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What's happening at

Medicine
could
not heal
the
emptiness
inside.

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UNIVERSAL

UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

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There's a cure for this unbearable pain in your soul

Depression is an inexplicable pain that finds shelter in the soul and hijacks the natural rhythm of life. Because of it, dreams are shattered, and people languish. The current scenario indicates the biggest depressive crisis of all time.

At the height of my depression, I tried to
throw myself in front of a train. (Page 6)



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Gathering of Faith and Miracles



Every Sunday at 10 AM

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MIRACLES



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

The unbearable pain of the soul

Do you feel empty inside? Like there's a deep hole in your heart that nothing and no one can fill? Are you dealing with a constant, unbearable pain in your soul—one that never seems to go away, no matter what you do or try?

You could be suffering from depression.

Depression is more than just feeling sad. It's a deep, unexplainable pain that settles in the soul and throws a person's entire life off balance. It brings persistent sadness, a lack of interest in things you once enjoyed, and even physical symptoms like aches, pain, and constant fatigue. It can interfere with your ability to function day to day. Over time, it crushes dreams and leaves many people feeling stuck and hopeless.

In recent years, depression has been steadily on the rise. Many people try to hide their inner battles behind work, substance use, shopping, relationships, or even hobbies. But despite all those efforts, they're still left feeling frustrated and unfulfilled. The truth is, no amount of success, social connection, or pleasure can make that emptiness disappear.

The more we chase temporary relief in the wrong places, the deeper the loneliness grows. Even wealth and status can't ease the pain in a person's soul. That's because the solution isn't found in what we can see or touch—but in what we can't.

The only true way to fill that void is through a real encounter with the Spirit of God. The emptiness inside every human soul is exactly the size of His Presence. That's why nothing else ever seems to work.

If any of this speaks to you, we invite you to join us at a Universal Church near you this Sunday at 10 a.m.—a special day to refresh your soul and find the peace that only God can give.

| 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

The voice that raises you up



We are all shaped by the voices we choose to listen to. When we listen to the voice of the devil, we become insecure, anxious, doubtful, worried, and afraid. But when we tune in to the Voice of God, we become strong, courageous, confident, and determined.

The voice you listen to determines how you react to life's challenges. The Bible says:

"The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh." Psalm 29:4-8

God's voice is powerful. It gives you the strength to face anything—even death—because when He speaks, it's like thunder inside the soul of the one who hears Him.

But when we stop listening to His voice, we lose control. Even the miracles we've experienced in the past won't be enough to carry us through the darkest times.

That's why so many people have fallen in their faith. There are countless "exes" among us—men and women who were once powerfully used by God, who witnessed His power firsthand in their lives and the lives of others. But the moment they stopped listening to God's voice and started following the voice of their own heart (which the Bible says is deceitful), the voice of others, the world, or even the devil—they began to sink. They lost their greatest treasure: their Salvation.

The disciples went through the same thing. For three years, they walked with Jesus and heard His voice daily. It gave them direction, confidence, and assurance. But after His death, they were overwhelmed with fear and locked themselves away in hiding. Then something amazing happened:

"That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! 'Peace be with you,' He said. As He spoke, He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. They were filled with joy when they



saw the Lord!

Jesus spoke again: 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you.'

Then He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" —John 20:19-22

Every time Jesus spoke to them, it was the voice of God—restoring their faith and strengthening them. Then He gave them the Holy Spirit so they would never have to rely on their own strength again. From that moment on, they were born again. They became bold and unshakable, just like Jesus said they would.

This shows us something important: we must be born again and baptized with the Holy Spirit. That's the only way we can keep hearing the Voice of God within us—guiding us, teaching us, and strengthening us daily. But it's a choice. You must decide which voice you'll listen to.

If you find yourself weak, discouraged, consumed with negative thoughts, or feeling down because of someone or something, it's a sign of which voice has been occupying your mind. And if you're not careful, that voice can lead you to the worst outcome of all: losing your Salvation.

But when you choose to listen to the Voice of God—really listen—and let Him lead you, you become strong. You'll overcome every challenge, every setback. Nothing and no one will be able to stop you.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live." John 5:25



"I had strong urges to throw myself in front of a train."

like I had to keep pretending to be someone I wasn't, and the weight of that pressure pushed me even deeper into sadness. I would isolate myself, cry for hours, and sometimes I had dark thoughts—thoughts about ending it all. I honestly believed that the only way out of what I was feeling was to take my own life. There were times I stood on the edge of the train platform, feeling strong urges to jump. The thoughts were overwhelming. But somehow, something always held me back.

Around that time, I made a new friend at school who was a Christian. She started telling me about Jesus and how her life had changed. She was attending the Universal Church and invited me to go with her. At first, I wasn't interested—I didn't believe in Jesus. But later, she invited me again, this time to a youth group meeting, and I decided to give it a try.

That meeting changed something in me. I actually enjoyed it and felt something I hadn't felt in a long time—hope. So I kept coming back. The more I came, the more things started to change in my life. Slowly, I began to believe that there really was a way out of everything I was going through. I got serious about my faith, was baptized in water, and then—one unforgettable day in April 2011—I received the Holy Spirit.

That day, everything changed. All the sadness, the depression, the suicidal thoughts—gone. I felt peace. Real peace. A joy I had never experienced before. That day, I found the hope I'd been searching for all along. Since then, I've never struggled with depression again. The sadness and bitterness were replaced with a happiness that can only come from God.

- Juliana

See what's happening on Sundays



“I don’t have glaucoma; my eyes are completely clear now!”

Last July, I went in for a routine eye exam. After checking everything, the doctor told me I had glaucoma. He warned me that if I didn’t have surgery, I could eventually go blind. Right away, I started using the blessed water every day. From July to December, I washed my eyes with it faithfully.

When I went back for another exam with a specialist, the results came back totally clear—no sign of glaucoma at all. I was healed!
—Pauline



“The test results came back clear—twice!”

Last November, my aunt found a lump in her breast. After seeing the doctor, she was diagnosed with cancer. The very next month, I got a job offer I had been praying for in another country. Around the same time, I discovered a lump in my own breast. I broke down in tears. It felt like a generational curse—another aunt of mine had already passed away from the same illness.

I went in for a mammogram, and the results confirmed there was a lump. I immediately went to see the pastor, and he prayed for me. I also began using the blessed water, even applying some of it directly to my breast.

When I returned to the doctor, he said he couldn’t feel the lump anymore. I did another test, and this time, the results came back completely clear—there was no lump! I give all the thanks and glory to God!
—Serena



“There’s no fracture in my head, and everything is normal!”

About two weeks ago, I went to a building with 21 floors, but the elevator wasn’t working. So I decided to take the stairs. While climbing, I slipped and hit my head hard on a big metal pipe.

I was knocked out for about 15 minutes. They rushed me to the emergency room, and I told the doctor what had happened.



When they checked my blood pressure, it was 190 over 80. The doctor also said I had a baseline fracture in my head.

I started drinking the blessed water every day, calling on the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When I went back to the doctor, they couldn’t find anything wrong. I didn’t need the medication anymore! They also told me I had a minor stroke—which I hadn’t even realized—but after checking everything again, they said everything looked normal. My blood pressure is fine now, no blood clots, no issues at all. All glory to God!

—Marlene

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Mark 9:23



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



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

Hold On—He's Closer Than You Think



There are moments in life when everything just feels too heavy to carry. The pain, the silence, the uncertainty—it all piles up. And even though we believe in God, sometimes it feels like He's far away. Like He's watching from a distance but not stepping in.

But that's not the God of the Bible.

"The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves those who are crushed in spirit."
—Psalm 34:18

Yes—He's near. That means in your darkest night, when no one else is around, He is. When you feel crushed by mistakes, rejection, illness, or loneliness—God is there.

He doesn't run from your pain. He walks right into it with you.

Maybe you haven't seen the answer yet. Maybe the door

still looks shut. But don't let your eyes fool you. Just because you can't see the way, doesn't mean He hasn't already made one.

Hold on, my friend.

Hold on—even if your hands are shaking.

Hold on—even if your heart is breaking.

Hold on—even when others say it's over.

Because your God is near. Not tomorrow. Not "someday." Right now.

When the world walks out, God walks in. Into your mess, your confusion, your hospital room, your silence, even your cell.

He is the Rescuer of the broken.

And if that's how you feel today, then you're exactly the one He came for.

May the God of the Bible bless you.

"I used almost every kind of drug trying to fill the huge void I felt inside."



Maria Ferreira, 53, a waitress, says her childhood was filled with love, affection, and support. But everything started to change in her teenage years when she met people who influenced her to make poor choices—choices that went against everything she'd learned at home.

"At 15, I moved to another city, thinking life would get better. But that was the start of my downfall. I started drinking and eventually tried marijuana," she recalls.

What started as "just for fun" quickly turned into a daily habit. "I ended up using nearly every kind of drug trying to fill this massive emptiness I felt in my soul—cocaine, hallucinogenic mushrooms, you name it."

By the time she was 16, Maria was in a relationship with a drug dealer. She thought he would love her—but instead, he mistreated and controlled her. "He had other women and was emotionally abusive. He'd threaten me if I even thought about leaving. Things only got worse when I got pregnant."

Despite being pregnant, Maria kept using drugs, desperate to escape her reality and the emotional turmoil inside. "On top of my addictions, I was depressed. I heard voices, saw shadows. Nights were the worst—insomnia took over and my mind wouldn't stop racing."

Her drug use not only stole her peace and joy—it stole her baby. Her son died from a bacterial infection before his first birthday.

Maria continued down the same dark path for years. Then, something

happened that shook her to her core: one of her closest friends was murdered by a "crime court"—a brutal form of judgment used by criminal organizations against those who disobey their rules.

"We were really close. After he died, I started seeing him—I was hallucinating. That moment terrified me because I realized I could be next."

After nearly 24 years of drug use, Maria had hit rock bottom. That's when her aunt invited her to the Universal Church. Desperate for change, she went.

"I felt embarrassed when I walked in—I wasn't dressed the way I thought I should be. But the way they welcomed me...I'll never forget it. After that first service, it was like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders."

That was the turning point. Maria began sleeping peacefully again. She gave her life to God and, over time, was completely set free—from addiction, fear, and the deep emptiness that haunted her for decades.

"After that decision, I received the Holy Spirit. He changed everything inside me. Today, I'm married, I have a blessed family, and I live in peace and joy. Now, I share my story to show others what God can do. He truly transforms lives."

Despite being pregnant, Maria kept using drugs, desperate to escape her reality and the emotional turmoil inside.

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 couldn't see a way out."



a while—until one day, I decided I was done. I was done living that way.

I didn't care anymore about the relationship I was in, the debts I had, or the people who might hold me back. I just knew I needed God. So I gave myself fully to Him. I started attending church regularly again and made the decision to join the Daniel Fast—a 21-day period we do in the church where we disconnect from distractions like social media and entertainment to connect more deeply with God.

I started going to church when I was just four years old. A family member invited me, and I stayed strong in my faith until I was about thirteen. I was dedicated to the work and the Word of God. But over time, I let doubts and negative thoughts creep into my heart. Then a relationship I got into pulled me even further away from God, and without realizing it, I drifted away completely.

Once I was far from God, I threw myself into the world—drinking, partying, and chasing empty relationships. I got hooked on vaping and drugs. My group of friends only pulled me deeper into that lifestyle. On the outside, I acted like I was fine. I smiled, laughed, and kept up appearances. But inside, I felt completely empty. Nothing I did could fill that void. I ended up with a mountain of debt and found myself stuck in toxic relationships. No matter how hard I tried to get out of that life, I couldn't. I felt like I was trapped in a cycle I couldn't break. And I felt completely alone.

Every now and then, I'd try to go back to church. I'd show up once every six months or so, but I never committed. I wasn't truly surrendering, so I always slipped back into my old habits. That went on for

During that fast, I sought God with all my heart. I surrendered completely. And then, something amazing happened—I received the Holy Spirit. That moment was unlike anything I've ever experienced. I don't even have the words to describe it. All I can say is that God filled me with peace and gave me strength I never knew I had.

Today, I'm a new person. My life is fully surrendered to God, and I'm 100% committed to Him. That deep emptiness that used to eat me up inside is gone—completely filled by His presence. Now I live with peace, purpose, and real happiness.

If you've drifted from your faith like I did, I want you to know—it's not too late. God is waiting for you with open arms. Maybe you walked away because of doubts, disappointments, or bad influences, but nothing this world offers will ever be able to fill that void inside you. Only God can do that. It doesn't matter how long you've been gone or how far you've wandered. What matters is the choice you make right now. Take the first step—and He'll take care of the rest. Leave your past behind and start a new story with God.

—Gabriel

"I took a lot of medication, but the emptiness inside me only grew."



Marcilene felt a deep emptiness she couldn't explain. She tried all kinds of medication, but nothing helped—until she met the Lord Jesus, who filled that void. Today, she's a whole and fulfilled person.

Ever since I was a child, I felt rejected by my family. Many of them wouldn't even talk to me. Things only got worse after my father passed away when I was a teenager. The pain and sadness, mixed with anger, caused me to develop a tough personality and rebellious behavior.

I ran away from home several times, sometimes staying gone for days. When my mother and brother found me and brought me back, they would beat me. Eventually, I got into a relationship, and at 18, I became pregnant with my first child. But what should have been a joyful time was instead filled with sadness. Things got even worse during my second pregnancy. That's when I was diagnosed with depression and started psychiatric treatment.

I took a lot of medication, but the emptiness inside me just kept growing. For years, I searched for peace and happiness in all the wrong places—people, religions, drugs, alcohol, and parties. I got into rela-

tionships I knew had no future and struggled with deep insecurities.

My lowest point came one day when I was alone in my apartment. I felt the urge to climb to the top of the building and end my life. But when I got there, a voice inside reminded me of my children, and I chose not to go through with it. Not long after, though, I tried again. By then, I had already started cutting myself, and I felt the urge to slit my wrists. In that moment, I remembered God. I talked to Him and opened the Bible to a passage that calmed my heart.

I moved to the U.S. hoping for a fresh start, but nothing changed. I had heard of the Universal Church before but had never gone. One day, when I felt like I had nothing left, I remembered the Church and looked it up on Facebook. I found a phone number and called for help right away. Someone answered and even came to pick me up so I could get help at the Church. That was the beginning of my spiritual battle—a battle I won and continue to win every day.

Today, I am completely free from all evil. The emptiness I once felt has been replaced by the peace and joy that only Jesus can give. I've made a true commitment to God, and now I live a full and abundant life. Today, I want to be the person who reaches out to others in need. Talking about Jesus has become a joy for me. I want to share the message that saved me with anyone who feels lost like I once did—because just as there was hope for me, there's hope for everyone.

In Jesus, I live a brand new life.

—Marcilene

POSITIVE CHANGES

"A new life through YPG"

Before I joined the YPG, my life was completely dark. I was struggling with depression, smoking addiction, toxic relationships, and I was hanging out with the wrong crowd. I was also caught up in confusion about my identity and living in a way that left me feeling empty. At one point, I was even close to committing a serious crime—when a friend invited me to church.

At first, I didn't want to go, but I eventually gave it a shot. The message that day spoke straight to my heart. Still, it was the YPG that really made me stay. Their joy, unity, and positive energy drew me in.

We had fun, played games, and shared our talents. It was a space where I could truly be myself and grow.

Little by little, I kept coming back. I got closer to God, started attending the BFA (Bible Faith Academy), and everything changed. Today, I'm an assistant, filled with the Holy Spirit, and living with purpose—doing God's work and helping others find the same light I did.



REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141



NYC event raises awareness about the dangers of subway surfing



A recent event in New York City brought attention to the growing and dangerous trend of subway surfing—where people climb on top of moving trains. Community leaders, safety advocates, and local officials came together to speak out about the serious risks involved, especially for young people who are often drawn in by social media challenges.


The event aimed to educate the public about the life-threatening consequences of this reckless behavior, including severe injuries and even death. Organizers emphasized the urgent need to put a stop to subway surfing, not only to protect those attempting it but also to ensure the safety of all New Yorkers. Their message was clear: no thrill is worth a life.



YPG.USA

YPG USA

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



“THERE'S A CURE FOR THIS UNBEARABLE PAIN IN YOUR SOUL”

If you frequently struggle with sleep, lack the energy to complete your daily tasks, or experience a sudden increase in your pulse for no apparent reason, be cautious. These could be signs that anxiety or depression, among other issues, may be at play.

According to psychiatrist Michele Teles, these conditions affect people of all ages. “People over 60 often have trouble coping with unwanted changes. They face more losses in this age group and deal with grief and depression more often, while younger people tend to show more signs of anxiety. Younger individuals also report higher levels of social and academic stress, are more impulsive, and have a higher risk of substance abuse,” Teles explains. While medications and therapy sessions can be helpful, they are not a cure-all. This doesn't mean depression is incurable, though. In fact, it highlights that the path to healing lies in faith. Faith in the Word of God has the power to transform any situation. It changes how a person sees the world, and that shift is the beginning of a new life. After all, “the eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness” (Matthew 6:22-23).

Smart faith helps people move beyond past pain and trauma, and instead, cling to God and His promises. It helps them believe that the Almighty knows each person intimately (Jeremiah 1:5), loves them unconditionally (John 3:16), and that they don't need to be afraid because they are never alone (Deuteronomy 31:8). The determination to replace thoughts of death with thoughts of God can make a powerful difference for those who believe. The following stories prove that depression can be overcome through faith in God. No matter your circumstances, what you've lost, or the thoughts running through your mind, there is always a way out. Do something different—give your pain to God, and let Him work in your life to heal it. We encourage you to start a prayer chain and seek healing for your soul through God. Join us every Sunday at 10 AM for a prayer that will restore your soul.

“At the height of my depression, I tried to throw myself in front of a train.”

Ingrit left the Universal Church when she was 13. At that time, her parents' marriage was falling apart. She remembers that, since she was 6, the constant fights and tension between them were clear. “This situation created conflict and anger in me,” Ingrit recalls.

As a result, she started comparing herself to other girls her age. Questions began to arise. “I had two lives: one as a daughter who went to church and was seen as exemplary, and the other as a popular girl with many friends, suitors, and the freedom to do whatever I wanted. I lied a lot to support both lives without getting caught,” she reflects.

Unresolved issues, such as the rejection she felt from her father, also surfaced. “He was absent and didn't want children, and if he did, he didn't want them to be a girl. I held onto that resentment, and his presence started to irritate me,” she explains. As a result, she became insecure and needy. She entered several relationships in an attempt to fill the emptiness, but it was all in vain. “I thought I was the ugliest girl in the world, incapable and unhappy. My goal was to have a successful career, an impressive academic background that would allow me to travel, and anything that could fill the bottomless hole inside me. I had depression and undiagnosed health problems. I heard voices, saw shadows, and would faint suddenly. I was aggressive, could only speak by shouting, and I struggled with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). I was a ticking time bomb, waiting to explode. At the lowest point of my depression, I tried to throw myself in front of a train on my way to college, but someone pulled me back. I was 19 years old,” she recalls.



Two years ago, Ingrit returned to the Universal Church, but it wasn't until four months ago that she truly surrendered herself to God. “I realized that my problem was spiritual. I understood that I had made many bad choices, and they opened the door for evil forces to cause my suffering,” she reveals. This led her to attend deliverance-focused meetings.

As a result, resentment turned into forgiveness. No more complexes, disturbances, or negativity. Everything was left behind. “I felt like living again. I was baptized in water. I went down heavy as concrete, but I came up light as a feather, ready to live a new life,” she says. She received the Holy Spirit at the end of the Fast of Daniel.

“The old Ingrit was selfish, vengeful, insecure, and indifferent, but the new me is strong, courageous, and confident that everything will work out. I now have love for people. The warmth of God filled me and made everything new. He gave me a joy that nothing and no one in this world could ever give me,” she concludes.



“Depression and anguish led me to believe there was no way out for me.”

Luke became a father at 18, but he wasn't ready to build a solid family. “My mind was still that of a teenager. I had no direction,” he says.

His immaturity led him to bad friendships and addictions. He explains how he behaved: “My family didn't matter to me anymore. Everything revolved around my friends. I lived for them and for drugs. I sank deeper into these behaviors, and the emptiness inside me only grew. I would go out to work and never had a set time to come home.”

One day, after spending three consecutive nights using drugs and drinking, he left the drugs on the floor, and his daughters found them. “I was so drunk that I didn't notice. I only realized it when my wife told me she was leaving because she couldn't stand that life anymore. At that moment, I didn't care, but the next day I realized I was going to lose my family to addiction.”

That day, Luke went to work on top of a school building and decided to end his life. “Depression and anguish led me to believe there was no way out for me. I thought, ‘If I'm despicable to my father and mother, and my wife left me, I prefer death.’”

He says that as he tried to throw himself off the building, he heard the voice of God telling him that it was still possible to rebuild his life if he was willing. “So, I called my wife and asked for another chance. She was already attending the Universal Church, and that's how I ended up going there too.”

In his despair, Luke asked God for help at the altar: “I told God that if I had to leave without His help, I'd rather die, but I left differently. I regretted it.” To put his life back in order, he cut ties with his friends, decided to marry his wife at the altar, was baptized in water, and freed himself from his addictions.

Later, he received the Holy Spirit and says he was transformed.

“My wife and I serve God, and my children are

now my friends. My greatest joy now is helping those who are suffering. It doesn't matter if I have a car, money, or anything else. With God, I have everything. I used to feel empty, but now I'm filled by Him,” he celebrates.

"If I'm despicable to my father and mother, and my wife left me, I prefer death."

MAKE A CHAIN OF PRAYER IT WORKS!

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

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



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



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

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

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



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



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

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

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



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



Saturday - Impossible Cases
8am & 12pm

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

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



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

UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

You are NOT alone!



“My life was completely out of control, full of pain, chaos, and regret.”

Growing up, I had a childhood full of good memories. I was part of the Universal Church, where I attended Bible school and got involved in the Teen Power Group and youth activities. But everything changed when I turned 18 and walked away from the Church.

That’s when my life took a dark turn—I started using drugs, and it was the beginning of a destructive path.



I got involved in all kinds of crime—assault, robbery, even stealing from my own mother. Things only got worse when I committed homicide and ended up in prison. My life was completely out of control, full of pain, chaos, and regret.

Even though I was lost, my mother never gave up on me. Her faith never wavered—she kept praying, believing that God could



change me. But at the time, it felt like every one of her prayers pushed me further away. My relationship with my girlfriend (who’s now my wife) was toxic. I was abusive and violent, and my drug addiction kept fueling my criminal behavior.

“

The turning point came when my mom made a tough decision: she turned me in to the police. After I assaulted a man in our neighborhood and stole from him, I ran and went into hiding.

The police showed up at our house at 6 a.m., but I had already fled. Even though it hurt at the time, her decision ended up saving my life.

Through my mother’s unwavering faith and



the vows she made to God, I found a way out of the life I was living. I went from being

someone people thought was a lost cause to a man with purpose. I’m grateful for everything



she did—even turning me in—because it brought me to a place of transformation and salvation. Today, I’m clean. I’ve left the life



of crime behind. My relationship with my mother has been restored, and my marriage is strong and full of love. I’m now walking with God, living a life that’s completely different

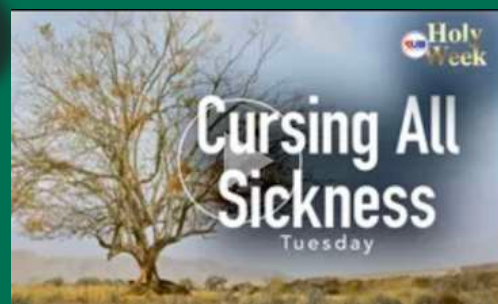


from the one I used to know. I went from living in darkness to living in the light—redeemed, restored, and truly free.

“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.



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!”

Mistake or sin?

What's the difference between a mistake and a sin? Aren't they the same thing? You might be surprised to learn they're actually very different. Let's break it down.

When someone makes a mistake, it's usually an unintentional error—they didn't realize they were doing something wrong. For example, let's say you're cooking and the recipe calls for paprika, but you accidentally use cayenne pepper instead. Now, instead of a rich paprika flavor, your dish ends up spicy. That's a mistake—an honest one.

But now, imagine this: you've invited your family over for dinner, including your mother-in-law, who you don't get along with. You know she has a deadly shellfish allergy. You told her you'd be making salmon balls, but instead, you use shrimp. She eats them, gets extremely sick, and nearly dies.

That's no longer just a mistake—that's something much more serious. Of course, there are even more extreme examples, but I think you get the point. Now, let me ask you: when you look back at your life, were the things you did really just mistakes?

Or were they sins—things you knew were wrong but chose to do anyway?

I'm not saying this because you're behind bars right now—whether you're reading this as a “jailer” or a “prisoner”—I'm saying this to help you reflect. Think honestly: how many times have you said, “It was just a mistake”? But deep down, did you know what you were doing was wrong?

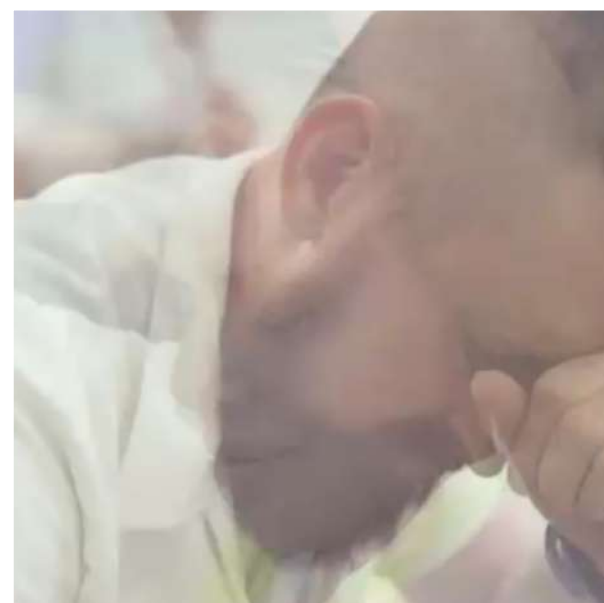
Maybe the reason you keep facing the same

failures is because you keep brushing off sin as “just a mistake.” And every time you do, the consequences hit harder and harder. Ask yourself—can a simple mistake really cause this much pain? The answer is no.

Take King David as an example. He committed adultery and arranged for someone to be killed. That wasn't a mistake—it was a sin. Even though he sincerely repented, he still faced serious consequences for the rest of his life.

So think about it. If your life has been full of pain, failure, and regret, it's likely not because of mistakes—it's because of sins that haven't been acknowledged or repented from. The Bible says in Romans 6:15–16:

“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!” “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”
Romans 6:15

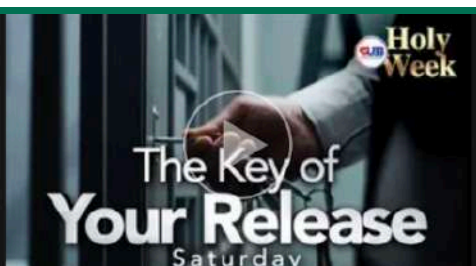
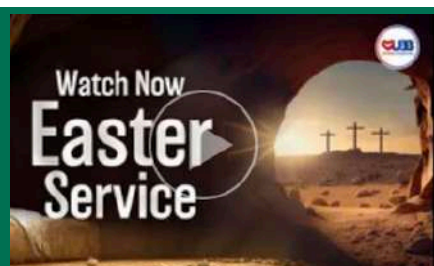


“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?”

That's something to seriously think about. This verse shows us that every path we choose comes with consequences—good or bad.

So if you've noticed a pattern in your life—a trail of problems, trouble, losses, and constant setbacks—take a moment to be real with yourself: Have I been making mistakes, or have I been sinning?



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with Bishop David

**AT THE EDGE OF DEATH
4pm**

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Strong Nation: Where Faith Ignites Prosperity

What guarantees someone's professional or financial success? Some might say it's education, a university degree, luck, good opportunities, powerful connections, or a stable job. But we all know none of these things—on their own—are enough. After all, how many people today have college degrees but are still unemployed? And how many have steady jobs and decent salaries, yet feel stuck living a limited life?

More than just money, people crave prosperity, abundance, and a sense of fulfillment in what they do. But very few realize that to experience true and lasting satisfaction—especially when challenges arise—they need something deeper: the supernatural power of faith. You won't learn this in any classroom, but it's the foundation of Strong Nation.

So what is Strong Nation? It's a faith-based gathering where, through the light of God's Word, people are guided to see the fulfillment of His promises—one of which is the abundant life He came to give. Let's take a look at the story of someone who found divine direction and real-life transformation through these meetings. Antonio Madeiros has been attending Strong Nation for about 16 years. Every Monday, he makes time to absorb God's teachings and apply them to his life.

"Before Strong Nation, I had absolutely nothing," he remembers. "There was a time when I had to go all day with just a pack of biscuits because I couldn't afford food."

Back then, Antonio didn't have a home of his own and often walked to work because he couldn't pay for transportation. Even though he was employed, he struggled to make ends meet. "I always worked, but the problem was the results. When you don't have God's blessing, it's like being stuck in quicksand—the more you struggle, the deeper you sink."

People judged him and assumed he lacked direction, but that wasn't true. His struggles continued even after marrying his wife, Elaine.

Everything began to change when Elaine was invited to a Strong Nation meeting.

"I've always been someone who follows direction," Elaine says. "Once I understood that if God didn't bless me, no one else could, I surrendered completely on the Altar. I decided to follow every teaching and made a pact with God."

Antonio, who didn't even finish junior high, didn't change careers—he's still a sales consultant. But what changed was the source of his guidance.

"First came inner peace, and then the Holy Spirit. My marriage and family were restored. From faith to faith, the blessings began to follow," he says. "Today, I own apartments and cars, and I'm able to give my wife and daughter a high-quality life."

He adds that the Strong Nation meetings continue to fuel his growth. "We've learned to never settle. Each message gives us strength and drives our faith forward."



TOP 10 pre-retirement tips

10 Don't retire until your debts are paid



9 Become financially literate



8 Plan how you will spend your time



7 Don't leave money on the table



Understand and take full advantage of your workplace pension or retirement savings plan

6 Have a financial plan



5 Develop interests to occupy yourself in retirement



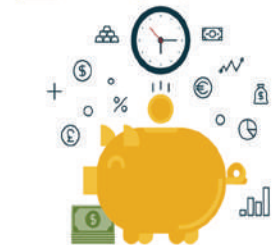
4 Write a will



3 Live within your means



2 Start saving and/or investing early



1 Take care of your health



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On Mondays you will learn how to use your faith to transform your financial life.

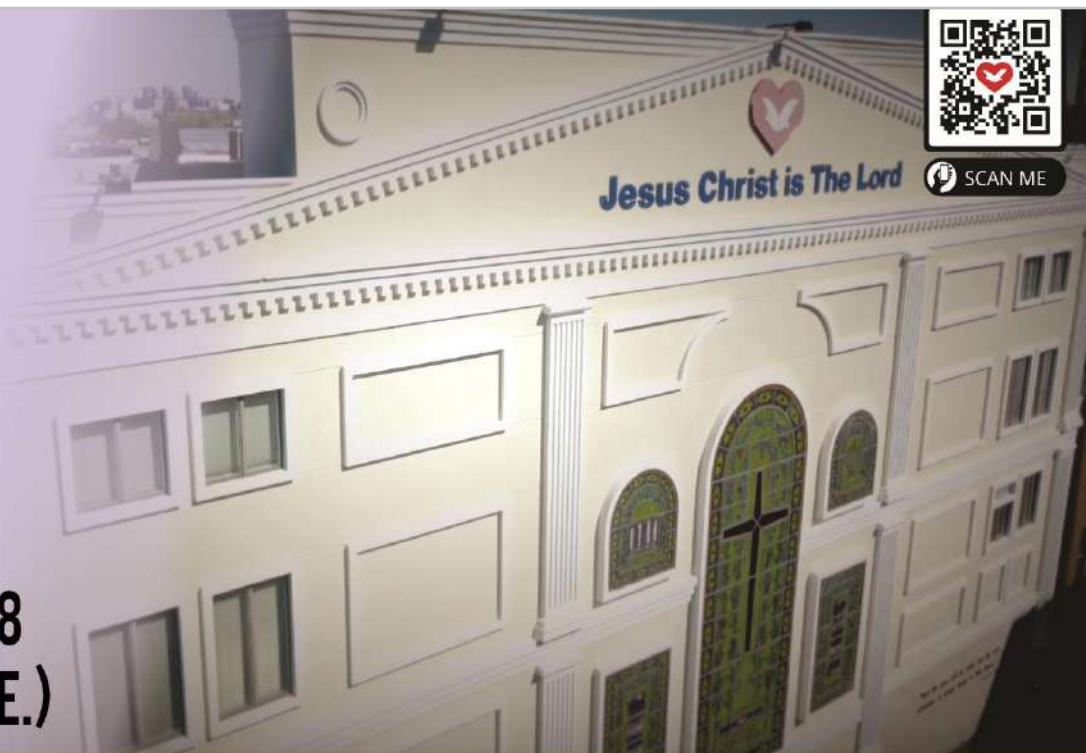
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