

From illicit investments to faith-based financial freedom



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PROSPERITY



"He was lifeless for 23 minutes."

Every Sunday at 10 AM

MIRACLES

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# UNIVERSAL NEWS




SCAN ME

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**Frustration, depression, unfulfilled plans, and failures have made you feel stuck in life. Learn from the stories inside how to get your life unstuck.**

## Stuck in Life



"I was trapped in suffering for 14 years."  
Read Esther's story on page 6



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**Bishop Edir Macedo Does happiness exist?**



**ALOHA HAWAII**



**What's happening at**

On March 29th, we hosted our very first YPG Volleyball Tournament of 2025 in Hawaii, at the Waipahu District Park; it was a big success!

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Universal



## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Stuck in life

How many people started this year full of plans and hope—ready to chase new goals and finally make their dreams happen? Maybe you were one of them. Maybe you had big plans at the start of the year—saving money, changing careers, buying a home, launching a business, retiring comfortably, or starting a fresh chapter in life.

But now, nearly halfway through the year, so many people still haven't taken even the first step toward those goals. They feel stuck. Despite trying to move forward, nothing seems to change—and they have no idea what to do next.

How many people feel like they're in the exact same place as last year? All their efforts have been derailed by unexpected setbacks or a lack of focus. And now, they're left feeling frustrated, discouraged, and maybe even a little hopeless because nothing went the way they planned.

If this sounds familiar, take a deep breath. You're not alone—and more importantly, your story isn't over. Life doesn't always go according to plan, but that doesn't mean you can't still succeed.

Maybe you've been holding onto a dream for years—something you've always wanted but feels farther away than ever. Here's the truth: with God and through faith, all things are possible for those who believe. Your dreams can still come true. Even if you've lost faith that your life can change, I encourage you to keep reading.

You'll see how others, who also felt stuck, managed to turn things around. Their stories might just reignite your faith, restore your hope, and remind you that no dream is ever too far gone. You could be the next story of transformation. You could be the next testimony.

## | 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**



### Does happiness exist?

**H**ave you ever seen someone trying to chase the wind? It's impossible—how can you catch something that can't be held? In the same way, chasing after things that don't bring lasting fulfillment only leads to frustration and disappointment.

Imagine a swarm of frantic cockroaches—chaotic, aimless, and desperate. Sadly, that's the direction humanity seems to be heading.

Everyone is in a rush, throwing all their energy into the pursuit of happiness. The strong often step over the weak to be the first to reach it. Many people, especially those struggling financially, pin their hopes on luck. They say things like, "Maybe one day my life will change." And so, they live from one hope to the next, always waiting for that lucky break.

The sick search for happiness in healing, believing that health is everything. Others see it in career success—money, to them, is the key to happiness. For the lonely or heartbroken, happiness seems to lie in finding love. They chase romantic relationships like a lottery ticket—hoping, gambling, and taking chances, all in the name of love.

Yet, in the end, everyone comes up empty. No matter how hard they search, they feel like they're sinking deeper into life's quicksand. Eventually, some even begin to doubt whether happiness exists at all—just as some people question the existence of God.

But if happiness is real, where is it? How can it be found? This is the question on the minds of so



many who feel lost and unfulfilled. To find true happiness, you first need to take hold of life. The dead—spiritually speaking—have no claim to happiness. As long as someone remains spiritually dead in their sins, happiness is out of reach. They first need to be brought back to life. And that kind of resurrection only comes through the One who gives life—God.

Jesus said: **"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."** – John 11:25. But belief here means more than just words—it's about surrendering your entire self: body, soul, and spirit. When someone makes that full surrender to God, they receive true life. And only then do they gain the right to experience the happiness they've long dreamed of.

As Proverbs 22:4 says: **"The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life."** In other words: those who are humble enough to submit to God will be blessed with happiness—right here on Earth.



### "I lost the will to live."

the relief or fulfillment I was looking for.

To make things worse, I started having serious health issues. I went to doctors, but they couldn't find a solution. Feeling hopeless, I began having suicidal thoughts. That's when I reached out to my sister and opened up about what I was going through. She lives in another country, but she told me about the Universal Church. She mentioned that they were giving out blessed oil at the time and encouraged me to go and get some for myself.

So, I went. It was a Wednesday, and I showed up outside of service hours. Someone there told me the times of the meetings, but honestly, I didn't want to stay—I just wanted the oil. Still, something made me come back. That Friday, I attended a meeting. And in that service, God spoke to me. He showed me that He didn't just want to heal me—He wanted to change

my entire life. Above all, He wanted a relationship with me.

From that moment on, I decided to keep going. The more I returned and put into practice what I was learning, the more I began to change. I forgave my parents. I broke free from my addictions. I let go of the toxic lifestyle I had been living. I completely surrendered to God, and He healed me—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. As I continued seeking Him, I received the Holy Spirit. And that changed everything.

Today, I'm a completely different person. I have peace. I no longer feel alone, because I know that God is with me every step of the way. With Him in my life, I truly lack nothing.

If you're suffering, if you're lost and don't know where to turn to find happiness—I want to encourage you to seek the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants to change your life too. – Everton



# Experience the Power of God this Sunday



**“He was lifeless for 23 minutes.”**

On June 30, 2023, Luis, a construction worker, suffered a sudden cardiorespiratory arrest after what seemed like a normal day with his family. He was clinically dead for 23 minutes. When doctors managed to revive him, they gave the family no hope. In fact, they were told, “Pick out the casket.”

But Luis was, and still is, a man of faith—someone who had already beaten cancer back in 2019. Once again, his family turned to their faith. They began to pray and anointed him with consecrated oil, believing in God's power to heal. Forty-five days later, Luis woke up from the coma. Just three days after that, he was discharged from the hospital.

Even though he was still in pain and dealing with the aftereffects, Luis didn't stop seeking God. He began attending services at the Universal Church, participating in healing prayers and putting his faith into action.

Over time, he was completely healed—no more pain, no lasting effects.

In fact, today he says he's in better health than ever before. — Luis



**“Free from depression and suicidal thoughts.”**

I used to struggle with deep depression and suicidal thoughts. I was hearing voices telling me to hurt my children. At home, those same voices would urge me to take pills and end my life.

I started coming to this ministry on Fridays for deliverance and began using the blessed water on Sundays.

Since then, the voices have stopped. I no longer feel depressed, and I don't have suicidal thoughts anymore. — Bianca



**“I had severe indigestion problems.”**

I was dealing with severe indigestion—so bad that almost everything I ate would come back up. It got to the point where I had to see a doctor, and she recommended that I get an upper GI endoscopy to find out what was going on.



**Before**

While going through this, I started coming to the Universal Church. Every Sunday, I would use the blessed water from the well, believing in my healing through faith. After the procedure, I went back to the doctor for follow-up tests. That's when he told me, “There's nothing wrong.” The biopsy showed no swelling, no inflammation, and no cancer.

I know without a doubt that God healed me.

— Ms. Laurell



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





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## Stuck in your old ways



Albert Einstein once said, “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

If that’s true, then why do so many people keep repeating the same habits, even when nothing changes? It’s like trying to bake a cake with the wrong recipe—no matter how many times you try, it keeps coming out wrong. Yet, you keep using the same recipe. It makes no sense.

How can we expect God to bless us if we keep holding on to our old ways—especially when we already know those ways don’t please Him?

You might pray.

You might remind God of the promises He made in the Bible.

You might attend church regularly and do your chain of prayers every week.

But still, you see no answers from God. Why is that?

Because God is righteous—and He cannot reward disobedience. He cannot bless a life that refuses to change. If you want God to be with you, you need to walk with Him. That means letting go of everything that doesn’t please Him.

People might deceive you. You might deceive others. You might even deceive yourself. But who can deceive God? You

can lie to your spouse, your parents, your boss—but you can’t lie to God. He sees everything.

Look at what God told Abram:

**“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.’” Genesis 12:1**

God was saying, in essence, “I can’t show you the land I have for you until you leave the place you’re in now.”

You have to understand—Abram already had a stable life. He was settled. He was 75 years old. Still, God told him to leave his home, his family, and the pagan land he lived in.

God didn’t ask politely. He didn’t say, “Abram, please consider leaving.” He said, “Get out.”

That “country” represents your old life. Your old habits. Your way of living that hasn’t worked up until now.

If you want to see a new land, a new life, a new future—you need to take the first step. Leave behind what’s familiar but unfruitful. Let go of your old ways and follow His.

God can only bless you when you decide to walk away from what’s holding you back.

*May the God of the Bible bless you.*

## A past marked by sadness, addiction, and gunfire

I had a troubled childhood. My home was filled with fights, most of them caused by my father’s addiction. Seeing him drunk and out of control hurt me deeply. I felt ashamed and angry. Over time, I developed a strong resentment toward him.

At first, this pain only affected my relationship with my dad—but it didn’t stop there. Eventually, it spilled over into my relationship with my brother. Things got so bad that I almost stabbed him once in a heated argument. Someone had to physically hold me back so I wouldn’t hurt him.

Looking for peace, I turned to the wrong crowd. Through friends, I was introduced to drugs. It started with cigarettes and weekend drinking at parties. But soon, I was smoking marijuana regularly and using cocaine.

Addiction took hold of my life. I sold the few clothes I owned just to buy drugs. I even committed petty thefts to feed my addiction. From there, I got involved with weapons and drug trafficking. I lived a life I never thought I’d fall into. I was beaten by police more than once.

One early morning, while walking down the street, I got shot—twice. To this day, I still have a bullet fragment lodged in my leg as a reminder of where that life led me.

Despite being surrounded by people, parties, and so-called friends, I felt completely empty inside. I carried this deep sadness that no one could see. I would often cry alone at night even knowing why. This constant weight that I couldn’t

came heartbreak—got even worse. I myself in alcohol, nightlife. I’d wake I didn’t remember houses that weren’t pletely lost and broken.

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Everything started to change in 2018.

My brother, who had already started attending the Universal Church, invited me to go with him. I resisted for a long time—my pride kept me away. But eventually, when I looked at my life and saw how far I’d fallen, I said yes.

When I walked into the church, I noticed something different—people were smiling with a genuine joy I didn’t recognize. That day, I heard a message that said, “Jesus gives rest to the tired and burdened.” That hit me hard, because that’s exactly what I was—tired and burdened.

I began attending the services regularly and started a Chain of Prayer for deliverance from addiction. I got baptized in water, and little by little, God transformed me into a new man.

Today, I can say I love my father. I hold no resentment toward him or my brother. The emptiness that once haunted me is completely gone. I finally found peace.

Marcelo Pinto



MAY 2025 BIBLE READING						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 JOHN 1 ✓	2 JOHN 2 ✓	3 JOHN 3 ✓
4 JOHN 4 ✓	5 JOHN 5 ✓	6 JOHN 6 ✓	7 JOHN 7 ✓	8 JOHN 8 ✓	9 JOHN 9 ✓	10 JOHN 10 ✓
11 JOHN 11 ✓	12 JOHN 12 ✓	13 JOHN 13 ✓	14 JOHN 14 ✓	15 JOHN 15 ✓	16 JOHN 16 ✓	17 JOHN 17 ✓
18 JOHN 18 ✓	19 JOHN 19 ✓	20 JOHN 20 ✓	21 JOHN 21 ✓	22 1 TIMOTHY 1 ✓	23 1 TIMOTHY 2 ✓	24 1 TIMOTHY 3 ✓
25 1 TIMOTHY 4 ✓	26 1 TIMOTHY 5 ✓	27 1 TIMOTHY 6 ✓	28 2 TIMOTHY 1 ✓	29 2 TIMOTHY 2 ✓	30 2 TIMOTHY 3 ✓	31 2 TIMOTHY 4 ✓



# What's happening at the Universal Church

## From Extreme Vanity and Emptiness to a True Encounter with God



I attended the Universal Church for over twenty years. During that time, I took part in faith campaigns and even received blessings—especially in my financial life. But the truth is, I never fully surrendered my life to God. I was there physically, but my heart was far away. I carried a deep emptiness inside me that nothing seemed to fill.

Eventually, I completely distanced myself from the church and threw myself into everything the world had

to offer. Even though I was married, I lived like I was single. Vanity completely took over my life. I had plastic surgery, started dressing in flashy, revealing clothes, and spent my nights in clubs and bars—always trying to fill the emptiness I felt inside. My life became a reflection of my vanity and my desperate search for attention.

But the consequences soon followed. Arguments at home became constant. My husband, who no longer recognized the woman he had married, asked for a separation. I began struggling with insomnia and sank into a deep sadness. I was broken.

One sleepless night, I turned on the TV and happened to catch a program from the Universal Church. In that moment, I felt it was God reaching out to me—offering me a second chance. So, I decided to return. But this time, I came back with a different mindset. This time, I chose to surrender completely to God.

I began to understand the importance of receiving the Holy Spirit, and I started to seek Him with all my heart. I'll never forget one prayer where I cried out to God and said, "God, either give me Your Spirit or take me from this world, because I don't want to live like this anymore." And He heard me. That very same day, I received the Holy Spirit. I was born again. The peace and joy I experienced in that moment were unlike anything I had ever felt. It was the happiest day of my life.

From that point forward, I kept seeking God and putting His Word into practice. He began to transform me from the inside out. He restored my marriage, healed me emotionally, and taught me my true worth. Today, I am at peace. I have real joy. I am a new woman. Now I understand that outward beauty fades, but the beauty that comes from God is eternal. To Him, I give all the honor and all the glory. - Merle

## "Her faith influenced me."

Mariana:

"Before I found the Universal Church, I was going through a really tough time. My family was facing a lot of problems, and I felt anxious and overwhelmed. At the same time, my husband, Gustavo, was going through serious financial struggles. Nothing seemed to be going right for him, and it left him feeling deeply sad and insecure. He didn't know how to help me, and I couldn't help him either.

My aunt, who attends the Universal Church, encouraged me to visit and get help there. I went, and from the moment I walked in, I was warmly welcomed. I began to learn how to face my problems with faith. I felt excited about the chance for real change, especially after seeing how many others had overcome similar situations. But Gustavo wasn't interested—and that really frustrated me. I started to realize that our differences in mindset and goals were starting to create a gap between us.

At first, I tried to convince him to come with me no matter what. I thought that if I insisted enough, he'd understand how important it was for both of us to receive this help. But the more I pushed, the more he pulled away. It only irritated him and caused more distance. That's when I turned to God and asked Him to show me another way.

During one of the meetings, I learned about the Challenge of Faith. I decided to take part in it. Through this experience, I understood that God could do what I couldn't—and that He could speak to Gustavo's heart in ways I never could. And that's exactly what happened."

Gustavo:

"At that time, I was deeply unhappy with my life. But I was so discouraged that I couldn't believe anything could help—not even the Universal Church. It all sounded unrealistic to me, so I kept rejecting Mariana's invitations. She kept trying to show me what I was missing, but her constant insistence just pushed me further

away. I ended up isolating myself.

But over time, I noticed something: she stopped pressuring me.

And at the same time, I couldn't ignore the fact that things in her life were changing. Her family relationships were improving, and there was a clear difference in her—she was calmer, more joyful, and more confident.

The way she lived out her faith started to influence me. I could see her life changing, and even though I didn't want to admit it, I wanted that change too. I didn't want my life to stay the same. So I humbled myself, set my pride aside, and decided to go with her to a service.

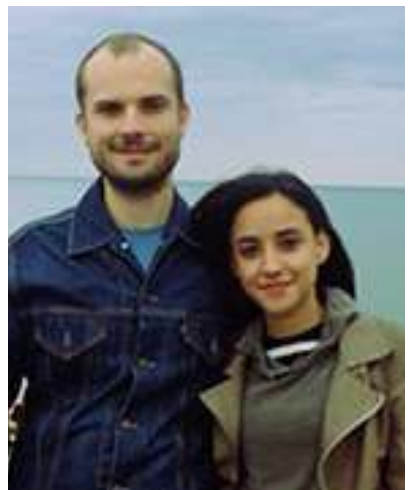
That's when everything started to shift. I realized that if I wanted change, I needed to put my faith into action. That meant pushing past my sadness and fighting—with confidence—for the things I wanted. As I did, things began to improve. I got a great job, regained my self-esteem, and started overcoming my challenges using intelligent faith.

Thanks to the support and guidance we received at the Universal Church, we've overcome so many difficulties. Now, Mariana and I work together to build a strong, blessed life."

Mariana:

"Today, my family is blessed, and my marriage with Gustavo is thriving. We're a team—and we're happy!"

— Gustavo & Mariana



**UP TO NO GOOD!**



**AGATUPU BETA**

Gang banging, vaping, smoking weed, drinking—those things had all become a part of my daily life. Not because I wanted to be reckless, but because I was completely empty inside. There was a deep void in me, so heavy that I once tried to take my own life by jumping off a bridge. Everything stemmed from chaos at home—family issues that never seemed to get better—and a toxic relationship that only made things worse. I was broken, angry, and lost.

But everything changed the day I walked into the Universal Church for the very first time. I didn't hear a voice out loud, but deep inside my heart, I heard something say, "I'm here." And I knew without a doubt—it was God. Right then and there, I made a decision: I wanted a new life. From that day forward, I started walking away from everything that was destroying me—the gang, the smoking, the drinking, the people who were dragging me down. It wasn't easy. Letting go of the old life came with a fight, but God gave me strength every step of the way. Today, for the first time in my life, I am free. Truly free.



**ALOHA HAWAII**



### Volleyball Tournament 2025

On March 29th, we hosted our very first YPG Volleyball Tournament of 2025 right here in Waipahu District Park—and it was a big success!

Hawaii is home to a vibrant mix of communities, including Chuukese, Samoan, Filipino, and of course, the native Hawaiian culture. This event brought together over 125 young people from areas like Waipahu, Ewa Beach, Waianae, Honolulu, and beyond.

It was more than just a tournament—it was a powerful opportunity to connect with youth and their families in a positive, uplifting environment. Parents came out to support and enjoy the games, and many were moved by the strong sense of unity and encouragement. If you missed it, don't worry—you can still be a part of what's happening!

Join us at YPG Hawaii:

Real Talk Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

YPG Hangouts every Sunday at 1:00 PM

94-307 Farrington Hwy, Unit A-11, Waipahu, HI 96707  
Whether you're into sports, looking to meet new people, or just want a place to grow and be inspired—you're always welcome here.



SCAN ME



@YPG\_USA



YPG USA



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



# STUCK IN LIFE?

Have you ever felt like your life has come to a standstill—or that you're just... stuck?

Life doesn't always go as planned. Sometimes, a path that once seemed full of promise suddenly comes to a halt. Doors close, opportunities vanish, and dreams start to feel like distant memories. No matter how hard you try, it feels like you take one step forward only to fall two steps back. Feeling stuck can take many forms. Maybe your career didn't unfold the way you hoped—or maybe it never even got off the ground. Perhaps you're grieving a relationship that ended without closure. Family problems might feel too deep to fix. Your immigration process could be stuck in limbo. That business idea you once believed in might still be sitting on paper, never brought to life. Maybe your health has drained your peace, or you feel spiritually distant—like God is silent. Or maybe... you're just standing at a crossroads, unsure which way to turn.

If any of this sounds familiar, know this: you are not alone.

We all go through seasons when the road ahead seems uncertain. But a blocked path doesn't mean the journey is over. Sometimes, these moments are divine pauses—God's way of calling us to stop relying on our own strength and start trusting in His. As the Word of God says: "And one shall say, 'Heap it up! Heap it up! Prepare the way; take the stumbling block out of the way of My people.'"

— Isaiah 57:14

In line with this promise, we invite you to join us for the Friday of Deliverance—a powerful meeting where we come together in faith, believing that you will be set free from all oppression, confusion, and spiritual resistance. It's time to move forward. Let nothing stand in your way.



## "I was trapped in suffering for 14 years."

Esther Carolina's long journey of suffering began in early childhood. At just six years old, she experienced the trauma of sexual abuse by someone close to her family.

"It only happened once, but it was deeply traumatic and triggered a chain of emotional struggles," she recalls. "From that moment on, I became a timid, withdrawn girl." That same year, her pain intensified when her father passed away.

"With the scars of the abuse and the loss of my father, I grew up believing that happiness was impossible. The grief left a wound in my soul that turned into deep anguish—I felt completely abandoned," she says.

### Trying to numb the pain

Loneliness and anger weighed heavily on Esther. She searched for ways to soothe her wounded soul, spending time at parties and constantly surrounding herself with friends. By age 14, she had turned to drugs.

"I was too proud to admit I was hurting, so I tried to fix things in my own way. I started with lighter drugs, but before I knew it, I was using crack."

### Her addiction spiraled out of control.

"I hit rock bottom when I found myself addicted to crack, walking the streets dirty, not wanting to



shower, just completely lost. I was deeply depressed and even attempted suicide multiple times."

### A turning point

After nearly 14 years of suffering, Esther was introduced to the Universal Church at age 20. Skeptical and hopeless, she decided to attend—but not with the intention to change.

"I didn't go there looking for a transformation. I honestly just wanted to discredit the pastor who told me my life could change. But over time, something began to shift. I started learning about God, and eventually, I began to obey."

As she opened her heart to God's Word, Esther discovered something life-changing: the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and the power of His forgiveness.

"I realized that Jesus died on the cross so I could truly live. Even after everything I had done and experienced, He still forgave and loved me. I began to believe in that love."

### A new beginning

That revelation led Esther to surrender completely to God. "I understood that God had never abandoned me—even in the worst moments when I thought no one saw me, He was there. I gave up everything and laid my life on His Altar."

Through that decision, Esther overcame her past traumas and emotional wounds.

"The most important day of my life was when I received the Holy Spirit. That's when I finally understood what love, care, and true peace really are. With the Author of Love



living inside me, I no longer feel alone, abandoned, or inferior.”  
Today, Esther lives a transformed life—one she never imagined possible.

“I now live in peace, with the certainty of my salvation. My present and future are secure because I know God is with me in every detail.”



## “I started attacking my father and, after I grew up, I even put him in jail.”

Isaiah, a father of eight, grew up in a home torn apart by violence, addiction, and deep emotional wounds.

“My house was in ruins,” he recalls. “My father was addicted to alcohol and drugs. He would bring his coworkers to our home to get high. He didn’t just beat my mother—he stabbed her and, on more than one occasion, tried to kill her. Some scenes from that time still haunt me.” Isaiah and his siblings were also frequent victims of their father’s rage.

“I was filled with anger. I started lashing out at my father, and when I got older, I even had him arrested. My hatred ran so deep that I considered killing him.”

### Trying to survive

In an attempt to escape the cycle of poverty and pain, Isaiah began collecting scrap metal. “We weren’t starving, but we relied on donations to survive,” he says. “Even though I worked hard to change my circumstances, hatred consumed me. On the inside, I was still a deeply sad person.”

### A divine encounter

Everything began to change 26 years ago during a simple lunch break. “I met a man who told me about Jesus. He couldn’t read, so I would read the Bible to him, and he would explain it to me. Little by little, the Word of God began to enter my heart and give me strength. That’s when I started to

believe that my life could actually change.” Isaiah eventually accepted an invitation to attend the Universal Church. What he found there completely shifted his perspective. “At first, I realized I had been unfair to my father. I began to understand that he wasn’t just a cruel man—he was a victim of spiritual forces. That understanding allowed me to see him, my mother, and my brothers differently. My thoughts, my reactions, my entire behavior began to change. Through God’s Word, I learned what forgiveness, repentance, and true faithfulness are. I became a new Isaiah.”

### From brokenness to restoration

As his inner life transformed, so did his outer circumstances. “I learned to put God first in everything. Every morning, the first person I speak to is Him. I ask for His guidance and protection, and with that, I know my day will be blessed.” Isaiah started selling candy at traffic lights. “It doesn’t matter what you do—it matters who you walk with. I chose to walk with God, and He directed every step.”

Today, Isaiah’s life bears no resemblance to the chaos of his past. “I’ve been married for 19 years, and our relationship keeps getting better with time. We now own a restaurant, and it’s thriving. When I look back, I see how far God has brought me. His Word didn’t just change my circumstances—it rewrote my entire story.”

## 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**  
**8am & 12pm**

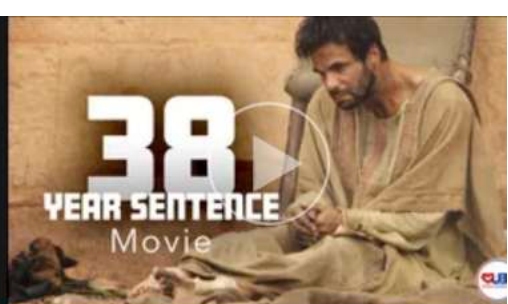
Have you ever looked at a problem or situation and thought, ‘this is impossible, there is no solution to this?’ If you want to see the ‘impossible become possible’, join us every Saturday.

**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!"

## Stop changing your statements



Did you watch the fifth episode of the UBB series on the Pando app? Remember, this series is deeply connected to your release. But before God, you can't keep changing your statements. This was Pharaoh's biggest problem—he kept lying.

Moses went to him five times, and each time Pharaoh said one thing but did another. Moses would deliver Pharaoh's promise to God and the people, only for Pharaoh to change his mind again.

How many times have you changed your

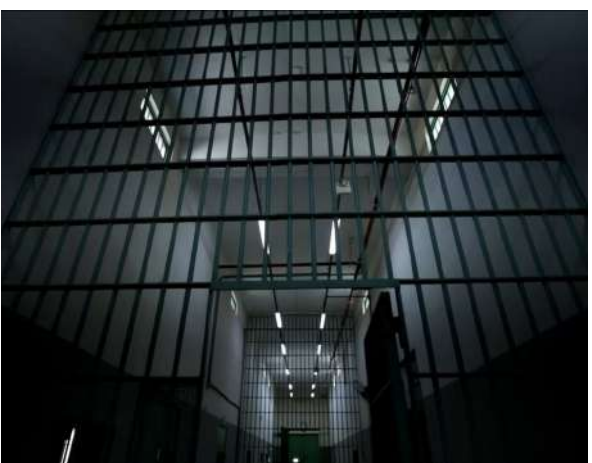


statements before the judge? Before your PO? Then you get frustrated because things haven't worked out the way you wanted. But like Pharaoh, you know deep down what you're doing is wrong.

Still, pride keeps you from humbling yourself before God. We have to remember—there are consequences for every wrong we do. Don't be stubborn like Pharaoh. Instead, listen to God's voice.

Take seriously the messages of faith you're receiving. Be honest. God is patient—but so is the devil. Don't play games with God. We can't afford to take Him lightly.

In the last five episodes of the series, we saw how God was patient—but slowly, His patience ran out. Each time Moses went back to Pharaoh, the plagues got worse.



Ask yourself: has your stubbornness kept you stuck in the same cycle? Have your broken promises delayed your blessing—just like Pharaoh? Be watchful. Make a change today. Your freedom is in your hands.

Have you shown God—and yourself—that



you're truly ready to be free? Can you handle that freedom? Or have you been ignoring God's voice? Don't wait until God's wrath is stirred. Respond now. Take His word seriously, and you'll see the promised land. What is that promised land? Your release—and most importantly, your salvation.

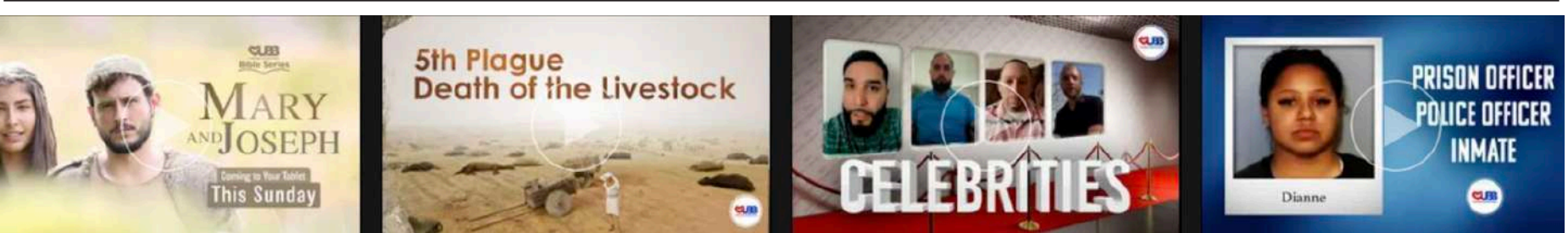
The Bible says:

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.

If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them, the hand of the Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock—on your horses, donkeys and camels, and on your cattle, sheep and goats.

But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die." The Lord set a time and said, "Tomorrow the Lord will do this in the land." – Exodus 9:1–5

Obey God's voice, and you will be protected—just like the Israelites. But if you disobey, you won't have His covering when trouble comes.



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 got involved in criminal activity at a very young age.

There were many times when I had shootouts with the police—people saw me on the news, firing at officers. I went to prison several times, and every time I came out, I was worse than before. There were about eight of us in a group, and we committed a lot of robberies and assaults together—especially bank robberies. Each of us had our specific role, and we planned everything down to the last detail.

Whenever we pulled off a job, we'd split the money, and I was always so excited. I used to think, "Whoa, this is amazing!" We traveled from city to city carrying out robberies and assaults. We'd call the banks pretending to be customers so we could find out their schedules. We'd scope them out to learn their busiest hours. Most of our robberies were well planned and organized.



But one day, things didn't go as planned—we got caught right inside the bank. We were arrested and sent to prison. That time, I stayed in for about eight months. But even while I was in prison, we were planning how to do things better once we got out. When I was released, I lived on the streets for about three months, but I hadn't changed. In fact, I was worse. I committed more assaults, got caught again, and went back to prison—this time with my cousin.

While we were locked up, my cousin was murdered. I stayed there for about six months, and even then, I was still causing trouble inside. I was angry, frustrated—I lost my mind.

My mom saw what I was going through, and she suffered a lot because of me. I got transferred to three different prisons, and each time, I kept causing problems. After I completed my sentence, I went to live with another cousin. He told me, "I want to see what you're really



**"Since the age of 15 I was involved with crime." - Edval**

going to do with your freedom now." I tried to change. I met a girl, she got pregnant, and we had a daughter. But I was still in the criminal world. That was my reality.

Every time I left the house, I told my wife I was going to work—but I wasn't. I was going out to commit more robberies and assaults. The truth is, I didn't even need



the money. I wasn't lacking anything. But the desire for more kept pulling me back in.

One day, the leader of our group called us to carry out a major assault. We kidnapped a man, threw him into the van, beat him, drove to a remote location, killed him, and then escaped. My mother-in-law saw the life I was living. She

invited my wife and me to go to the Universal Church. I told her, "That church is just full of thieves."

Which was ironic—because I was a thief myself. My wife kept insisting, so I finally agreed to go. On the way to the church, I had drugs in my car—cocaine and more. But when I left that service, something changed. I lost the desire to deal drugs. My mind felt different. My thoughts started to shift in a new direction.

I began attending church on Fridays for deliverance. I went on Wednesdays to seek the Holy Spirit. I started going on Sundays. And thank God, today I'm free from addiction. It wasn't easy—but the key was that I made a decision. I chose to leave that life behind.

I've been free for many years now, and I'll never forget the day—October 29, 2015—when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. After being baptized in water, I realized something powerful: God didn't look at my past. Even

though I was an evil, corrupt man, God embraced me. He accepted me as His son—something I never imagined was possible.

That truth fills me with joy. I am chosen. I belong to Him. God lives inside of me, and I don't owe anything to the justice system. My name is clean.

My family is blessed. We're united. My daughters are blessed. God helped me rebuild my financial life—and today, would you believe it? I own my own business.

Now, I'm an example to my family—my wife, my kids, my brothers and sisters. I used to be someone who had no respect for anyone. But today, people see God's character in me.



*"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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# From illicit investments to faith-based financial freedom: Zenildo's redemption journey

**T**he first nine years of life were good for Zenildo, now 43, an entrepreneur in the construction sector. However, when his parents separated, his peaceful childhood came to an end. At age 10, Zenildo started working at a car wash, where he had his first exposure to alcohol. By 15, he was experimenting with synthetic drugs, and by 16, he was carrying a weapon and involved in gang activity.

One day, when he came home and found his mother with her new boyfriend, he tried to kill the man. He recalls: "My mother kicked me out not just because of her boyfriend, but because I was hardly home due to my criminal lifestyle."

## LIVING ALONE AND FUNDING BUSINESSES THROUGH CRIME

Zenildo lived alone, partying, using drugs, and drinking. He organized events and invested in businesses, such as a tattoo studio and a pizzeria, using money from criminal activities. He reflects: "Even though I was around people, I was truly alone."

It was during this chaotic period that he found out he was going to be a father.

## HITTING ROCK BOTTOM

At 25, Zenildo began suffering from anxiety and depression. Around the same time, he developed suicidal thoughts, became paranoid, experienced night terrors, and was unable to sleep. In search of peace, he turned to various religions, but things only worsened.

"At the peak of my breakdown, at 32, I couldn't even be in a crowd without thinking, 'End your life to find peace.' That was the worst point."

It was during those sleepless nights that he discovered a TV program by The Universal Church. "I couldn't sleep, but drinking the blessed water that the pastor prayed over from the TV gave me relief," he recalls.

As he continued watching and praying, he came to a realization: "The emptiness I felt was the absence of God. I had always partnered with evil. It was time to live for God. I needed to convert, quit everything, and start over."

## A LIFE-CHANGING COMMITMENT

Zenildo had always viewed the Church as a serious and sacred place, not something to take lightly. His mother, a regular attendee of the Universal Church, often prayed for him. Despite lingering resentment, he called her and asked to attend a service with her.

Determined to build a relationship with God and obey Him in everything, Zenildo got baptized one week later. "I gave up everything that reminded me of my old life. I purified myself from worldly things and filled myself with what pleased God. When I received Him, I knew He saw me, guided me, and would never leave me," he

says. Having God's presence didn't exempt him from challenges, but gave him peace to face them. At 39,

while preparing for volunteer work, he was arrested due to an outstanding legal issue he was unaware of.

He says he remained at peace, knowing he had done nothing wrong. Through prayer, he understood that the arrest was not just to resolve the case, but also to teach him lessons he could later share with others.

He spent 30 days in detention. Even though he was in a notorious gang-affiliated cell, he continued serving Jesus — preaching, counseling inmates, and praying.

## A RENEWED LIFE WITH FINANCIAL AND SPIRITUAL CLARITY

Now, ten years into his spiritual journey, Zenildo lives free of addiction, healed from depression and anxiety, and spiritually liberated. He forgave his mother and even moved back in with her. He's engaged and preparing for marriage.

"Staying spiritually connected is what keeps me grounded. We hear many people every day, and sometimes evil speaks through them, trying to mislead us. But the more we stay in the Spirit, asking God for discernment and understanding, the better we can distinguish good from evil and avoid its traps."



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