

"I had three to six months to live."

Page 3

**Gathering of Faith and Miracles** 



**Every Sunday at 10 AM** 



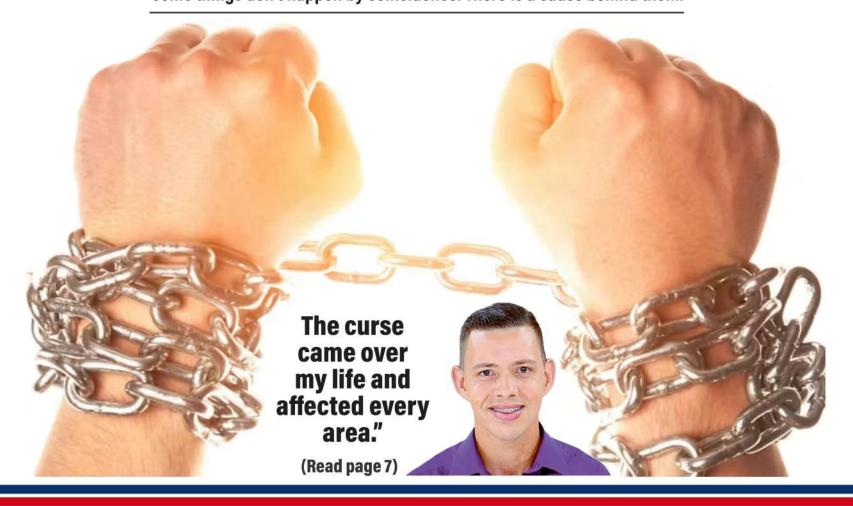
# IVERS/L FWS



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## Breaking the Curses

Curses, bad luck, negativity—call it whatever you like. The truth is that some things don't happen by coincidence. There is a cause behind them.





Page 2 **Bishop Edir Macedo Chance and** bad luck





## **OPINIONS**

### IN THIS EDITION

## **Breaking the curses**

Do you feel stuck—like no matter what you do, things never turn out the way you hoped? Are you constantly facing failure in one specific area of your life? If so, you may be dealing with more than just bad luck—you could be under a curse.

Call it bad luck, negativity, or misfortune—whatever the name, the result is always the same: suffering and frustration. Many people believe that these things happen by chance, but the truth is, some problems don't just happen randomly. They have a spiritual root.

When we face a problem, our natural instinct is to fix it as quickly as possible. But what about when the same issue keeps coming back—no matter what you do? If your problem is recurring, and nothing seems to solve it, it's not a normal issue. There's a deeper cause. And more often than not, that cause is spiritual.

You might be living under a curse and not even realize it.

Maybe someone cursed you. Maybe you've been a victim of witchcraft. Maybe your family is falling apart, your love life keeps failing, or your finances never seem to improve. Maybe you're battling addictions, suffering from constant spiritual attacks, or struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts. If any of this sounds familiar, we invite you to join us at the Universal Church this Friday for a powerful Deliverance Service.

Through a prayer of faith, we will rebuke all evil and declare freedom from the spiritual problems that have been controlling your life. No matter the situation, you can be free through faith. Join us this Friday at 7AM, 10AM, 4PM, and especially at 7PM.

## 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!



For more information

**SEE PAGE 12 FOR LOCATIONS** 



## **Bishop Edir Macedo**



## **Chance and bad luck**

nyone who believes that success comes by chance is setting themselves up for a life filled with disappointment. "Luck" and "chance" are just tools of evil—used to encourage laziness and hopelessness in those who don't know better.

Who really benefits from chance? Casino owners, maybe—but even they lose in the end. Nothing good can come from relying on something rooted in false hope.

Do you think God gives people an abundant life by luck? Of course not! If chance were part of God's plan, Jesus would never have sacrificed His life to save the world from hell.

Gamblers live in anticipation of that one "lucky" day. But when it finally comes, it quickly vanishes—often leaving behind regret, pain, and despair. That's the trap of relying on luck

Only the spiritually blind believe in the power of chance. People who chase luck often spend their entire lives searching and never find anything lasting. Luck has nothing to do with the kind of life God intended for us. Even in ancient times, when people used games of chance to decide fate, that practice was never aligned with God's will.

God does not work through chance. He blesses those who live by faith—not random luck. A full and meaningful life comes through active, consistent belief in the promis-



es of God. His Word is like a treasure map that leads us to abundant life.

What seems impossible becomes possible when we truly depend on the Word of the Living God. Jesus said, "Everything is possible to the one who believes"—not to the one who gets lucky. (Mark 9:23)

Faith produces real results—not wishful thinking or fantasy. God rewards those who are faithful to Him. His Word never fails, regardless of circumstances. It doesn't matter how things look, as long as someone believes and acts on their faith.

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Luke 21:33). Everything we know will one day disappear—but His Word will remain forever. That's why the wise choose to live by it. It is the true source of life. And whoever lives by it will enjoy its blessings, not only in this life—but for all eternity.



One night, while I was asleep, something strange happened. Out of nowhere, a rock was thrown at the door of my house. From that moment on, it was like everything changed. The atmosphere in my home became heavy. My family and I started arguing constantly. I began to feel sick, drained, and had no energy or desire to do anything. Doctors ran tests but couldn't find anything wrong—yet my body felt weaker with

## Voices inside her head told her she was worthless

each passing day, and my soul felt even worse.

zThen came the voices.Inside my head, I kept hearing, "You're worthless. No one loves you. No one wants you." Over and over, I heard, "Just end it. Life would be better that way." I lived in constant emotional turmoil. My marriage crumbled—no love, only shouting, silence, and pain.

In that moment of despair, I found the Universal Church. Despite the negative things I had heard about it, something told me to go. The moment I walked through the doors, I felt something I hadn't felt in a long time—peace.

I began to attend regularly, putting into practice everything I learned. Slowly but surely, things began to change. I was healed from the strange illness. The voices disappeared. Peace returned to my home. Even my marriage was restored—love, respect, and understanding were reborn.

But the greatest blessing of all? I received the Holy Spirit. After that, every spiritual torment ended.

Today, I can confidently say: my life has changed. I no longer live in fear. I'm not alone. I'm not empty. I have peace, joy, and strength to keep going. And it all started with one decision: to seek God sincerely, and not give up. Through faith, everything was transformed.

—Jessica

# See what's happening on Sundays

"The pain is gone."



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

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

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

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



## "I used to cry from the pain at night"

The Sunday before last, I took two bottles of blessed water—one for me and one for my husband. His doctor had just called with some concerning news: his blood sugar was 320, his cholesterol was 98, and his A1C was 9.5. The doctor said those numbers were way too high and asked him to come in right away.

My husband started taking three sips of the blessed water every day, and his blood sugar began to drop. As for me, I drank the water, prayed in Jesus' name, and used it on my face, asking God to heal the pain in my body and the pimples on my skin.

Today, I'm pain-free—and God has blessed me with a new job.

—Hazel



Receive the healing waters this Sundayat your nearest Universal Church

## "I had 3-6 months to live"



In 2022, I was diagnosed with bile duct cancer, which is a very rare cance. I was given 3 to 6 months to live. I started to get pains in my stomach, but I thought it was nothing seroius. After being tested, the doctors saw that there was a mass in my stomach.

I was told to go to my family and spend time with them and get ready for what was coming.

I told the doctor, I don't think we will even need the surgery and he laughed.



All that I remember is that they put me in the operating room. When I woke up I was like, Is the surgery over? And the doctor said that during the procedure before doing the surgery, they saw that there was nothing. The stent that they had placed was no longer there.

After that, everything changed. "God has not stopped performing miracles, you can be the next miracle".







## The curse is a mark



from the prob-

lem and start

recognizing it

for what it is.

years old, I cut my finger, and it left a scar. That scar has stayed with me ever since—right on my right finger. I went through school, then college, and the scar was still there. I got mar-

ried, had children, and matured—and the scar remained. Even now, it's still with me.

What's my point? A curse is just like that scar. It's a mark on your life. No matter how much you try to move forward, it's like something keeps

pulling you back. Just like my scar reminds me of that moment when I cut myself with scissors, a curse reminds you of what happened—or what keeps happening—and you can't seem to shake it.

A scar marks your skin. A curse marks your life.

Maybe you were born with a disease and no treatment seems to help. Maybe your love life has always been bro-

remember when I was five ken—and when you look back, you realize your parents or grandparents had the same struggles. Maybe it's your finances—you can never seem to hold onto money, you're always starting over, moving

from place to place, or switching jobs constantly. These The first step to constantly. patterns aren't just breaking free is bad luck. They may to stop running be signs of a curse.

But here's the truth: You can't fix what you won't face. The first step to breaking free is to stop running from the problem and start recogniz-

ing it for what it is.

God can set you free from any curse—but only when you acknowledge that it's there. As the Word of God says:

"However, our God turned the curse into a blessing." -Nehemiah 13:2

And that's exactly what He wants to do in your life today. May the God of the Bible bless you.

# MAY 2025 BIBLE READING

## The curse turned into a blessing

There was a generational curse in my love life and in my family. My father spent most of his time in bars and lived a secret life. As I got older, I found myself walking the same path. I had a troubled childhood, and during my teenage years, I started going to bars, dating different guys, and living recklessly—just like my father.

At one point, I even jumped out of a window to sneak out with a boyfriend. I traveled without my parents' permission and kept spiraling deeper into that lifestyle. Eventually, I got pregnant, and as soon as I did, my boyfriend left me.

After giving birth, I met someone else and got pregnant again—this time with twins. But one day, he told me to leave because he had fallen in love with someone else. I felt devastated, worthless, and completely lost. I depended

on him financially, so when he left, everything collapsed. I fell into deep depression and became suicidal.

I started thinking about ending my life—and even worse, ending the lives of my daughter and the unborn twins too. I felt like life had no meaning, no hope. In desperation, I went to my parents' house to seek help. But when I got there, my father told my mother that if she let me in, he would leave. My mother couldn't bring herself to turn me away, so my father left to live with a woman we didn't even know about.

Since he was the main provider, I had to take on that role—even while pregnant with twins. Things got even harder. My younger sister wasn't working, and we had a toxic relationship. She constantly threatened me, even telling me she'd kill me in my sleep. The house was filled with tension, depression, and daily fights. On top of it all, I suffered from terrible headaches and constant pain. My life kept getting worse.

One day, my sister heard about the Universal Church on the radio. Around the same time, my mom was invited to the church as well. They both decided to go, and little by little, I began to notice a change in my sister. She was no longer angry or depressed. That transformation gave me the courage to go with them.

The first time I went, I felt something shift. The headaches and pain I'd been carrying disappeared. I felt peace for the first time in years. I began attending regularly and started a chain of prayer for complete deliverance and to break the curse in my

As I continued, I learned about the Holy Spirit. I made it my goal to receive the



The curse that was on my once love life and in my family is broken. Today, my home is blessed.

baptism in the Holy Spirit. I poured my heart into seeking Him, practicing everything I was learning. Then, one Sunday morning, I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. From that moment, my life changed completely. On the outside, nothing had changed yet—but inside, a new Claudia was born. I was no longer depressed or suicidal. I wasn't worried about relationships anymore because I was now married to Jesus, and I trusted Him to take care of everything.

Later, the father of my children saw the change in me. He started coming to church too, gave his life to God, and today—we are married. Our entire family serves God.

My father, who had left to be with another woman, came back. He also started attending church and is now an evangelist. And my sister, the one who once threatened my life, is now my best friend—and we serve God together.

The curse that was once on my love life and in my family is broken. Today, my home is blessed.

"As for me and my house, we serve the Lord."

Claudia

## What's happening at the Universal Church

## Misfortunes in love left her with insomnia and panic attacks



I got married at a very young age, but from the beginning, my relationship faced rejection—especially from my partner's mother, who never accepted me. Things moved quickly between us, and we decided to live together and start a family. That decision even caused a rift with my own mother, who also turned her back on me.

Despite the rejection from both sides, we tried to make it work. We had three beautiful daughters, but our relationship began to fall apart. For 14 years, I lived in a marriage where I constantly felt unwanted and unloved. My husband worked in another city and would be gone for months at a time. When he did come home, it felt like he only returned to bring pain—there was verbal and physical abuse, not just toward me, but toward our daughters as well.

His jealousy and violence grew worse, and I found myself trying to protect my daughters by getting them out of the house whenever he was around. I lived in fear. Eventually, I reached my break-

ing point and made the bold decision to emigrate to the United States, seeking freedom from the emotional prison I had been trapped in.

I thought starting over in a new country with a new partner would bring me peace. But instead, history repeated itself. At first, the man seemed kind—but then the abuse began again. He cheated, became violent, and even tried to kill me three times.

All of this left me traumatized. I suffered from insomnia, panic attacks, and overwhelming fear. I felt like life had beaten me down. In my lowest moments, I thought about ending my life, thinking it was the only way to stop the pain.

That's when my granddaughter invited me to the Universal Church. She had discovered it through a TV program and told me, "Grandma, come with me." I had nothing left to lose, so I went.

From the very first visit, something changed. I began attending services regularly and putting into practice what I learned from the Word of God. Slowly but surely, the fear left. The panic attacks stopped, and for the first time in years, I was able to sleep peacefully at night. Most of all, the desire to die vanished, replaced by a new hope.

Thanks to God, and through the power of faith, I was set free. Today, I have peace in my heart and a reason to live. God has given me a new beginning.

–Juar

## Despite his efforts, everything ended in vain



He knew he had to be faithful to God, but his stubbornness led him toward disobedience. Thus cursing his life.

Before I learned about tithing, I felt trapped in a cycle of financial failure. No matter how hard I worked, everything I did seemed to fall apart. I put in long hours, gave my best, but the only thing I reaped from my efforts was loss and frustration.

Deep down, I knew I needed to be faithful to God, but my own stubbornness held me back. I thought I could do it all on my own. My disobedience didn't just hurt me — it cursed my life. I planned my time well, always chasing more income, but somehow, at the end of every month, I could barely scrape together enough to pay the bills. Life kept getting tighter.

Eventually, we could no longer afford rent, and my family and I were forced to move into other people's homes, relying on friends or relatives for shelter. That led to even more problems and humiliation. It was painful, not just for me, but for my wife and children. And as time passed, every job opportunity seemed to dry up. I was working hard, but getting nowhere.

Then one day, while walking down the street, someone handed me a newspaper from the Universal Church. I took it home and began to read it. Inside was a testimony — someone with a story just like mine. That moment gave me the courage to do something I had put off for too long: I decided to return to God. But this time, I made a real commitment. I came back to Him with sincerity, determined to do things His way.

I promised God I would be a faithful tither, and I followed through. As I began to obey Him, I watched my life begin to change. Slowly but surely, the doors of opportunity that had been closed for so long started to open again. Through faith and the help of the Holy Spirit, I was able to rebuild my life.

Today, I have my own home, my own business, and a financial life that is stable and blessed. My family no longer lives in fear or lack. Things began to move forward the moment I chose to put God first and obey His Word.

—William

#### YPG CHICAGO













One of the most exciting local events we've ever hosted was Rock the Block! This dynamic talent show brought our community together in a powerful way, giving individuals—especially our youth—a platform to shine. It was more than just a show; it was a celebration of creativity, courage, and self-expression. For many young participants, it was their first time stepping onto a stage, and the experience gave them the confidence to break out of their shells and showcase their unique gifts. The atmosphere was electric, filled with unforgettable performances, cheering crowds, and moments that truly inspired everyone in attendance.













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, as if there was no hope for me. From the age of seven, I struggled with extreme shyness. I wouldn't speak to anyone and often spent hours locked away in my room, shutting myself off from the world.

But everything changed when I found the YPG (Youth Power Group). Through the support, teachings, and encouragement I received, I was set free from that shyness and the feelings of abandonment. Today, I live with purpose and confidence. I'm no longer hiding—I actively evangelize, connect with others, and dedicate my life to helping save souls.

Most importantly, I'm growing closer to God every day. My relationship with Him is my greatest treasure, and I thank Him for the transformation He has brought into my life.





**REACH OUT TO US: 1 888 332 4141** 

cover story middle spre



he curse on humanity began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:6), even though God had clearly told them not to (Genesis 2:17). Their disobedience brought a curse not only on their own lives but also on the serpent (Genesis 3:14), the woman (Genesis 3:16), the man, and ultimately the entire Earth (Genesis 3:17–19). That curse was passed down to their children and future generations.

This shows us that a curse never comes without a cause (Proverbs 26:2). In most cases, the root of that cause is disobedience—the same disobedience that affected Adam and Eve and still affects many people today. That's why so many continue to face problems that never seem to go away. Unlike other issues, a curse has a spiritual origin. It's not something you can fix through effort alone or natural means. In fact, certain curses can be quite obvious.

When a child is born, they inherit more than just their parents' physical traits—like eye color, hair texture, or skin tone. They can also inherit patterns of behavior or spiritual problems that have been passed down through the family line. Maybe you're dealing with the same struggles your parents or grandparents faced—addiction, a recurring illness, financial hardship, or heartbreak. Even if you rejected their choices or lifestyle, you may find yourself repeating the same patterns, unable to break free. Another way curses take hold is through words. If someone isn't under God's protection and hears a negative or harmful word spoken over them, it can stick and wreak havoc in their life. It's sadly common to see adults still carrying the weight of harsh words their parents spoke to them as children-words that led to sadness, trouble, and a sense of being stuck. It's as if those words became chains. Others, after failed relationships, start to believe they'll never find happiness in love, and that belief begins to shape their reality.

There are also people who've suffered because of envy or cruel words spoken by friends or acquaintances. One day, everything seemed fine—then suddenly, things started falling apart. They began losing everything they had worked for.

If you're tired of living under the weight of a curse and want real change, join us every Friday. Together, we'll cry out to God to break every curse from the past and help you start fresh in a new covenant with Him.

## "I became a wounded beast—a bitter, depressed, envious, and vengeful teenager."

rowing up in a dysfunctional home, Ingrid experienced deep emotional pain from an early age. "My father left us—he abandoned my mom, me, and my three siblings," she recalls. "When I was really young, I blamed my mom because she didn't let us live like other kids. We were poor and she didn't have a job, so her solution was to make us sell chocolates in the streets. That's when my frustration started." But things only got worse.

"Our financial situation was already bad, but then my mom became aggressive. She was angry all the time. She beat me until I bled, cursed at me, and constantly mistreated me," Ingrid says. "I turned into a wounded beast. I was bitter, depressed, envious, and filled with revenge. I sank into depression."

Over time, Ingrid says her pain turned into something darker. "The feeling of rejection became hatred—especially toward my mom. That resentment only grew stronger." Eventually, after another violent episode, Child Protection Services stepped in.

"They took me to a shelter, where I stayed for about six months. While I was there, people told me I had no future and that this was just the life I'd have to accept. I felt hopeless. I honestly thought dying was the only way to end the pain. I ran away from the shelter and went back home, but things got even worse. I fell in with the wrong crowd and started stealing. Then came the drugs and alcohol. I did it all for the momentary pleasure—to escape the pain—but that emptiness inside me only grew



deeper." One night, after using drugs and drinking at a party, Ingrid blacked out. "When I came to, I was in a house with strangers. I had been abused. After that, I tried to take my life several times," she says.

"I remember sitting on a street corner, looking up at the sky and thinking, 'Why am I going through this? If God exists, why do I suffer like this? I didn't ask to be born or live this life.' And in that moment, I remembered the Universal Church. I had grown up attending the Children's Biblical Center (CBC), but my mom had walked away from God."

At just 16 years old, Ingrid walked into a Universal Church on a Friday—completely on her own. "When I left that meeting, I felt like a completely different person. It was like I could fly. The weight I'd been carrying was gone. That was the beginning of my journey of faith," she says. "I finally understood the root of my suffering—and I knew I had to forgive my mom. I chose to be baptized in water and leave the old Ingrid behind. I began seeking the Holy Spirit with all my heart."

One day, listening to a message from Bishop Macedo, she heard about the importance of having God's DNA—of being born again. "I attended a vigil, and it was like I heard God Himself say that He was the Father I had always wanted but never had." From that moment on, Ingrid knew she was no longer alone.



heavenly Father. I had His DNA. Having the presence of God. People ask me why I'm Holy Spirit is like having true life inside of always smiling—and I tell them it's because you," she says.

"Everything changed because now I had a "Today, I have peace. My family is in the I have the Holy Spirit. He's my joy, my comfort, and my best friend.



## "The curse came over my life and affected every area."

"I performed

several more rituals.

**Eventually, my then-**

wife and I even cut

our wrists as part of

a ceremony to 'bless'

our marriage."

troublemaker. "I gave my family a lot of headaches. I drank heavily, went out to clubs, and would come home at dawn—sometimes even at noon. Back then, I thought my problem was just that I needed someone in my life," he recalls.

That belief led him into a relationship with someone involved in a spiritual practice that used rituals. Renato started following the same religion and doing the same rituals.

"That's when everything started falling apart. The curse came over my life and affected every single area," he says.

Trying to fix things, Renato threw himself deeper into those practices.

performed several more rituals. Eventually, my then-wife and I even cut our wrists as part of a ceremony to 'bless' our marriage. But things only

he cried out to God for help.

"I said, 'Lord, if You exist, get me out of this. I can't take it anymore.' At that moment, a voice told me to hang a rope from the beam and end it all. But then I heard another voice—the Voice of God—telling me, 'Turn on the TV.' So I did. A Universal Church

enato says he used to be seen as a program was on. The pastor prayed over a glass of water, and when I drank it, I felt a peace I had never experienced before. That heavy burden lifted off of me."

> Encouraged by what he saw, Renato decided to go to a meeting at the Universal Church.

> "When I got there, I listened to the message and heard the pastor say this could be my last chance. That hit me hard. I found a pastor, told him everything, and chose to be baptized. I truly repented and gave my life to

Jesus. But even then, I still felt something was missing. I only had peace when I was inside the church."

He realized what he needed was the Holy Spirit-and he started to seek Him earnestly.

"I remember the day like it was yesterday. When I received the Holy Spirit, everything changed. negative thoughts and voices disappeared. I no longer

got worse after that. I gave them everything needed anyone else to feel whole. I finally had they asked for, lost all my money, and ended peace and joy within me. I never imagined I'd up in total rebellion." Broken and desperate, even walk through the doors of the Universal Church, but it was there that every curse was broken and all the suffering came to an end. Today, I have God in my life," he says.

## **MAKE A**



#### 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

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!



## "Molestation as a child led me to become very angry, and eventually, I ended up in prison multiple times." — Keisha

hen I was a child, I was molested by someone close to my family. I told my family, but they didn't believe me. They thought I was making it up, acting out for no reason. They called me a liar and said that the person could never do something like that—after all, they were close to us and still hung around like nothing had happened. I started to hold a deep grudge against that person.

From that point on, my family treated me like the black sheep—the troublemaker. That's when everything started to spiral. I began smoking weed at a young age. Where I lived, it was easy to get. I had access to it without any problems. Before long, I started drinking heavily too.

Eventually, stopped drinking, but I kept smoking weed, cigarettes, vaping. The problems home were overwhelming, and relationships weren't any better. I felt like I had hit rock bottom.

One day, I attempted

suicide. I was sitting in my living room when the thought hit me. I lit a piece of paper on fire and tried to burn myself. Thank God my cousin had just walked in—she was able to put the fire out.

But my real breaking point came later, when I was arrested again for fighting. I had my daughter by then, and looking into her eyes while realizing I was going back to prison for the third time broke me.

I didn't want her to grow up seeing me in and out of jail anymore. The pain from my family's rejection and the trauma I carried turned into hatred. I couldn't even hear that person's name



without feeling rage. To cope, I started fighting—constantly. I ended up in an abusive relationship at a young age and even started fighting back. It felt like my life was just one problem after another. When I was released from prison, I slowly started to get back on my feet. I got my own place, and deep down, I knew I wanted to change.

I was done with the life I had been living. That's when I heard about the UBB, and I looked up the closest location near me. I began making my chains of prayer faithfully because I wanted to be free—not just from the addictions, but free in every sense. One Wednesday, I decided to get baptized in water.

But I realized that change wouldn't just fall from the sky—I had to fight for it. I learned that it wasn't God who had to change me. I had to choose to change for real, and I held onto that truth.

Today, I'm no longer suicidal. I'm no longer depressed. I believe I have a purpose.

"

Now, I have peace. I'm not angry like I used to be. When I finally forgave the people who hurt me—and forgave myself, which was the hardest part—I found freedom.

That's when everything began to shift. My freedom started the moment I chose to forgive. I see now that all the anger I carried was because I couldn't let go. That grudge weighed me down for years. But when I truly let it go, that's when I became 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.



## Words of comfort or a harsh reality?

"Prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me." (Job 38:3 NKJV). It's as if God is saying, "Get ready—what I'm about to show you is going to shake you, but it'll be worth it." This marks the beginning of a series of divine revelations meant to humble Job and open his eyes to the vastness of God's power and authority.

The Bible plays many roles in our lives. It's a source of comfort when we're hurting, a well of hope when we feel lost, and a quiet strength when we're weak. But it's also a mirror, showing us who we really are. It corrects us, challenges our thinking, and calls us higher. It doesn't just soothe—it sharpens. And that's exactly what makes it so powerful.

We can't pick and choose the verses that make us feel good and ignore the ones that challenge us. The Word of God is complete. Every part of it—whether encouraging or uncomfortable—is inspired by the Holy Spirit and given to us for a reason.

Jesus Himself said that those who hear His words and do them are like wise people who build their house on solid rock (Matthew 7:24). That kind of foundation doesn't come from feel-good moments alone. It comes from truth—hard truth at times.

Your life doesn't have to be weak. Weakness isn't something life just throws at you. Often, it's the result of choices—small decisions that add up and drain your strength. So how do you become wise? By choosing differently. By not letting every little thing get to you.

Someone cuts you off in the commissary line? Let it go. Was it rude? Sure. But ask yourself—do you want to be wise or foolish? A foolish reaction is to



argue or fight. A wise one is to keep your peace and let God handle it.

When you open your Bible, come with an open heart. Be ready to receive not just comfort, but correction. Let the Word stretch you, challenge you, and change you. It might not always feel good in the moment, but it's preparing you for something better.

As 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of

God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

So embrace all of it—the soft words that bring peace and the sharp ones that bring growth. Trust that every lesson is part of God's plan to shape your character and guide your steps. Because the goal isn't just to feel better—it's to be transformed.









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FIGHTING THE UNSEEN ENEMY 2pm with Bishop David

AT THE EDGE OF DEATH
4pm

**TEN COMMANDMENTS | 5pm** 

**GENESIS | 7pm** 

**JESUS THE SERIES | 9pm** 

**BOOST OF FAITH | 10pm** 



















## How Putting God First Transformed My Business

hen businesswoman Renata, 37, began attending meetings at The Universal Church, she was searching for a transformation in her life. "Two years ago, my husband invited me to the church, and I accepted," she recalls.

There, she heard teachings about the importance of putting God first—how doing so could change her habits, her mindset, and ultimately, her future.

"It required sacrifice and surrender," she says. "But we were willing to do whatever it took to truly know the God we kept hearing about." Renata decided to fully obey the Word of God. She was baptized in water and made the commitment to return her tithe. "I wasn't working at the time, so my tithe was very small," she says. "But I gave faithfully."

Being a tither isn't about the amount—it's about placing God first in all things. It's an act of trust and recognition that everything we have comes from Him. During this time of spiritual growth, Renata had an idea that would change her life.

"I was a housewife, but I came up with the idea of starting a business with my husband," she explains. "That dream became a reality. Today, I own a company with three brands—one for jeans, one for eyewear, and a bookstore." Renata credits her success entirely to faith. "Everything began to change when I prioritized my relationship with God and practiced what I learned. When I first came to the church, I had been unemployed for three years. Look where I am now." She continues, "I don't return the tithe because of money—I tithe because I choose to put God first in my life. And for that, I am deeply grateful."

#### Food for Thought:

True communion requires obedience

To have true communion with God, it's not enough to simply believe—obedience to His Word must be lived out. What good is it to confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior if you don't obey His commands? Faith without obedience is incomplete. One of the first and clearest signs of obedience is faithfulness in tithing. Without it, a person distances themselves from

God and opens the door to spiritual and financial struggles. When someone withholds their tithe, they reject the Lordship of Christ and instead take control of their life as their own master. But when we return the tithe—the first 10% of all we receive—we acknowledge God's ownership over everything and reaffirm our trust in Him. Tithing returns us to the spiritual condition of the Garden of Eden—a place of provision, peace, and relationship with the Creator. It's more than an act of giving; it's a sacred covenant.

For the faithful, money is not their master. Returning the first fruits is a natural, joyful, and devoted act of honor—an expression of love to the One who gives us life



## 7 WAYS TO SAVE MONEY

# 5 5

#### UESTION YOUR INTENTIONS BEFOR

Before you spend money on a specific cause, ask yourself. Don't immediately spend money just because you like it or want

#### REMEMBER YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS

Set financial goals that will motivate you to save money. Use financial goals as a decision-maker when you want to buy something.

#### START SAVING FOR 1

Getting used to being frugal can't happen overnight. You don't have to refuse to buy anything. But, you can start with the smallest things every day.

#### MONTHLY SHOPPING AS

We have to create shopping lists because when we shop monthly at the market or supermarket, we often buy things we don't need. It happens because we do not record the shopping list first.

#### YOU MUST RESTRAIN YOURSELF

Cut down on social media that allows you to spend money. If necessary, you uninstall the e-commerce application until you can control yourself not to shop carelessly.

#### CONSISTENTLY SPEND LESS

Cut down on social media that allows you to spend money. If necessary, you uninstall the e-commerce application until you can control yourself not to shop carelessly.

#### RECORDING EXPENSES AND INCOME

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