luiz, who also overcame his past, she now lives the fulfillment of God’s promise.

Growing up in a home full of family conflicts, Gisela, now 49, says she started getting involved in romantic relationships at just 13 years old. She longed for something serious, but her relationships never lasted more than a single night. “I believed that to be happy, I needed someone by my side. So, I kept searching for a real relationship, but because of how I carried myself, I was treated like an object,” she recalls.

Gisela couldn’t stand being alone, so she put up with humiliating situations. “Even if a man was already in a relationship, I didn’t mind sharing him. But that only left me feeling even more disappointed in myself

and created a lot of inner conflict. I started to believe that a happy marriage wasn’t real.”

Struggling with loneliness and frustration, she turned to alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs to numb her pain. At 18, she found the Universal Church, and that’s when everything changed. “I started attending the services and learned that there was a day specifically dedicated to love life. Every Thursday, I made sure to be there. That’s how I met the Author of Love—God—who helped me understand my worth. I realized I didn’t need to depend on a man to be happy,” she says.

Once she overcame her pain and emotional dependence, her mindset shifted. She changed her standards and realized happiness was possible through faith. That’s when she met Luiz, now 52. He, too, came to the Universal Church carrying deep wounds from the past. Because of his parents’ constant conflicts, Luiz never saw the value in marriage and didn’t even want one.

Looking for an escape from his emptiness, he got involved in crime at just 13 years old. But when his mother invited him to the Universal Church, he found a new perspective on life. “Through the services focused on love life, I learned that, with God, love and family were completely different from what I had known. That planted in me a desire to build something real with someone,” he shares.

A blessed union

Healed from their past traumas, Gisela and Luiz built a friendship that grew into a serious relationship. After dating for

11 months, they got married in June 1997, receiving God’s blessing at the Altar of the Universal Church. “The Altar is the foundation of our lives. Without it, there’s no way for a marriage to work because it represents the Lord Jesus, who is the threefold cord that holds us together,” Gisela emphasizes.

Now, after 27 years together, they continue to experience God’s blessing in their marriage. “We have a happy marriage and a strong family. Every year, we understand each other better, and our love, support, and affection only grow,” Luiz concludes.

**When I met the Author of Love - God, I understood my worth...**

APRIL 2025 BIBLE READING						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 MARK 1 ✓	2 MARK 2 ✓	3 MARK 3 ✓	4 MARK 4	5 MARK 5
6 MARK 6	7 MARK 7	8 MARK 8	9 MARK 9	10 MARK 10	11 MARK 12	12 MARK 13
13 MARK 14	14 MARK 15	15 MARK 16	16 MARK 17	17 HOSEA 1	18 HOSEA 2	19 HOSEA 3
20 HOSEA 4	21 HOSEA 5	22 HOSEA 6	23 HOSEA 7	24 HOSEA 8	25 HOSEA 9	26 HOSEA 10
27 HOSEA 11	28 HOSEA 12	29 HOSEA 13	30 HOSEA 14			



# What's happening at the Universal Church

**"I ate from the garbage because I spent all my money on drugs."**



Ariel was introduced to alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana as a teenager. By 16, he was addicted, dropped out of school, and worked just to fund his habit. "I thought marriage would change me, but it only got worse. Even after we had a daughter, I was gone for days, using cocaine non-stop—at home, at work, anywhere."

His addiction wrecked his family. "I spent my paycheck on drugs, never thinking about my wife or daughter. We were always getting evicted. My wife supported us while I stole from her. I'd regret it, but I'd do it again."

Ariel stopped caring about everything, even himself. "I didn't bathe for days, wore the same clothes, and slept on the streets. My wife and I fought constantly. My daughter hid in the closet, afraid of me."

Desperate, he turned to crime. "One morning, broke and desperate, I robbed someone and went to prison for three years. When I got out, I fell right back into addiction. I wanted to die. I ate from the garbage to save money for drugs. I kept thinking, 'What would my mother say if she saw me like this?'"

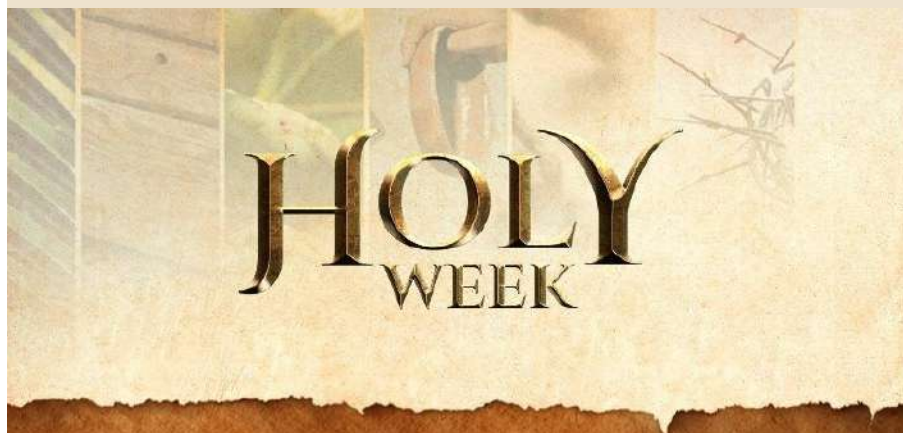


His wife invited him to a meeting at the Universal Church. "I had nothing to lose, so I went. To my surprise, I left without wanting to end my life. I kept going, and soon, the urge to drink and use disappeared."

Ariel turned his life around. "I haven't touched drugs or alcohol since. My wife and I stopped fighting. I apologized to those I hurt. I started my own business and have more time for my family. My daughter isn't afraid of me anymore—she never wants to leave my side. From hating myself to being truly happy, God gave me a new life. It was extraordinary and beyond words," he says.

- Ariel

## The Holy Week Events



The Holy Week is a significant time for Christians to remember and celebrate Jesus' journey to the cross and His resurrection. It begins with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, includes His sacrifice on Good Friday—where He took our sins upon Himself so we could have eternal life—and culminates with His victorious resurrection on Sunday. Though many have heard of Jesus, few truly understand who He is and what He did for us.

Throughout this week, He set powerful examples for His followers. Join us at the Universal Church from April 13–20 as we explore His teachings and learn how to apply them in our lives. It all begins on Palm Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday, which marks the start of the Holy Week:

*"The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!'" (John 12:12-13)*

Just as Jesus entered Jerusalem in victory, let's determine that He will enter triumphantly into our lives. Join us and experience His power like never before!

LOVE



### YPG: Dunking on Depression basketball game

The YPG Alabama organized a fantastic event in Montgomery aimed at raising awareness about youth suicide. It all started with an exciting basketball tournament, followed by a lunch for everyone involved. We took this chance to connect with people in the area, sharing details about the YPG's support programs for young adults and the mental health services available through the Church for adults. Counseling was offered to those facing mental health challenges, along with special prayers and uplifting messages from the Bible. The event turned out to be a huge success, with many parents and their kids expressing their appreciation for the initiative and the support from YPG.

## POSITIVE CHANGES

### NYGERIA'S TESTIMONY

Before joining the YPG, I was caught up in a rough lifestyle. I smoked weed, drank alcohol, and often disrespected my mom, always ready to pick a fight with my sisters. School was a struggle for me, and I was failing my classes.

Then I started attending church on Fridays for the chain of prayer, and I noticed positive changes in my life. I made the decision to dedicate my life to God, and it turned out to be the best choice I ever made! God helped me overcome my past struggles; I've stopped smoking and drinking. Now, I'm doing great in school, and my teachers are really proud of me. I've made the honor roll, my relationship with my sisters has improved, and I treat my mom with respect. I'm really grateful for the YPG, where I'm now a member at the Universal Church.



YPG.USA  
YPG USA

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

REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141



## “I spent sleepless nights, not knowing where my son was.”

During their childhood, the family lived in harmony, but when they reached adolescence, problems arose. “Their school friends began to influence them, and we realized that they were moving away from God,” says Francisco.

Erick remembers that his father always gave him good advice and was available to help, but the lifestyle of his cousins—full of parties, drugs, and relationships—started to seem more appealing. That was when he began lying to his parents to hide his actions. He would lie about where he was going and claim he wasn’t using drugs when, in reality, he was drinking, smoking tobacco, and using marijuana. “I saw that my father was trying to help me, but I didn’t want to be helped at that moment.”

Fabrício went through a similar experience: “Every Monday at school, my classmates would talk about their weekends—partying, drinking, and being with multiple girls. That caught my attention and made me lose sight of the things of God.”

Although he often felt uncomfortable in those places, Erick went along with his friends: “I always acted like I was happy, but deep inside, I felt an enormous emptiness.” Fabrício also

admits that he disobeyed his parents just to fit in, but all the partying and drug use were just his way of trying to escape the anguish he felt. “A moment that really impacted me was when I came home high, and my mother told me that this was not the life they had taught me, but that God’s way was different.”

Francisco and his wife, Evanilda, persevered in their faith and participated in prayer purposes for their family at the Universal Church. They wrote their children’s names and placed them on the Altar, symbolizing their surrender to God. “Many people overlook this, but these purposes are very important. God doesn’t forget the names we place on the Altar. We always believed in the Word that says: ‘As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.’”

As the parents remained steadfast, believing in victory through faith, change began to take place in their children’s hearts.

“One day, my mother invited me to go to church again. I saw that invitation as an opportunity to return, and I embraced it with all my strength. From that moment on, I began changing my life because I started reflecting on the fact that if I surrendered myself to God, the emptiness I felt could finally

disappear. And that’s exactly what happened,” says Fabrício.

Fabrício started attending Youth Power Group meetings, was baptized in water, and later received the Holy Spirit.

But Erick still needed to change. He even returned to the Universal Church, but he wasn’t firm in his faith. According to his father, the second time he strayed, he fell into his worst phase yet.

At that time, Evanilda began a new purpose of faith. Her prayer was for the dream of every mother: “I spent sleepless nights, not knowing where my son was. I told God that I had everything, but I lacked the peace of having my son safe at home. In that purpose, I asked for my son to become a man of God.”

Erick recalls: “I never showed it, but I felt such an immense emptiness inside me that I even considered suicide. Then, I began to observe the happiness my parents had, and I wanted to know that true happiness. I wanted to have the same strength they had to overcome life’s challenges. I remember that every day, I prayed, asking God to guide my path.”



Francisco emphasizes that everything happened at the right time: “God is never late. He does things at the perfect moment. His mercy is so great that just a week after Fabrício returned to the Church, one of his friends was arrested for participating in a robbery. If Fabrício had not returned to God at that moment, he would have been caught up in that crime too. When we make a vow, we have to trust. We may not see the result immediately, but God is always working.”

Today, filled with the Holy Spirit, Erick no longer bases his joy on fleeting moments. He has found the same faith and inner peace he once saw in his parents.

“Even though I ignored them so many times, if my parents hadn’t fought for me, I know I wouldn’t be here today,” he concludes.



## I was tormented by the evil spirits.

Celia is happy and lives in harmony with her family, but her life wasn’t always peaceful. When she was young, she and her family started attending the Universal Church. Little by little, she became obedient to God’s Word and dedicated herself to helping others and serving in the church.

For years, she was committed to her faith, but doubts about her future started creeping in and weakening her trust in God. “I started to fall when I became too focused on myself. I stopped dedicating myself to helping people, pulled back from church

activities, and let worries about my love life take over. My friends were getting married, and I felt like I was falling behind. Day by day, I lost interest in everything until I eventually stopped going to church,” she says.

Celia stopped trusting God and began searching for happiness her own way. “I figured since God gave me free will, I could live however I wanted. I got involved in spiritualism, believed what those entities told me, and went deeper and deeper into it,” she recalls. During this time, she started dating a boy from school, and before long, they got married. But while she was caught up in her own choices, she drifted away from her parents and

sister, who remained faithful to God at the Universal Church. That’s when her life started spiraling downward. “Our home was miserable. My husband had to collect recyclables to make ends meet, and his mother helped us with her retirement money. One day, I found a bag of expired food on the street, and I immediately thought about how we had nothing to eat. That food became our meals for the next three weeks,” she says.

With three kids and overwhelmed by so much suffering, Celia turned to different religions, desperately searching for answers. She even witnessed entities mistreating her children during rituals, yet she still insisted on doing things her way. The more time passed, the more tormented she felt.

One day, she saw an ad for a TV program and suddenly thought of her parents. That moment sparked

something inside her. “I wanted to watch the program, but I felt like the devil was always in my head, making me afraid that I’d have a manifestation right there in my house,” she says.

Determined to change, Celia started resisting the negative thoughts, let go of her old beliefs, and began thinking seriously about her salvation. She reached out to her sister for help and returned to the Universal Church, attending the deliverance meetings on Fridays with her children. Her husband also abandoned the evil spirits, but it took him a while to fully accept faith in God.

“I went through many struggles to truly convert and receive the Holy Spirit. But when I finally did, everything changed. I was born again—a completely new person,” she says. Today, Celia remains faithful to God, continuing to help others who are going through their own battles.





**P**alm Sunday is a powerful day for Christians. It marks the moment when the Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph, welcomed by a crowd of Israelites waving palm branches. It was a significant event in history—but what does it mean for you today?

Look at what happens when Jesus enters:

- He entered Jairus' house, and his daughter was healed.
- He entered a wedding, and the water turned into wine.
- He entered Peter's mother-in-law's house, and she was healed.
- He entered the home of a paralyzed man lowered through the roof, and the man was healed.
- He entered the Temple and purified it.
- He entered a boat, and there was a miraculous catch of fish.

• And finally, He came down from the Mount of Olives and entered Jerusalem.

"Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:37-38)

On this special day, you will be anointed with oil blessed on the Mount of Olives. Just as Jesus entered Jerusalem, He will enter your life—and you will triumph over your problems.

When the Lord Jesus enters, problems have to leave!



”

"I was an alcoholic, suicidal, and depressed. I was abused as a child. I was trapped in darkness, completely numb. But when the Lord Jesus entered my life, He gave me freedom, peace, love, and forgiveness. Today, I am free!" – Ada

Where do you need the Lord Jesus to triumphantly enter?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> house              | <input type="checkbox"/> troubled children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> family             | <input type="checkbox"/> impossible cases  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> body with sickness | <input type="checkbox"/> marriage          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> finances           | <input type="checkbox"/> other             |

If you marked other, write below where you need the Lord Jesus to enter in your life:

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UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

You are NOT alone!



“ I did not know how I would support my family. So, I decided to take matters into my own hands. Which landed me behind bars.” – Vusi

idea. If honest work couldn't provide enough, maybe crime could. He convinced himself that joining a gang was his only way out. Desperation drowned out his doubts as he devised a plan to break into banks and post offices to steal money. "We carefully moved through the ceiling

For a while, the plan worked. He had cash in his pockets, and his family's needs were met. But the illusion of success quickly shattered. He was arrested three times in two years.

The first two times, a lack of court records set him free. But the third time, luck ran out. His criminal record caught up with him, and he was sentenced to three years and six months in prison.

Prison was a wake-up call. Locked behind bars, he had time to reflect on the choices that had led him there. The money had come easily, but at the cost of his freedom and dignity.

After his release, his aunt invited him to the Universal Church (UBB). At first, he hesitated, unsure if change was possible. But as he attended services and prayed, something shifted within him. He made the decision to surrender his life to God, allowing faith to guide him instead of greed. Since then, Vusi has left his past behind. He now lives honestly, grateful for the second chance he has been given. "I used to believe money was the answer to everything. Now I know peace is worth more," he says with a newfound sense of purpose.

Driven by greed and desperation, Vusi, a skilled technician, turned to crime, a decision that ultimately led to his imprisonment.

"Providing for my family back home, buying clothes and food for myself, and paying rent felt impossible on my salary. No matter how hard I worked, it was never enough. I felt like a failure, unable to take care of my responsibilities," he recalled.

Vusi's nights were restless. His mind raced with worry, replaying the same thoughts over and over—how could he make more money? His anxiety grew unbearable, leaving him exhausted and hopeless.

One night, frustration turned into a dangerous

boards, using my technical skills to disable security systems and open safes. It felt like a movie—adrenaline rushing, the thrill of getting away with it.

We split the stolen money, which helped me pay rent and support my family," he admitted.

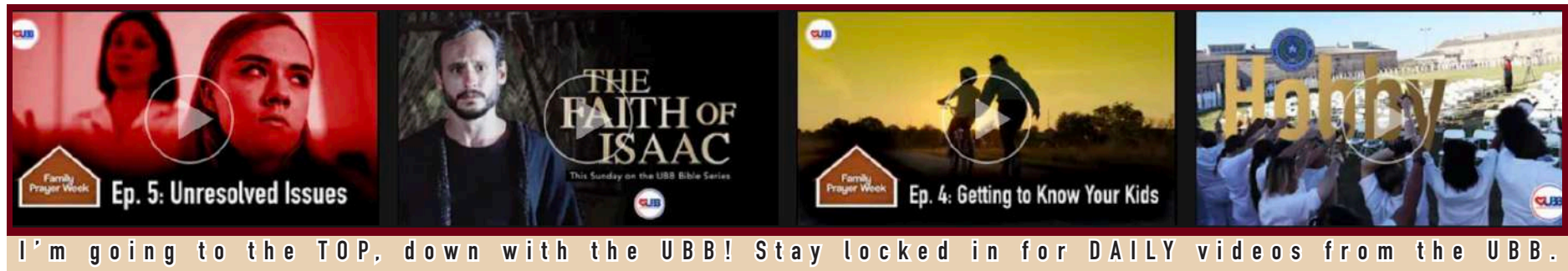


"I cry out to God; yes, I shout. Oh, that God would listen to me! When I was in deep trouble, I searched for the Lord." Psalms 77:1-2

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.

Include: Name/ID #, Facility, Complete Address, City/State, and the Zip code.





# Feeling lost & misunderstood?

You're not alone. Everyone feels this way at some point. It's tough when it seems like your opinions don't matter or when people judge you based on what's on paper instead of who you truly are.

**But don't give up—  
there's a reason to keep  
going. There's Someone  
who understands you  
completely, Someone  
who knows your  
struggles firsthand. That  
Someone is Jesus.**

You might be surprised to learn that Jesus experienced weakness and temptation, just like you. He faced the same struggles—sometimes even worse—but He never lost sight of His purpose. He understands what it's like to feel lost and alone.

Here are just a few challenges Jesus went through:

- **Anger:** Remember when Jesus flipped the tables in the Temple? He was angry because people were turning a holy place into a marketplace.
- **Sadness:** He wept for Jerusalem because He saw His people straying from the truth.
- **Despair:** In the Garden of Gethsemane, He was so overwhelmed that His sweat turned

to blood.

- **Imprisonment:** Before His crucifixion, He was held captive for about 12 hours.
- **False Judgment:** Even though Pilate found no fault in Him, the crowd still demanded His crucifixion.
- **Abuse:** Before He was crucified, He was tied down, beaten, and mocked.

Jesus endured all of this, yet He overcame. That's what makes Him so special—He understands what it means to be human, and He wants to help you through your struggles.

If you feel lonely and misunderstood, know that

Jesus is ready to embrace you.

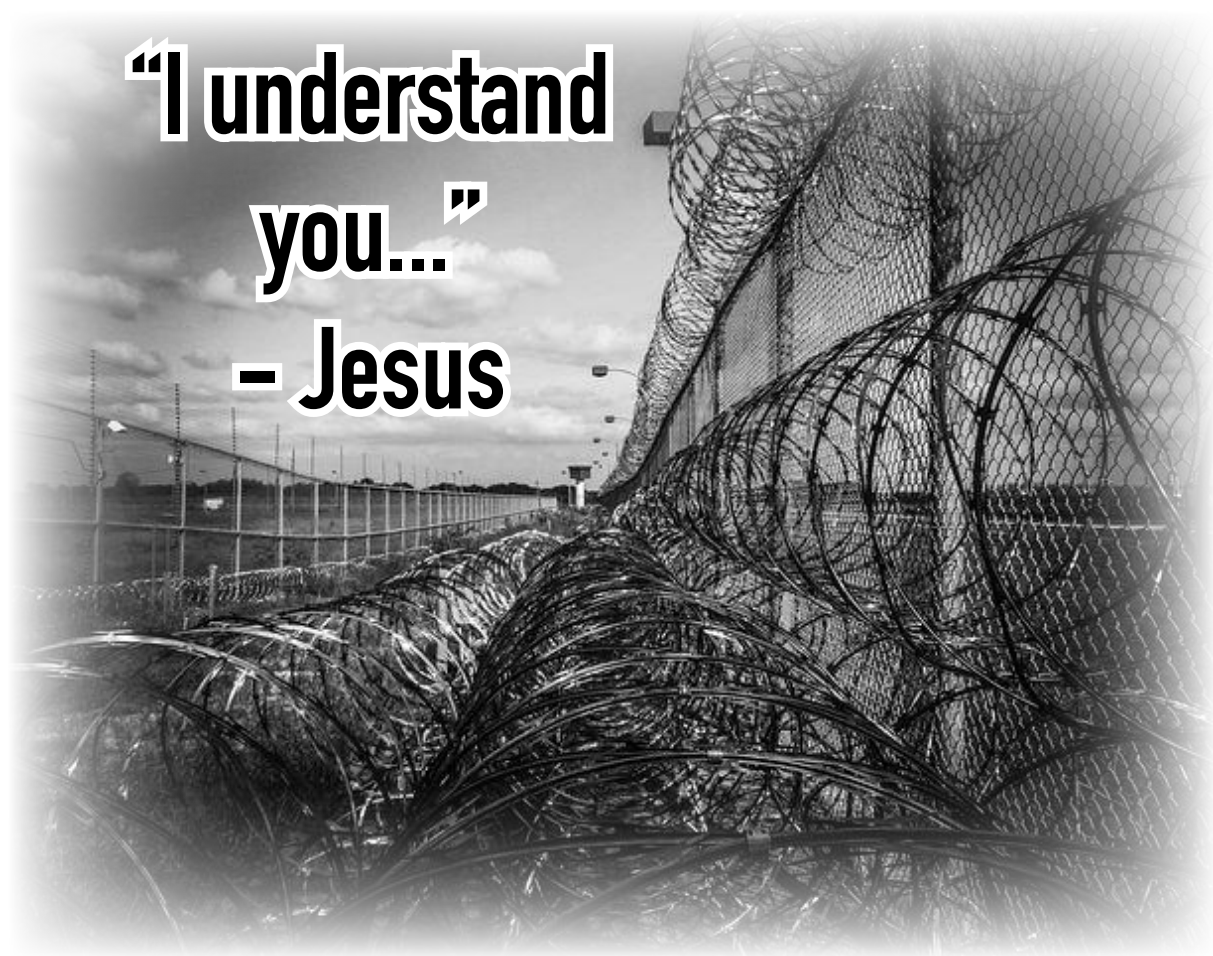
He can lead you to something better. Loneliness might feel like a safe place because it's familiar, but you don't have to stay there. Give your burdens to the One who truly understands.

Jesus never let people's opinions define Him. He knew He had a greater purpose. And so do you.

Don't let how others treat you determine your worth. You're stronger than you think.

Change isn't easy—but neither is staying the same. Trust that God has something better for you.

**"I understand  
you..."  
- Jesus**



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.?

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# JESUS

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**STOP SUFFERING | 2pm**

**BREAKING THE SILENCE | 3pm**

**FIGHTING THE UNSEEN ENEMY**  
4pm with Bishop David

**TEN COMMANDMENTS | 5pm**

**GENESIS | 7pm**

**JESUS THE SERIES | 9pm**

**LET THERE BE LIGHT | 12am**



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**"The only way I found to support myself was through prostitution."**



Ana Paula always felt that her mother paid more attention to her siblings than to her. "I lived with my mother, my brothers, and my stepfather. I always sensed that he was uncomfortable with my presence. My mother, in turn, favored my brothers, which left painful wounds in my heart," she explains.

At 19, Ana met a young man and moved in with him, despite her mother's disapproval. "My mother cried a lot, and I thought: Why is she complaining? She never appreciated me, and now she's crying? At first, the relationship was good." Her boyfriend worked while she stayed home, but after a year, he lost his job. Ana searched for work but couldn't find anything. "The only way I found to support myself was through prostitution. I thought it would be temporary and that I could quit whenever I wanted. But things didn't go as I had imagined," she recalls.

"At first, I felt dirty, but over time, I adapted to that sordid life. It also led me to start drinking," she confesses. Meanwhile, her ex-boyfriend had completely stopped working and spent his days drinking. Ana eventually left the relationship. Later, she hired him to watch her house for security reasons, but he took advantage of the situation and turned her home into a drug house.

One day, Ana returned home to find that the money she had saved for rent was missing. When she confronted her ex-boyfriend, he admitted to stealing it. Furious, she barred him from entering her house. "That's when he started stalking me, throwing rocks at my window, and trying to scare me. One night, he broke into my house, put a knife to my neck, and abused me. I thought he wouldn't have the courage to kill me. Deep down, I almost wished he would because I wanted to die."

Her mother and grandmother stepped in to rescue and support her during this dark period. Despite their help, Ana remained in prostitution. "I always thought about God, especially in my worst moments, but I also held a grudge against Him. I blamed Him for my problems," she admits. Eventually, she decided to leave prostitution. She found a job, started traveling, made friends, and tried to live a normal life.

"On the outside, things looked different, but I still wanted more. I needed inner peace. I remembered how, as a child, my mother used to take me to The Universal Church." She searched for the nearest location and began attending services. After a while, she surrendered her life to the Lord Jesus.

Ana dedicated herself to studying God's Word, building a relationship with Him, and renouncing her past to receive the Presence

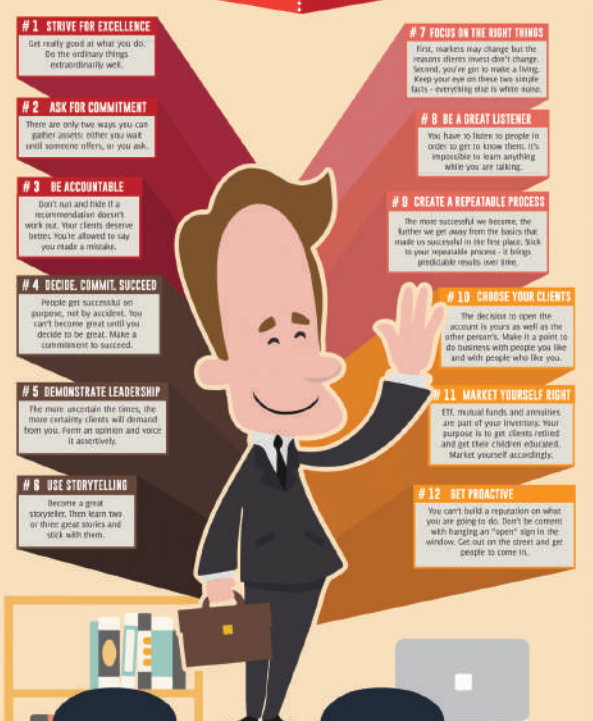
of God. Ana dedicated herself to studying God's Word, building a relationship with Him, and renouncing her past to receive the Presence of the Holy Spirit. "I learned that I needed to let go of my past to receive the peace I had searched for my whole life. I walked away from the world, from addictions, and from prostitution. I surrendered my will to follow God's. I was baptized in water and received the Holy Spirit. Today, I have a great relationship with my mother, God is my strength and my salvation, and I'm prospering with God's help," Ana concludes.



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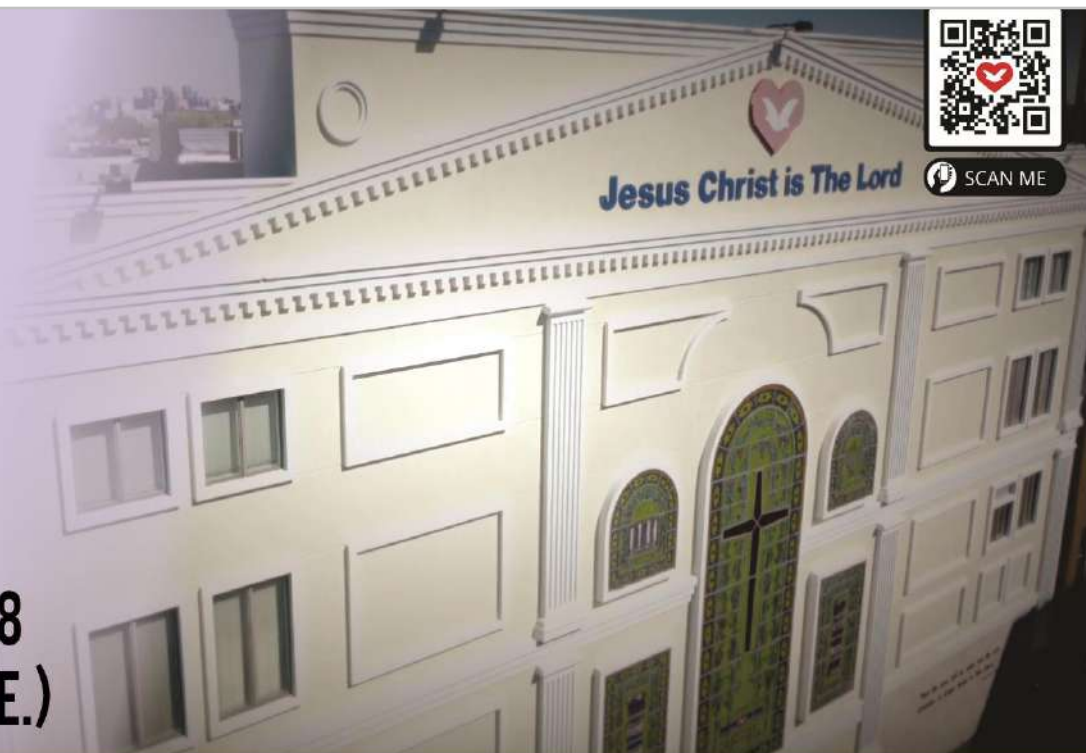
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