

Navara faced a life-threatening illness

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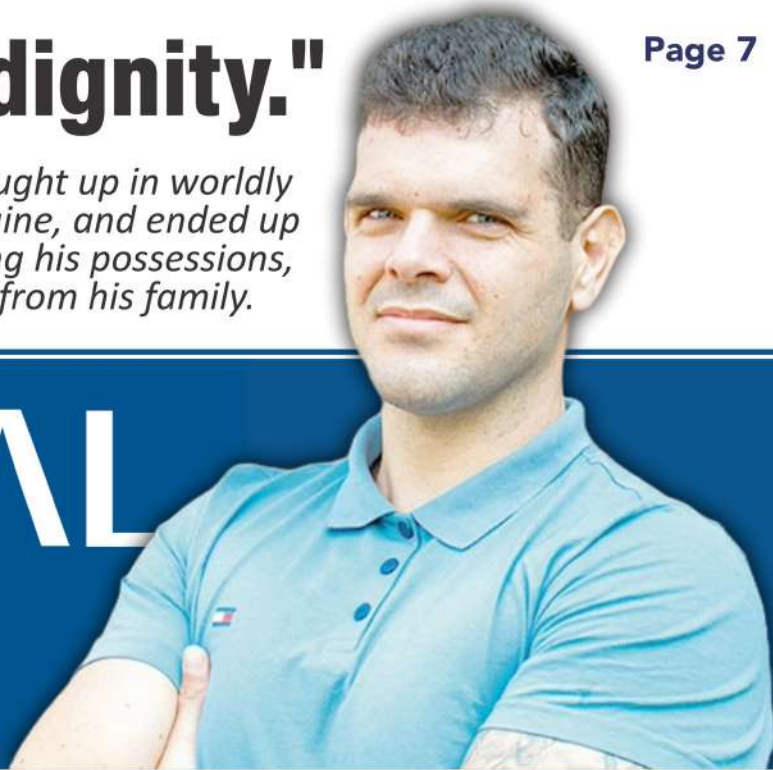
Every Sunday at 10 AM

MIRACLES

"I lost my dignity."

Christian Carelli got caught up in worldly pleasures, got into cocaine, and ended up dealing with debt, losing his possessions, and growing distant from his family.

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UNIVERSAL NEWS

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The effects of addiction on American families

Addiction affects more than just the person using—it impacts the entire family. The emotional toll, financial stress, legal troubles, and more can tear a household apart. But there is hope. Learn how to overcome addiction and rebuild your life, one step at a time. Take the first step. Save yourself. Save your family.



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Bishop Edir Macedo

The authority of supernatural faith

"I tried to take my own life seven times."

Elisabeth battled depression for nearly two decades—until she rediscovered the joy of living through faith in the Lord Jesus.

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What's happening at

Universal



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

The effects of addiction on american families

"More than 20 million people in the U.S. have an addiction. Yet only 10% of these people receive any addiction treatment.

(Source: <https://drughelpline.org/addiction-statistics/>)

When we talk about addiction, we often focus only on the pain experienced by the person using drugs or struggling with other forms of addiction—like gambling or pornography. But the impact of addiction reaches far beyond the individual. It affects entire families, tears homes apart, separates parents from their children, sparks conflict between spouses, and leaves emotional wounds that can last for generations.

For many people, drugs may seem like an escape. But that temporary relief often comes at a devastating cost—especially for children who grow up with emotionally or physically absent parents and witness constant fighting between adults who are deeply hurt themselves. Studies show that children raised in homes with drug abuse are four times more likely to develop emotional disorders and twice as likely to fall into addiction themselves.

We believe that real change in a family begins with one person. Someone has to take the first step—by seeking healing, turning to God, and focusing on their own transformation. When that happens, they're better equipped to support their loved ones.

If you or someone you care about is struggling with addiction, don't try to carry that burden alone. Let God take what's too heavy for you. That's the kind of faith you'll learn to live by when you come to the Universal Church.

When you start using your faith as a tool, that's when your life—and your family—can begin to heal and be restored. Please, read the stories in this edition, and see how your life can change.



Bishop Edir Macedo



The authority of supernatural faith

True fulfillment only comes when faith is put into action.

Just as faith carries the authority of God to set believers free, doubt carries the power of evil to enslave those who refuse to believe.

That's why there's no real fulfillment in life without practicing faith—supernatural faith.

A life built on faith shuts the door to all spiritual problems.

Sleepless nights, fear, anxiety, depression, addictions, inner anguish, constant headaches, suicidal thoughts, feelings of worthlessness, heartbreak, and insecurity—these are all symptoms of spiritual oppression.

The oppression of doubt.

How many great business opportunities have been lost because of uncertainty?

How many marriages have fallen apart over baseless suspicion?

How many tragedies could have been avoided if doubt hadn't clouded key decisions?

Only active, living faith can neutralize the destructive power of everyday doubt.

And this has nothing to do with religious rituals or traditions.

Faith is the authority of God, given to us to stand against every form of evil.

In true faith, there's no fear, no trauma, no weakness—no uncertainty.

Instead, there is complete conviction about where you're headed.

But...

Those who live in doubt are always hoping for luck to save them.

And while they wait, misfortune fills the gap. Luck and bad luck come



from the same source. Life passes them by, and there's no bright future waiting at the end.

Doubt is evil's partner—the mother of failure.

It's negative faith. Its goal? To spread fear, destruction, and death.

But faith—real, supernatural faith—transforms the present and shapes the future.

It is divine authority to overcome evil.

But it must be exercised.

She used to feel useless and invisible

Childhood trauma made Sabrina feel inferior—until she was embraced by Someone who changed everything.

Sabrina, a 29-year-old administrative assistant, grew up surrounded by her father's alcoholism and the emotional absence of her mother, who had to work hard to provide for the family.

"I grew up feeling alone," she recalls. "Even as a child, I thought I was unwanted." Longing for acceptance, Sabrina was deeply affected by bullying at school. Her appearance became a target, and with each insult, her sense of self-worth crumbled. "I started to feel like I didn't matter—as if I were invisible," she says.

At just 12 years old, Sabrina turned to alcohol in an attempt to quiet the chaos inside. "Drinking became my escape," she admits. "It felt like my mind and heart were a complete mess." As time went on, her dependence on alcohol grew. Alongside the addiction came depression, panic attacks, and anxiety. Trying to numb the emotional pain, she threw herself into meaningless relationships and constant partying—desperately trying to fill a void that never went away. "But all I really felt," she says quietly, "was used."

"God, I need You."

One of her darkest moments came during a panic attack. Feeling completely drained and without strength, she cried out, "God, I need You." To her surprise, the panic stopped instantly. That moment opened her eyes. "It made me believe that maybe my life could have a purpose. I thought, 'I need God,' and right then, I made the decision to surrender."

She remembered going to the Universal Church with her mother as a child, between the ages of 4 and 11. So, she went back—and took part in a campaign of faith. During that spiritual journey, Sabrina gave up her personal plans and

desires. "I realized God wanted me to belong to Him—to be His daughter," she says.

That's when something changed. "On that Wednesday, standing at the Altar, I gave my life and my future to God." Her true transformation came when she received the Holy Spirit. That moment gave her a brand-new perspective on life. "To me, the Holy Spirit is everything," she explains. "He guides me, comforts me, gives me direction, and brings balance and clarity." With her faith renewed, she finally found real joy. The emotional scars and fears that once haunted her no longer have a hold. "Today, I have peace. That peace—my greatest treasure—comes from the Holy Spirit."

Now, as a volunteer in the "There is a cure for Depression" group for nearly three years, Sabrina dedicates her life to helping others find the same peace that transformed her. What makes her truly happy isn't material success or temporary accomplishments. "My greatest treasure is the Holy Spirit," she says. "Having Him in my life means I've been accepted by God."

Married and a proud mother to her 11-year-old daughter, Luna, Sabrina now lives a stable and fulfilling life, full of joy and the blessing of a united family.

For her, the Altar is more than just a place—it's where her transformation began. "The Altar represents surrender, sacrifice, and the place where I know I'm with God—safe and protected," she says. She believes it was that complete surrender, during that church campaign, that brought the peace and wholeness she had never known before.



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!

Experience the Power of God this Sunday



“I had high blood pressure and diabetes”

My blood pressure used to be very high. I used to be very sick. I felt nausea, weak, I had no strength in my body. I was feeling helpless, whenever I went to work, I just couldn't work. Even my boss had to call my daughter to come get me because I couldn't make it. I used to take three pills for high blood pressure and three for diabetes.

I used the blessed water everyday in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and pray. The last results from the doctor shows that now my blood pressure is 109/57.

Today I can work normally and have no issues. Ms. Andrea.

“I had problems with my vision for over 20 years”



I struggled with vision problems for over 20 years, but last year, my eyesight worsened. Even with a 3.75 prescription, everything was blurry—I couldn't read, cook, or see people's faces, especially with my right eye.

That year, I started attending church. On my first visit, I received blessed water and used it daily, drinking three sips and applying it as eye drops while praying for healing. I told God, “You are my 20/20 vision,” trusting He would restore my sight.

By the end of the week, I could see clearly. I remember picking up a shampoo bottle and realizing I could read the tiny print! Overjoyed, I gave away my glasses because I no longer needed them. Now, I see perfectly! If Beatrice received her healing through faith and the blessed water, you too can experience miracles and restoration. -Beatrice



“She couldn't remember who her family members were...”

On an ordinary workday, Navara suddenly started feeling intense pain all over her body. Little by little, she began to lose control of her movements. By the time she was taken to the hospital, her body had already stopped responding.



She experienced extremely high fevers and severe memory loss. She couldn't remember who her family members were, why they were there, or even her own name.

After undergoing many tests, doctors diagnosed Navara with herpetic encephalitis. Navara was facing a life-threatening illness. And even though she couldn't remember anything about her past, she never forgot her faith or the teachings she had learned from the Word of God.

Against all odds, a miracle took place in Navara's life. Today, Navara is completely healed, living proof that the time of miracles is not over.



Receive the healing waters this Sunday at your nearest Universal Church

“I thought I had power and control over the addiction”



Physiotherapist André Caruso, 53, was working in bodybuilding when he received a proposal from a photographer that seemed promising: to participate in events and take photos in another city.

When he accepted the offer, André began visiting new places, meeting new people—including celebrities—and started adopting behaviors that were common in that environment. Before long, he became a call boy.

Through prostitution, André was introduced to drugs, which led him into a downward spiral of suffering. “I started using cocaine and marijuana, as well as consuming alcoholic beverages. As my life deteriorated, I became even more involved in these things. For 30 years, I lived under the influence of cocaine, even though I believed I had power and control over the addiction,” he says.

Chemical dependency increasingly consumed André’s life, to the point where he spent a large amount of money on drugs in less than three months. Living like this, André began to feel like the scum of the earth, ashamed and insecure about seeing his own family. So, at the end of the year, after several parties and celebrations, when he found himself alone, he decided to go to a Universal Church—the

only door he found open at that moment.

Addictions and Prejudices

Walking through that door was a difficult decision, as André held strong prejudices against the Universal Church due to the many lies and biased reports he had heard. However, this view changed after the warm reception and the mes-

sage he received that night. “I just wanted to ask God for forgiveness for my prejudice, for speaking badly of Bishop Macedo and the pastors, and for all the mistakes I had made. I was very well received by the pastor, and I felt as if God Himself was embrac-

ing me.”

He began attending Universal Church meetings, initially focused on freeing himself from addiction. But when he heard about the Holy Spirit, he realized what he truly needed was to receive this Greater Good. “I gave my life completely to God, and then I was sure that God had forgiven me for everything. I finally had peace.”

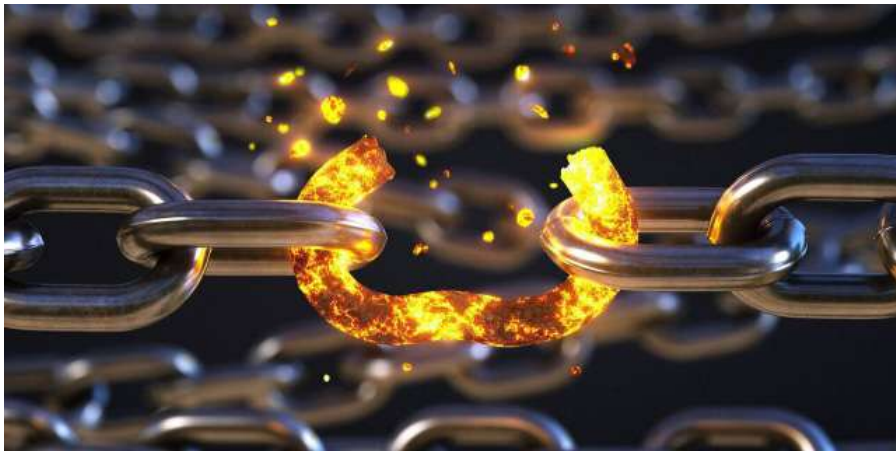
Today, André is a fulfilled man, free from all the evils that once plagued his past. “Now, my life is dedicated to serving God, winning souls, and glorifying His name in everything I do. God changed my life—and He can change the lives of those who listen to His Word,” he concludes.



| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

Break the chains



Look inside yourself. How many things have kept you tied down? Fear, shame, guilt, addiction, anger, past mistakes... So many people are living imprisoned, not behind bars, but inside their own minds. And maybe you’re one of them.

You try to move forward, but something always pulls you back. You smile on the outside, but inside, you feel stuck—trapped by what you’ve been through or afraid of what might come.

You don’t have to live like this.

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:6)

God never created you to live in chains. He sees your suffering, and He wants to break every yoke

off your life. But it starts with a choice—a step of faith.

You may not feel strong. You may not even know how to begin. But when you cry out to Him, He answers. He breaks chains. He sets people free. You are not too far gone, and it’s not too late.

Let God remove the weight you’ve been carrying for so long. Let Him give you peace where there was torment and joy where there was pain.

Let God remove the weight you’ve been carrying for so long. Let Him give you peace where there was torment and joy where there was pain.

There’s a new beginning waiting for you at the nearest Universal Church. Walk through

those doors and talk to a pastor. You don’t need to have the words—we’re here to listen, pray, and help you find the freedom that only God can give.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

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

What's happening at the Universal Church

"Cocaine was my breakfast"



Addiction followed Stephen Ferezin from childhood—but after years of pain, he finally found the One who made him whole.

Stephen Ferezin, a 54-year-old entrepreneur, grew up in a household where addiction was part of daily life. His father struggled with alcohol and cigarettes, and Stephen saw the same behavior in other places, including family gatherings. Even his first job reflected that environment—he worked as a waiter's assistant, stocking and checking inventory for bars. "I started drinking at 16 and stealing small things from the company I worked for. At 17, someone introduced me to cocaine," he says. Stephen dropped out of school and bought a motorcycle. He began spending nights on the streets, visiting drug spots, and burning through all his money to feed his addictions. His family constantly searched for him, worried and heartbroken.

The pain of a broken home

Eventually, Stephen got married. He and his wife built a home together, and for a while, it looked like life was heading in the right direction. For the first six years of their marriage, he gave up cocaine, although he still drank. But there was one painful frustration—they couldn't have children.

Things got worse when his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. The disease later spread to her lungs and brain.

"I tried to live a normal life, but

watching her suffer and feeling completely helpless was overwhelming," he shares. "After six years of illness, I started using cocaine again on weekends. The worst came when she passed away. Suddenly I was alone in a big house—no kids, no wife. I lost control. I started using cocaine every single day. For a full year, cocaine was my breakfast."

He adds, "I didn't lose anything because I didn't own anything to begin with. But I missed out on so much. I spent over \$200,000 on addiction." Despite his struggles, Stephen never told his family what was really going on. At work, as a manager, he kept up the appearance of being a responsible employee.

Thirty days

One day, a friend invited Stephen to the Universal Church. He started attending meetings—and everything began to change.

"Within 30 days, I had stopped drinking and using drugs," he says.

But there was still one area of his life where he struggled: his love life. After facing more disappointments, Stephen stayed firm in his faith. A pastor advised him to shift his focus—to stop chasing romance and seek the Holy Spirit instead.

"I got baptized in water, and I poured all of myself into seeking the Holy Spirit," he says. "When I received Him, everything changed. Today, I'm truly happy because I'm filled with the Holy Spirit. And even though I haven't received the blessing of a new relationship yet, I know God has something special prepared for me."

"I tried to take my own life seven times."

Elisabeth battled depression for nearly two decades—until she rediscovered the joy of living through faith in the Lord Jesus.



A life-changing decision

In a moment of desperation, Elisabeth stumbled across a TV program from the Universal Church. The message she heard would change everything. "The pastor said, 'You don't need to end your life to escape your pain. The answer you've been looking for is here.'" Those words hit her like a lightning bolt.

That day, Elisabeth decided to surrender her life to Jesus—and immediately, everything began to shift. "I stopped hearing voices. I stopped seeing shadows. It felt like a heavy bubble around me had burst. I felt light, like I could finally breathe," she says.

Through faith, she found the strength to forgive her father and others who had hurt her. "I realized that forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling," she explains.

A new beginning

Her water baptism marked a fresh start. From that point on, Elisabeth put God first in everything. Participating in the campaigns of faith and chais of prayers gave her the determination to seek a life rooted in God's principles. Today, Elisabeth is free from the pain of her past. She now serves as a volunteer in the Universal Church. "My only goal now is to share the message of hope and transformation that I found through my faith," she says.

POSITIVE CHANGES



MY LIFE WAS EMPTY

I used to struggle with depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. Nothing brought lasting peace until I came to the Universal Church. Surrounded by faith, I felt God's presence, the weight lifted, and I found true joy. Reading the Bible and growing closer to Christ changed my life. I got baptized because I chose to live for Him. Now, I have peace and happiness like never before.

— Nashalie Sanchez



LIBERTY & FREEDOM

YPG North Miami Honor Haitian Independence Day

North Miami, FL – The YPG Girls North Miami branch celebrated Haitian Independence Day with a vibrant tribute full of culture, connection, and empowerment. The event featured delicious traditional food, laughter, music, and a strong sense of sisterhood.

More than just a party, the day included inspiring real talks that highlighted themes of strength, identity, and resilience – reflecting the spirit of Haiti's fight for freedom. Young women came together not only to celebrate their heritage but also to uplift one another through meaningful conversations and joyful unity.

The event was a powerful reminder that liberty isn't just history – it's a living legacy carried proudly by the next generation.



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

“The effects of addiction on American families.”

The hidden cost of addiction:

A family's struggle

The word addiction comes from the Latin term vitium, meaning failure or defect. The dictionary defines it as: “to make bad, worse, corrupt or spoiled; to alter to deceive; to corrupt, pervert, deprave.” The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes addiction as a physical and psycho-emotional illness.

While addiction is often seen as a personal struggle, its effects extend far beyond the individual. Studies show that growing up with an addicted parent can have lasting consequences on a child's mental and emotional development. Spouses and parents are also deeply impacted.

Addiction affects families in both the short and long term. Trust breaks down. Arguments become routine. Marriages may fall apart. Communication becomes strained and frustration rises. The whole household begins to suffer in silence.

When one person is addicted, the entire family can face serious challenges, including:

- Physical side effects and withdrawal symptoms
- Emotional strain and damaged relationships
- Financial stress and instability
- Declining school performance among children
- Increased risk of exposure to other substances
- Reckless behavior and tension within the home
- Stealing to support a habit
- Running away or disappearing
- Causing deep grief and anxiety in parents and loved ones

According to the latest National Survey of Families of Drug Addicts, at least 28 million people in the U.S. have a relative battling addiction. The consequences are overwhelming:

- 58% of affected families report struggles in their professional lives
- 33% live in fear of their addicted loved one dying or have been threatened by them

These numbers are more than statistics—they reflect real pain. No mother, wife, or daughter can watch a loved one destroy themselves without being emotionally impacted.

What's behind every addiction is not just a substance or behavior—it's a spiritual battle. The real target of addiction isn't just the body or mind; it's the soul.

But there is hope. There is a way out.

Join us every Friday for a special Deliverance Service at your nearest Universal Church. Come and fight for your freedom and your family's restoration.

See the back page for a list of locations near you.

Source: <https://www.addictioncenter.com/addiction>

“My wife couldn't handle so much suffering.”

Arlindo says he was led down the wrong path by bad influences in his youth. One evening, after a day of work, he agreed to try marijuana for the first time. That one moment turned into a habit. “One day, right after buying drugs, a police car stopped us. It was the first time I ended up at a police station. They opened an investigation and released me, but it was a huge disappointment for my mother,” he recalls.

Even after that wake-up call, Arlindo didn't stop. His addiction deepened, and his life spiraled further out of control. “I had a wife, two children, and a completely ruined life. I was addicted to drugs, alcohol, and prostitution. I spent nights in clubs and had constant problems at work. I'd drink during lunch breaks and come back drunk. I was dishonest, unreliable, and eventually started selling drugs. I got arrested in the 1980s and spent ten years in prison.”

After his release, instead of changing, he dove even deeper into addiction. One day, on his way to buy drugs, he was set up and shot six times. “I nearly died, but God had a plan for my life. My family was ashamed of me. Our home was full of conflict. My wife couldn't take the pain anymore, and we separated. I left and moved into a filthy basement with a friend. We lived off alcohol.”



All it took was one decision.

In 2019, while standing outside a bar, his daughter—who volunteers at the Universal Church—approached him. “She looked at me and said, ‘Dad, this is not the life God has prepared for you. He wants to give you the best—you just have to listen and obey His Word.’” That moment shook Arlindo. “Even at rock bottom, God hadn't forgotten me. I was empty and hopeless, but He was still calling me.”

He started attending church services. “I surrendered everything to God—my heart, my habits, my past. I was baptized in water, and four months later, I received the most precious gift of all: the Holy Spirit. All my trauma, fears, and emptiness disappeared.”

His journey wasn't easy. “I used to go to church with two cigarettes in

my pocket, still planning to smoke afterward. But something inside me began to change. I couldn't keep hearing the Word of God and go back to the same life. I cried out to Jesus for help, and finally, I let go of everything—drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes, which I had smoked for 47 years. I had tried to quit before and failed, but this time was different. God set me free.”

Today, Arlindo lives a completely transformed life. “I'm a new man. I've been restored. My family has forgiven me, my marriage is healed, and we live in peace. Most importantly, God lives in me. I don't need anything else to be happy. My joy is real and lasting—even in hard times—because it comes from Him.”



“My addiction made me lose my dignity.”

Christian Carelli's life is a story of pain, rebellion—and ultimate transformation. His childhood was marked by severe financial hardship and constant family conflict. “My father was scammed by a company and lost everything: our apartment, house, cars, savings, and business,” he recalls. “We struggled to put food on the table and were evicted from two homes.”

The instability left deep emotional scars. “My father drank heavily, and my mother would lock him out of the house when he came home drunk,” Christian says. Surrounded by tension and chaos, he grew up rebellious. “My parents kept me under strict control at home, so I told them, ‘When I turn 18, I’ll do everything at once.’ And that’s exactly what I did.”

Still, a spark of hope had entered their family when his parents discovered the Universal Church through its TV programs. Christian and his sister, still children at the time, began attending with them. He was active in the Children’s Bible Center (CBC) and later the Youth Power Group (YPG) until age 16. But Christian admits, “Even though I knew the church and went to events, I had never had a true encounter with God.” At 17, driven by curiosity about the world, he left the church behind.

“I lost my dignity.”

Christian chased after pleasure and status, especially through his love of soccer. He joined and eventually led an organized fan group, where he was first introduced to drugs. “It started out recreational. I began smoking cigarettes, then moved on to cocaine.” What began as fun quickly spiraled into addiction.

“I lost everything I had worked hard for—my car, my money—but the worst thing I lost

was my dignity,” he says. The addiction took a devastating toll. After multiple arguments and violent episodes, his wife left, taking their son with her. Christian was left completely alone. “I was in a small, empty house, with no family and no hope. I sank into depression and kept turning to drugs to cope.”

But through it all, his mother never gave up. “She made vows for me and fought for my soul,” he shares. One day, a pastor invited him to attend a service at the Universal Church. Despite his broken state, Christian accepted. That decision marked the beginning of his transformation.

Step by step, he abandoned his addictions, toxic relationships, and old ways of thinking. “I promised God I would never go back to anything illegal or immoral. I was baptized in water and started over, learning everything again from scratch.” He fully committed himself to his faith, and in time, he received the Holy Spirit.

A new life begins

Today, Christian’s life is completely transformed. He and his wife, Patricia Zaggia Carelli, have remarried and rebuilt their family. He now holds a position of trust at work. “The man who couldn’t hold onto a single penny is now responsible for managing his bosses’ finances,” he says with joy.

Christian’s story is proof that no matter how far you fall, God can lift you up—if you’re willing to surrender your life and start anew.

MAKE A CHAIN OF PRAYER IT WORKS!

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

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



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



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

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

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



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



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

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

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



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



Saturday - Impossible Cases
8am & 12pm

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

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



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

UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

You are NOT alone!



“Uncontrollable anger, frustration, and rage landed me behind bars.”

My life used to be a living hell. I grew up in foster care and never knew what real love was. I didn't have my parents, so I was raised by the streets—you could say the streets taught me how to survive. As I got older and started living on my own, I had no idea how to deal with all the pain I was carrying from my childhood.

I never got answers from my mom, and I didn't have anyone to guide or support me. What pushed me into the streets was being taken from my mother—and I never went back.

I bounced around from one foster home to another. At a young age, I experienced things no child should ever go through. I was touched in ways that made



When I got out of foster care I started using drugs, smoking marijuana, got introduced to e-pills, and life spiraled out of control.

me feel unsafe and uncomfortable. There was no one to protect me, so I had to learn to protect myself.

At first, the street life seemed exciting—fun, even. But the truth hit hard. When the high from pills, alcohol, and drugs wore off, the withdrawals would kick in. I didn't know how to cope, so I'd end up in the emergency room, hooked up to an IV, just trying to flush the drugs out of my system.

That became my daily routine. The worst part? Being alone. When the money runs out, the so-called “friends” disappear. Then you're right back in that same dark, depressing cycle you were in before. Behind my “tough exterior,” I actually had low self-esteem. I hated when people looked me



in the eye. I always talked with my head down.

I didn't think I was pretty or worth much. I lived like that for about 10 years—struggling with alcohol addiction, drug abuse, and deep anger. I held on to so much resentment, and the only way I knew how to let it out was through fighting.

“Until my anger got me locked up...” When I was 16, I got a call that my rapist was getting out of jail. I was filled with so much rage that I went after him. I caused him the same pain he had caused me. That choice landed me in prison for two and a half years. And when I got out, I knew—I didn't want that life anymore.
—Tamica G.

I first heard about this ministry from my son's father. I asked him if he knew of a church I could go to, and that's when he told me about this place. That's how I found the Universal Beyond Bars (UBB) program. I told myself: My kids are getting older.

I can't keep living like this. When I came to the church, I was introduced to one of the helpers and the pastor. Right away, I noticed something different. These people were beautiful—inside and out. They didn't judge me for where I came from.

I felt a kind of comfort I had never felt before—not even as a child.

I received counseling, words of faith, and motivation to chase the life I wanted. When I first arrived, I was unemployed. Today, I have a steady job. “I've been coming for seven months now, and I'm drug-free. And when I say I'm free, I mean completely free—from drugs, depression, and low self-esteem.”



Now, I smile all the time—and it's funny because I used to be someone who never smiled. Today, I can't stop smiling. I have peace. My home has peace. My children and I have peace. I'm proud to be a mother who can finally be present and support her family. I'm not afraid anymore.

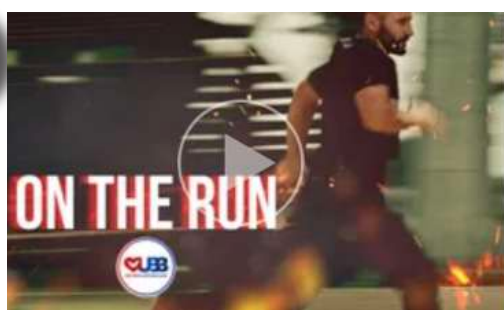


I can walk down the street without worrying about the police chasing me. And most of all—I know I'm beautiful, not just on the outside, but within.

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

Speak out, I am all ears! If you want to be added to my E-Message list, send me a letter with the correct info to: 7075 SW. Fwy. Houston, TX 77074.

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



Every day the UBB has a new episode for you.

There is something for everyone! Do you need guidance about 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!”

Take hold of your thoughts

On earth, there are many battlefields. There's the battlefield of war, the one in a doctor's office, the one inside a troubled home—the list goes on. But the most intense and constant battlefield we face isn't physical. It's the one we deal with every single day: the battle in our minds.

None of us are immune to it. Thoughts come to all of us—both good and bad. What matters most



is what we do with them. We must learn to take control of our minds. There are battles in life that we can't control—situations that come our way whether we're ready or not. But our mind? That's one battlefield we can fight on—and win. It's not easy, but it's possible.

The Word of God reminds us:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so

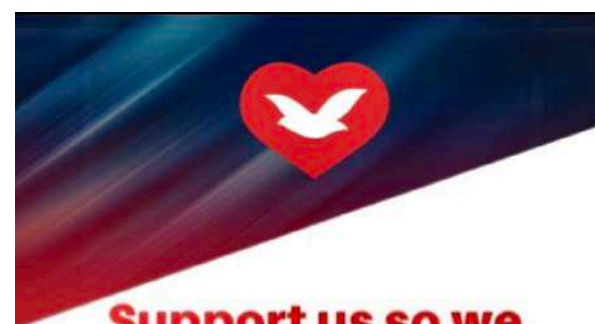
that you may prove what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

Think of your mind like your home. Would you let just anyone walk into your house? Of course not. You'd want to know who they are, what their intentions are, and whether it's safe for them to be there.

Treat your mind the same way. Don't let just anything or anyone come in and disturb your peace. Be selective. Be watchful. Filter what you allow to enter.

Don't let every word spoken about you take root. Don't entertain every negative thought that pops into your head. Not every idea deserves a seat at your table.

Instead, shift your focus to what brings joy, purpose, and peace. Above all, submit your mind to God. Let Him help you guard it. Your mind doesn't have to be a battlefield—it can be a place of strength, clarity, and peace.



Support us so we can support them!

Perhaps you ask, “How?” Well, your donation helps us support the work that the UBB does to assist those internally and externally in prison.

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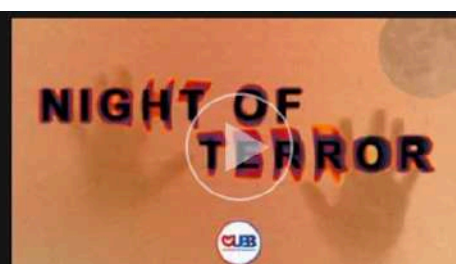
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with Bishop Joshua

ULFN NEWS | 8am

THE AM SHOW | 10am

**BREAKING THE SILENCE
1pm**

**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



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Against all odds: Mary overcame all financial struggles

FIRST STEPS

Mary Vilela, 36, has been a member of The Universal Church for 11 years. She first came after being invited by her then-boyfriend, now husband, Claudio Vilela.

"I came in with my life completely shattered," she says. "At the time, I had been working at a thrift store seven days a week for ten years. I was earning around \$500 a month. I had no life—I was a slave to work." Everything started to change when she began attending Monday meetings focused on financial growth. Her mindset slowly began to shift.

"I couldn't take it anymore—always struggling, always renting, never achieving anything. Then God gave me an idea: I decided to take a hairdressing course."

At first, she didn't have the money to buy the supplies she needed, and her vision was still limited.

"I kept making my vows of faith and stayed committed, but I still thought small. I only imagined myself working in a salon—and maybe, five or six years down the line, opening one of my own. That dream felt far off because I didn't feel ready to be a business owner. But little by little, God opened my mind and expanded my vision. I began declaring, 'I will succeed. I will own something of my own.'"

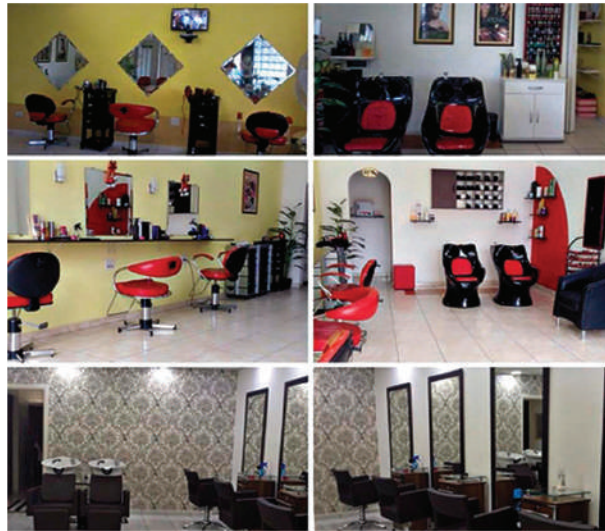
"THE GOD I SERVE IS GREAT"

Mary says the kind of faith she learned about at The Universal Church was unlike anything she'd ever known. "When I first heard the Word of God, I realized it was a chance to turn my life around. More than anything, I wanted inner healing. I was carrying so much pain, so much trauma. I didn't believe in love. I didn't think I could ever succeed—but I wanted to change all of that. When I received the Holy Spirit, my vision grew. I started seeing things on a whole new level—because the God I serve is great."

After finishing her course, Mary was surprised to receive not just one, but two job offers—not as an assistant, but as a full-fledged hairdresser. "It felt like I'd been doing the job for years already. I stepped forward, even though I was scared. But God helped me face those fears," she says. "I ran into obstacles, of course. There were times I felt like giving up. But the pastor kept encouraging me, telling me I had to keep going—that it would all work out."

Within just three years, Mary opened her own salon in a small space. "I started with one shampoo station and a mirror that a former boss gave me—she had just shut down her salon after going bankrupt. I didn't have money for products, but I moved forward in faith." She also had to block out the negativity around her.

"My family thought I was crazy. They tried to talk me out of it. But it was just God, me, and



my husband." Step by step, she seized every opportunity and the business started to grow. "I replaced all the furniture, expanded the space, and eventually moved into a 2,000-square-foot salon—something I never imagined. People would walk in and ask if I was still the owner. That's how big the change was. It was all the hand of God. His plans are always bigger than mine. That's been true from the beginning."

Today, Mary has been a successful business owner for eight years. She has her own team and has reached many milestones.

"We bought an apartment, a country

house, high-end homes, and vacation properties. My life began to change the moment I chose to believe and obey the Word of God," she says.



5 'UNDERRATED' TECHNIQUES TO SETTLE DEBT

TAKE ACTION

SNOWBALL TECHNIQUE

This technique will focus on paying off one debt account at a time, while only making minimum payments for other debt accounts. In short, you will focus on settling a small amount of debt first and then a large amount of debt.

AVALANCHE TECHNIQUE

For this technique, you will rearrange the debt according to high to low interest rates and start paying off debt at the highest interest rate first. Just focus on debt has great interest rates.

SNOWFLAKE TECHNIQUE

This technique is more flexible and does not require a high commitment to settle debts. Just pay the balance of the debt at any time according to your ability. For example, pay RM20 in the first week, RM50 the second week and so on.

OVERLAP TECHNIQUE

This technique accumulates various existing debts into a new account with the same bank. Only offer new financing with lower interest rates or a longer financing period than existing loans.

DEBT CONSOLIDATION

This technique consolidates various existing debts into one new personal loan. Lenders will consolidate all debts in one account at a lower interest rate.

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