



**"My brother
was an
alcoholic
for fifteen
years."**

MIRACLES

Every Sunday at 10 AM



**Can I truly be
successful
and happy?
(Read his story
on page 11)**

PROSPERITY

What's happening at

**"I picked up
cigarettes
from the
floor to
smoke."**

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SCAN ME

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Trapped

in a cycle of unending problems

**You feel overwhelmed because
your life can't catch a break.
You face problems after
problems, and don't see the
end of them. Start a chain
of prayer today!**



Read Marcelle's
story on page 6



**Bishop
Edir Macedo**

Page 2

**Storm of
problems**

**"One night, after
drinking too much,
I threw myself off
the third floor."**



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Never-ending cycle

Problems often come without warning, catching us off guard. Depending on how severe they are, they can cause chaos in our lives. For some people, it feels like problems come one after another, with no time to catch a break. Many end up falling apart, overwhelmed and unsure where to even begin to fix their situation.

Life can be tough, and in moments like these, it rarely stops to let us cry, complain, or fall apart. Whether you're healthy or sick, honored or humiliated, happy or sad — time doesn't stand still. Life goes on. And when there's no hope left, when people feel desperate and depressed, some even consider suicide.

But there is a way out of suffering — a cure for the pain you've been carrying. Yes, you read that right! There's a place where you can find immediate relief from every problem, and it takes just one step from you. You don't have to continue feeling overwhelmed when you have the courage to run to the Throne of God and ask for His help.

*"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
(Hebrews 4:16)*

All of us have access to the Most High. Don't leave it to someone else to do what only you can do for yourself. The perfect time is now — in the middle of your distress.

The Word of God guarantees that the Lord Jesus will accept us, listen carefully, and answer our cries. We can pour out our hearts to Him, sharing every need in detail, and He will provide the solution. The Lord is on His Throne, waiting for you to turn to Him. First, He will show you mercy. Then, He will give you the favor you've been desperately needing. He's ready to show you kindness from the very start.

So approach the Throne of Grace without fear! You have been given the freedom to do so. But remember — we can only expect to receive what we need if we believe and do not doubt.

If you're feeling overwhelmed and stuck in a never-ending cycle of problems, visit a Universal Church near you and start a chain of prayer today! Keep reading to see how others, just like you, found a way out — and know that you can be next.

| 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



Storm of Problems



Today's message is for anyone who feels caught in the middle of a storm of problems and doesn't know what to do.

If you haven't yet had a personal experience with the Spirit of God and you're feeling discouraged, I want to encourage you: take this "lemon" life has given you and make a sweet lemonade. Understand that no one truly experiences the Eternal One when everything in life is going perfectly.

After all, the Lord Jesus becomes the SAVIOR of those who are lost in life's storms. It's in the desert, during the hardest moments, that we truly meet Him. Take this opportunity — right where you are — to seek Him with all your heart.

But if you have already died to the world and now carry within you the divine nature and heavenly image of the Lord Jesus, know this: our light and momentary troubles are producing for us an eternal weight of glory — blessings beyond comparison.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:17–18)

Stay strong. What you're going through now is temporary, but the reward is eternal.



"I thought I was born to suffer."

by everything and everyone around me.

I truly believed I was born to suffer. That's exactly how I saw my life. The only thing I had going for me was my job—but even that didn't last. After a misunderstanding, I ended up losing it too. That's when I hit rock bottom. I lost all desire to go out or talk to anyone. I completely isolated myself from everything and everyone.

I would spend the entire day locked in my room, and no one could reach me. Depression had completely taken over my life. I even asked God to let me die because I didn't have the courage to take my own life.

Then, one day, someone told me about the Universal Church. They said there was a way out for me, that through

faith in God, my life could change. I started attending the meetings, but at first, I struggled to open my heart, and that made it harder for me to see any real change.

But everything shifted when I decided to truly listen and obey God's word. Little by little, my life began to transform. I was healed from depression and freed from all the sadness and bitterness I carried inside me. That same day, the tears stopped, and I was filled with a joy I can't even explain. It felt like I was reborn.

Today, I'm a completely different woman. I have peace, joy, and a heart full of gratitude. I got my career back on track and now have a relationship that is blessed by God. I used to live in darkness, but the Lord Jesus brought light into my life. — Juliana

See what's happening on Sundays



"I dealt with back pain for almost a year."

Some days, I couldn't even get out of bed—I had to depend on my family to help me move around, and sometimes I had to call out of work. I couldn't do anything by myself. I even had to wear a back brace for several days.

When I finally went to the doctor, he told me I had a dislocated disc in my lower back. He referred me to a therapist, and even though I started therapy, it didn't really help.

That's when I decided to lean even more on my faith. I drank the blessed water every day and prayed. I also placed some of the water directly on the spot where I felt the pain. Today, I'm completely healed!

— Farah

"I am free from cervical cancer."



My knee was swollen, and the doctor told me I would need surgery to drain the fluid. Basically, they'd have to cut into my knee to do the procedure. Hearing that left me stressed and depressed. To make matters worse, I was also diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Around that time, I saw this ministry on TV and decided to start attending. I refused to accept living with these health problems. I began coming to the healing services and learned how to complete the chain of prayers by faith. Today, I'm healed from cervical cancer and no longer need knee surgery. I'm also free from depression because I received the Holy Spirit, who gives me true peace. — Diana



"My brother was an alcoholic for fifteen years."

My brother struggled with alcoholism for 15 years. Every time he came home, there was no peace. He would always use foul language and cause a lot of tension.

One day, while he was out, my sister said to me, "Andrea, didn't you just go to church? Use the blessed water and let's see what happens when he gets back."

That day, I sprinkled the blessed water in the hallway and on the chair where he usually sat. When he came home, he ate and went straight to sleep — no drama, no yelling.

After that, my brother came to me and said he wasn't going to drink anymore. And just like that, he stopped drinking.

— Andrea



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

The feeling of being trapped



Life can sometimes throw us into deep, dark places that seem impossible to escape.

Like a “grave,” these situations leave us feeling trapped, drained, and hopeless.

Today, many people find themselves in this kind of “grave” — overwhelmed by financial hardship, drowning in debt, facing unemployment, or living with

constant financial instability. Others are trapped by depression, anxiety, addiction, relationship problems, loss, serious illnesses, chronic pain, or countless other struggles.

You might feel like there’s no way out, and your strength is running out.

But don’t lose hope!

Look at what the Bible says: “Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: *Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.’” (Ezekiel 37:12)

The solution for any problem is to Surrender your life to God and seek Him

The solution to any problem is simple yet powerful: surrender your life to God and seek Him.

When you do, God will bring you up out of your “grave.”

Let the Almighty lift you out of the pit and make your life a living testimony of His power here on earth.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

“I wrote them a suicide letter”

My name is Madeline. When I was younger, my dad left my mom. They separated and eventually got divorced. Later, my mom remarried, but my stepfather was very violent toward my mom, my brother, and me. He would come home drunk and abusive. I witnessed my mom being beaten many times.

Because of all the violence at home, I grew up full of anger, sadness, and depression. In search of happiness, I started going out with friends, drinking and doing drugs. In college, I had friends who were already deep into drugs. One day, they introduced me to marijuana. At first, I wasn’t interested — but I tried it anyway.

After that first time, I didn’t stop. I smoked so much that after a while, the weed didn’t even affect me anymore. I started looking for something stronger. That’s when my friends suggested ecstasy, cocaine, mushrooms, and crack. I tried them all, one after the other.

I got so addicted that even those drugs stopped affecting me. I began mixing everything together, trying to feel something. Eventually, this led to an overdose. That overdose was my breaking point.

I felt so low, so helpless, that I believed the only solution was to end my life.

I couldn’t take the pain anymore. One day, I wrote a goodbye letter to my family — I had decided that would be the day I ended everything. I kept hearing voices telling me to do it.

But somehow, something stopped me. I didn’t go through with it.

One day after work, as I was walking home, a woman from the Universal Church was handing out newspapers. She invited me to the church.

What surprised me most was that after talking to her, I went home different. It felt like she transmitted love and care — something I had never felt before.

I decided to visit the Universal Church. When I opened the door, everyone was smiling at me. They were genuinely happy to see me.

At that moment, I had a lot of questions, a lot of doubts. I didn’t know what to expect. But the pastor guided me and encouraged me to make a Chain of Prayer for my deliverance.

I started attending the Chain of Prayer on Fridays, and God set me free — free from addictions, free from the spiritual oppression that had followed me for so long. I joined the Youth Power Group, and it became my new home. I felt loved. I felt like I belonged.



When I began seeking the Holy Spirit, I told God, “You gave me a second chance at life — now I need You. I need Your Spirit.”

One day, I got truly revolted. I went into the bathroom, locked the door, and cried out, “My God, I’m here! What’s missing? What do I need to do to receive Your Holy Spirit?”

I humbled myself before Him. And at that moment, I felt peace — a peace that washed over me like nothing I had ever known. I got up from that prayer and said, “Today is a new beginning.”

That was my confirmation — the moment I received the Holy Spirit. I felt brand new.

From there, all I wanted to do was tell everyone. I wanted to tell my old friends that they didn’t have to keep living the way they were — that just like God saved me, He could save them too.

Today, my relationship with my mom is completely different. I speak to her almost every day, just to check in and see how she’s doing. I am happy, I am saved, and I am married to a man of God. Together, we help young people find their way to salvation.

It’s so peaceful and rewarding to be able to go to bed at night, lay my head on the pillow, and say, “Thank You, God, for using me to help these youths — knowing that they come to church broken, just like I was, and leave transformed.”

—Madeline



DO YOU FEEL TRAPPED?

**Make a Chain of Prayer
IT WORKS!!!**

**at a Universal Church near you
1 888 332 4141**

What's happening at the Universal Church

Trapped in a spiral of bad decisions



Fortino's life was once marked by suffering and despair. From a young age, he found himself stuck in a cycle of bad decisions that led him down a path of poverty, addiction, and pain. Keep reading to find out how he turned it all around.

"Financially, things were very tough. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't find stable work. Being unemployed meant I lived in poverty. Every door I knocked on stayed shut. For over seven years, I was caught in a cycle of hopelessness, and I turned to alcohol and drugs just to cope. I became an addict and spent what little money I had feeding my addictions. At my lowest point, I even ended up living under a bridge.

During those dark years, it felt like my life had no way out—until the day I found the Universal Church. There, I discovered a faith that truly changes lives. For the first time in a long time, I felt real hope. I realized my life wasn't lost and that I could start over.

That new faith was like a seed planted in my heart.

My transformation didn't happen overnight, but with time and perseverance, my life started to change as I put into practice everything I was learning. I broke free from the addictions that had held me back. I started working on myself, building my relationship with God, and focusing on my professional life. Through hard work and faith, I found a job and, little by little, began to rebuild.

Today, I not only have a stable job, but God has blessed me so much that I'm able to provide jobs for others. I was able to buy my own house and a new car—things I once thought were impossible. What used to be just a dream is now my reality, thanks to God's transforming power.

I'm also happily married today, and my marriage is full of love and respect. I'm deeply grateful for everything God has helped me achieve and for the peace He's given me. I know none of this would have been possible without faith in Jesus Christ. He's the one who lifted me out of the darkness."

Today, Fortino is a restored man, living with purpose and a renewed life. His story is a powerful reminder that no matter how far someone has fallen, faith in God can transform any life—and His love can work miracles when you least expect it.

"I picked up cigarettes from the floor to smoke."



Cigarettes controlled my mood and behavior. If I didn't smoke, I'd get anxious, nervous, and impatient—even with my daughter, who was just a little girl at the time. The craving was so strong that sometimes, as I walked down the street, I would pick up cigarettes off the ground just to smoke them. It was years of deep suffering, and the hole inside me only grew bigger.

I started smoking when I was a teenager. My father smoked every day, and even though I knew it was bad for my health, his example spoke louder than any warning. I ended up smoking in secret with my brother. That was the beginning of a cycle of addiction that had already started in my family.

I carried a huge emptiness inside me, and to try to fill it, I smoked more and more. Before I knew it, I was completely hooked. I spent 50 years of my life enslaved to cigarettes. I smoked day and night, which not only damaged my health but also hurt my marriage. My husband, who was originally against smoking, ended up picking up the habit because of my influence.

Then one day, I was invited to visit the Universal Church. It was there that my journey to freedom began. I committed to the chain of prayer on Fridays, determined to fight for my deliverance. I won't lie—it wasn't easy. But my desire to overcome was stronger than the struggle. I decided to turn to faith, and through those chains of prayer, I was completely set free.

The emptiness I once carried was filled by the presence of God. Today, I have peace. I'm a calm, happy woman. I overcame my addiction, and I am truly free—thanks to Christ Jesus, who gave me a new life!

— Lucia Dias

YPG CHICAGO "ROCK THE BLOCK" Youths showcasing their talents!



One of the most amazing local events we hosted was called **Rock the Block!** This exciting talent show brought people from all over the community together to shine on stage. It was especially powerful for our youth, giving them the confidence to step out of their shells and proudly share their unique talents. The night was filled with energy, creativity, and unforgettable moments that left everyone inspired!



YPG.USA

YPG USA

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

A NEW JOURNEY

EDWARD'S STORY

Before coming to the Universal Church, I felt completely lost—sad, depressed, and abandoned, like there was no hope for me. Since the age of seven, I had struggled with extreme shyness. I wouldn't talk to anyone and would spend hours locked away in my room, isolating myself from the world.

But everything changed when I found the YPG. Today, I'm free—no longer shy, no longer feeling abandoned. I've found purpose and confidence. I now spend my time actively evangelizing and helping to save souls. I'm more outgoing, I connect easily with the people around me, and above all, my main focus is growing closer to God and strengthening my relationship with Him every single day.



REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141

Life brings challenges that everyone must face — but for some, pain and struggles seem to never end. The death of a loved one, financial setbacks, betrayal, family problems, health issues, emotional wounds — these are just a few of the battles that can leave a lasting impact.

For many, the past is not something they've left behind. It weighs them down, making it hard to move forward.

Others find themselves trapped in an exhausting cycle of new problems — one hardship after another — feeling like there's no way out.

When the burden becomes too heavy, even time, advice, and the support of family and friends may not be enough. But you don't have to live like this. At the Universal Church, the Chain of Prayer is here to help you overcome whatever holds you back. Through a series of daily services, you'll learn how to fight back through faith and tackle every area of your life — your family, health, finances, emotions, and spiritual life.

Each day targets a specific problem, helping you build the strength to break free from the chains of suffering and step into a new life.

It doesn't matter how long you've been struggling. There is a way out — and it starts with a decision. Visit any Universal Church location nationwide and start your Chain of Prayer today. Your transformation begins now.

A passion, a seemingly harmless choice — and before Marcelle Caroline realized it, the boy she had fallen for as a teenager had become an international arms dealer. If someone had told her back then where that relationship would lead, she probably wouldn't have believed it.

Marcelle's journey with God began early. At 16, her mother started taking her to church. But Marcelle overlooked an important warning: the passions of youth. At 17, even though she still attended church, she met Robson. At the time, he wasn't involved in crime — but Marcelle missed a crucial detail: he didn't share her faith.

"We started dating, and I fell in love with him," she says. "Because of that, I slowly drifted away from church until I eventually left altogether and followed him into the world." Over time, Robson got pulled into a life of crime. "When he first started getting involved in the wrong things, I didn't know for sure, but I suspected something wasn't right," Marcelle admits. "By the time I found out, I was already emotionally attached, so I stayed with him anyway." She says her life then looked nothing like the one she had when she was younger and still close to God. Marcelle and Robson moved in together. Even though she wasn't personally committing any crimes, she lived off the illegal money he made — staying in fancy houses, driving expensive cars, and flaunting a flashy lifestyle.

"I was always going to clubs, drinking heavily, buying expensive clothes and shoes, going to parties,



**"TRAPPED IN
A CYCLE OF
UNENDING
PROBLEMS"**

"One night, after drinking too much, I threw myself off the third floor."

traveling. I really believed, in my own illusion, that I ruled the world," she says.

But behind the glamour, Marcelle felt empty. "Our relationship was full of lies and betrayals on his part, and I was constantly disappointed," she shares. "One night, after drinking too much, I threw myself off the third floor of our building. I ended up with a head injury and a swollen face, but even after all that, I stayed with him. I had no hope he would ever change, but I didn't have the strength to leave either. Over time, though, I started pulling away."

Marcelle and Robson's relationship had its share of ups and downs. After surviving an attack, Robson even plotted an ambush against rival criminals. But then, something unexpected happened. One day, he visited a Universal Church, and something inside him began to change. Soon after, he made the decision to turn his life around.

At first, Marcelle didn't think much of it. But when Robson turned himself in to the police, she was stunned — and immediately stood by his side. "Turning in his weapons and taking responsibility for his past was the right thing to do if he truly wanted a fresh start," she says.

After Robson was released from prison, he returned to the Universal Church — and this time, Marcelle went with him. "I had heard so many bad things about the Universal Church, so I was afraid to go," she admits. "But from my very first visit, I realized it wasn't anything like what people said. I felt something different there."



Little by little, Marcelle started attending church more regularly. Even though she could see Robson's dedication, she still worried he might fall back into his old ways. She realized she couldn't base her faith on him. She had to focus on her own relationship with God.

"I thought maybe I just wasn't meant to be happy," she says. "I honestly believed that dying would be better than the emptiness I felt. But then one Friday, I decided to attend a deliverance service at the Universal Church. I asked God to free me from all the negative thoughts and anxiety. And He did. After that meeting, I felt lighter — and I started seeking the Holy Spirit more and more."

Marcelle gave her life completely to God, made a new covenant with Him, and received the Holy Spirit. During that time, Marcelle and Robson had two daughters. Today, their family is completely transformed.

Still, Marcelle knows she can never let her guard down. "God is my joy and my strength. He filled the emptiness I once felt. I honestly don't know how to live without Him," she says. "The only fear I have now is losing the Holy Spirit and my salvation. To the honor and glory of the Lord, today my family and I serve God."



"I started thinking hell was here — that I was already living in it."

Aggressiveness and trouble managing her emotions led Fernanda de Souza Araújo to start taking prescription medication as a child. "When I was five years old, I began psychiatric treatment because my behavior wasn't considered normal for a child," she says.

But despite all the medical attention, nothing seemed to work. "As a teenager, by the time I was 14, I felt empty, anxious, and distressed — to the point where I would just cry for no reason," Fernanda remembers.

Trying to fill the void inside her, she began drinking frequently and experimenting with cigarettes and other drugs. "Even so, I kept up with the treatments, but the medication dosages just kept getting stronger. By 17, things had gotten worse. I started having anxiety attacks almost every day. I saw several doctors and psychologists, went through all kinds of tests, until they diagnosed me with depression, generalized anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, binge eating, and insomnia," she says.

The worst blow came when she learned those illnesses were considered incurable. "That messed with my head. Life lost its meaning for me." In the middle of all her suffering, Fernanda started questioning God.

"I knew a little about God's Word, and I knew that if I did something to myself, I'd go to hell. So I started praying, asking God to just take me instead," she says. Looking for some way to cope, Fernanda started a relationship — but instead of healing her, it only added more pain. "We lived with constant betrayal and jealousy. I started feeling a lot of anger, hatred, and resentment. At first, I could control it, but after a while, I couldn't anymore. I started getting scared that I might hurt someone because I would completely lose my mind," she recalls.

During one of those episodes, Fernanda ended up in the hospital. "I started struggling, banging my head and hands against the wall, screaming, until the doctors had to sedate me." She says she lived under the heavy influence of medication just to protect herself. "I honestly started believing that hell wasn't a place you went to after you died — it was here, and I was already living in it. That's when the suicide attempts started," she says.

Fernanda made several attempts on her life until she finally reached out for help at the Universal Church. "I already knew about the work of the Church, so I started attending the meetings. I gave up sin, resentment, all those bad feelings, and I got baptized. My life got better, but deep down, I still didn't believe I could ever be healed from my psychiatric illnesses," she admits.

Even though her life had improved, Fernanda remained dependent on medication — and sometimes, she couldn't even remember what she had done.

"One day, I woke up surrounded by bottles of alcohol and had no memory of anything. I couldn't accept that life anymore. That day,

I threw myself completely into it — I threw the medications away, and during a prayer, I told God that from that moment on, I depended only on Him." Fernanda says she didn't sleep for several days, but she decided to go back to the Church. "There, I received a prayer — and right away, I felt better. Since then, I've never needed any medication again. I was healed," she says.

After her deliverance, a new desire was born in her heart: to know the Holy Spirit personally. That desire led her into a deeper search for God. "Today, I have a peace and happiness I never imagined could be real. God completely transformed my life.

I still face struggles and trials, but now I know God is always with me — and He takes care of everything," Fernanda says with a smile.

"I started having anxiety attacks almost every day."

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.



Every day the UBB has a new episode for you. There is something for everyone! Do you need guidance about faith, family, sexual orientation, curses, dealing with loss, addictions etc.?

“¿Hablas español? En la aplicación de Pando puedes encontrar segmentos de la UBB ¡también en español!”

God knows your heart



Maybe you did something “nice” today in front of the Warden because you knew it could help your case. I’m telling you again: Be careful with your intentions.

“I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.” Jeremiah 10:17

What have you been carrying in your heart these days? Is it resentment, anger, frustration, doubt, sadness, or confusion? Have you allowed yourself to become like a dumpster, filled with garbage? I’m not sure if this has happened to everyone reading this newspaper, but I’m certain at least one of you has gone through this:

Have you ever decided to do something “nice” for someone — but deep down, you were doing it just to be seen or to get something in return — and it completely backfired? That happened because your intention wasn’t pure, and God saw what was really in your heart from the start.

Maybe it wasn’t just one time. Maybe your life feels like it’s full of these constant “mishaps.” If so, you need to stop and ask yourself: What are my

intentions saying? Who am I trying to please with what I’m doing?

God doesn’t need to be “bought.” He doesn’t need favors from anyone. What He wants is your sincerity.

Imagine knowing someone who didn’t respect you at all but kept giving you gifts, just trying to get something from you. How would that make you feel? Not good, right?

So stop and really ask yourself: What have my intentions been lately? When I pray to God, am I praying just to get out of jail, juve, or prison? Or am I praying because I truly want to know God for who He is — not just for what He can give me?

God already knows what’s inside you. Don’t fool yourself into thinking you can trick Him with “good deeds.” You might fool people around you for a while, but at the end of the day — when you stand before God in prayer — sometimes it feels like your prayers aren’t answered because He doesn’t see sincerity in you.

Be real with God. Be real with yourself. If you’ve been fake, change. Get right with God before it’s too late. Don’t put up a front. And if you’re not ready to change yet, it’s better to be honest with God about that too. Pretending only brings destruction to yourself in the end.



I’m going to the TOP, down with the UBB! Stay locked in for DAILY videos from the UBB.

UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

You are NOT alone!



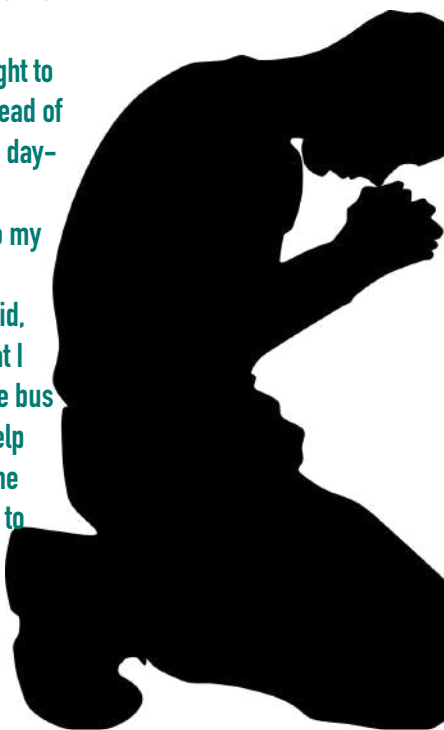
I was willing to kill my father.

My name is Anderson. Growing up, my life was very troubled. There was a lot of rebellion and fighting in my home. By the time I was eight, I was already causing problems at school. I kept hearing voices in my head telling me to misbehave, and I would listen. I threw chairs at my teachers, disrespected them, and caused chaos. The police were called to my school many times, and they would take me home. At home, my father constantly fought with my mom. My mother was attending the Universal Church, but my father hated it back then. Their fights were nonstop.

When I was 14, the anger I carried from home boiled over. I got involved in assaults. My father had kicked my mother out of their bedroom and made her sleep on the kitchen table. I remember one night, I told her to sleep in my bed and that I would sleep in the kitchen instead. But the fighting never stopped — and neither did my involvement in crime. By the time I was 18, I was committing robberies. One Saturday, my father was fighting with my mom again. I stepped in and asked her what was going on. My father sneered and said, "Oh, look, your son is here — the son of the devil." I snapped. I told him that would be the last time he ever spoke to me like that. I stormed into my room, grabbed my gun, and started fighting with him inside the house. I was furious. I switched out my gun for a bigger pistol and told my father, gun

say anything else, or Anderson will kill you!" By God's mercy, I was called away at that moment to commit an assault with my friends, so I left. At that point, I was deeply loyal to crime and loyal to my friends. One Sunday, my mom invited me to church, but instead, I went out to commit another robbery. For years, I felt "untouchable." But all of that changed on a Sunday when I finally got caught and was sent to prison. Prison was rough. The cells were packed so tight we could barely sleep — it was like one person lying on top of another. I was transferred many times from prison to prison. One day, while being transferred again, we were on an 11-hour bus ride. While sitting there, I clearly heard a voice in my head say, "Leave this life behind. I am with you." I thought I was going crazy because the voice was so clear. But deep down, I knew what I had to do.

When I got to the next prison, I went straight to my cell instead of going to the day-room. I dropped to my knees and prayed. I said, "God, if what I heard on the bus was real, help me. Show me what I need to do so I can change."



That's when I got involved with the UBB (Universal Beyond Bars ministry). I started listening to Bishop Macedo's messages from inside prison, and he spoke a lot about the importance of receiving the Holy Spirit — that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our salvation. The first thing I did was recognize the harm I had caused so many people. I wrote a letter to my mom, asking her to forgive me. I also wrote letters to the families



I had hurt and asked my mom to deliver them one by one. After that, I focused on seeking the Holy Spirit with all my strength because I knew I had let go of grudges and made things right. I sought Him every day, and eventually, I received Him. The peace that filled me was something I had never felt before. Even though fights broke out constantly around me — in the dorm, in the day-room — I stayed calm. People around me couldn't understand why I was so unbothered. But it was the Holy Spirit inside me. The following Sunday, the UBB Pastor held a service. He made a challenge:

"Take a piece of paper and believe that this will be your release paper by faith." I tore off a small piece of paper and believed with all my heart. That following Friday — I was released.

After serving 12 years behind bars, I walked out a free man. I thank the God of the Bible for my mother's faith — for the blessed clothes she would bring me, for her constant prayers and vows. Her faith kept me, and it made me into the man of God I am today. Today, I am happily married. I treat my wife with love and respect. We both serve God as assistants. The father who once fought my mother is now standing with her, serving as an assistant in the Universal Church. We are now a family on God's altar.

Anderson and his family



in hand, "This is the last time you'll ever talk to me like this!" My mother begged him, "Please don't

"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

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CAN I TRULY BE SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY?

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Edson worked as a delivery man, and Suellen was a retail sales associate. Although they

always had food on the table, their financial situation was far from good. They lived in a rented two-bedroom house infested with cockroaches, and they dressed their daughter in donated clothes. For a while, they even slept on the floor because they couldn't afford a bed. There seemed to be no hope of a better life.

"The only feeling I had was that nothing we were doing was leading to a better future. At times, I even questioned whether it was truly possible to be happy — real happiness, not just a passing feeling," Edson recalls. On top of the financial struggles, their relationship started to fall apart. The arguments, which had been only verbal at first, turned into physical fights. Suellen even tried to stab Edson with a knife.

"I had a terrible temper. I tried to control myself but couldn't," Suellen admits. Because of his wife's behavior, Edson felt like "a complete failure." That's when Edson invited Suellen to attend The Universal Church with him. On that day, what they heard from God changed their lives. They both made a vow at the Altar, and from that moment forward, a new life began when they received the Holy Spirit.

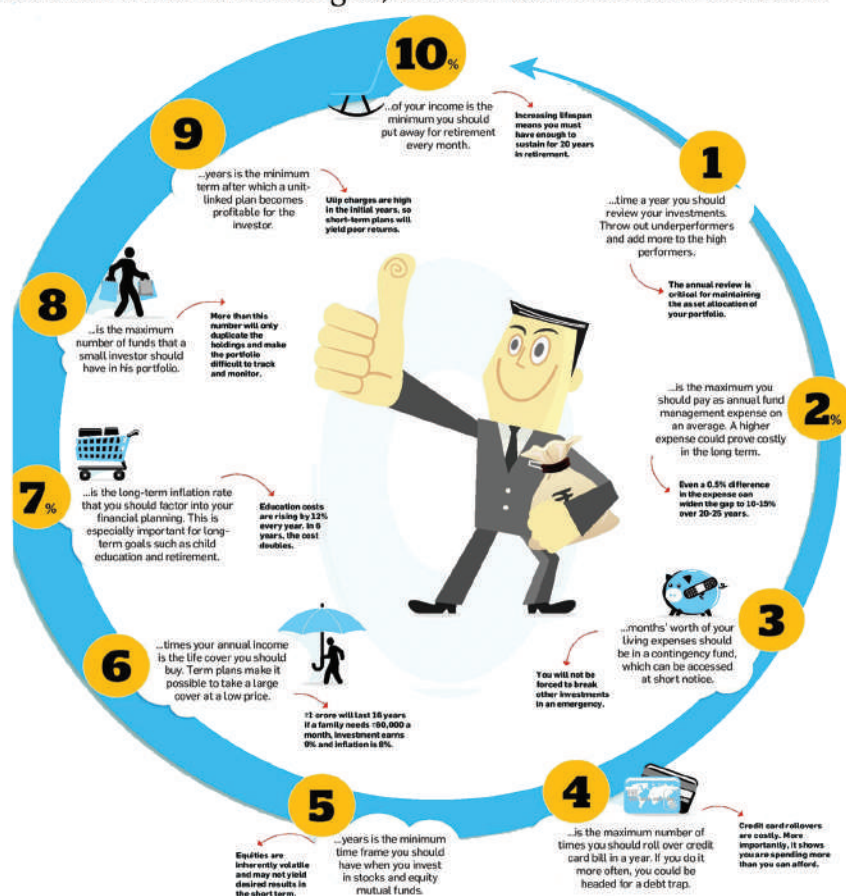
"To truly experience God, first I had to be honest with myself and realize that there was only one way everything could change: if I truly got to know the Lord Jesus. We surrendered everything we had — and everything we dreamed of becoming — into God's

hands. From then on, we started rewriting our story. Every day, we live new experiences," says Edson. Suellen also shares that her transformation began when she realized change had to happen inside her first.

"Without the Holy Spirit, I was a lost person, unable to focus on life or even see a future. After receiving the Holy Spirit, I understood my identity as a child of God and that He wants the best for me. Today, I live a fulfilled and happy life, with my main focus on my Salvation," she says. Suellen adds that she now sees positive changes in every area of their lives. Edson is often amazed at how much their lives have changed, sometimes more than he could

have imagined.

"Sometimes I think this life isn't even mine — like I'm dreaming," he jokes.

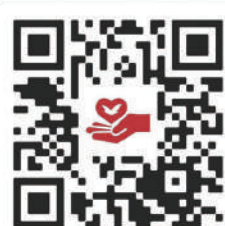


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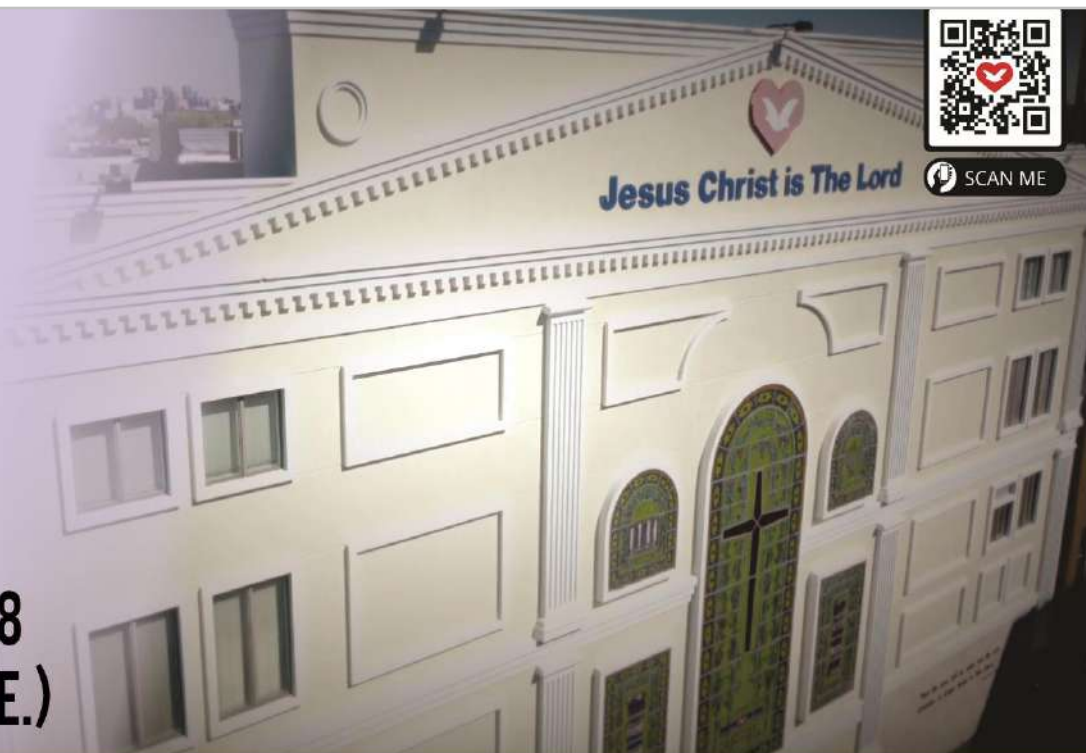
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