

FROM JUNE 22 TO JULY 13

# FAST OF DANIEL

21 DAYS OF PLEASING THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Why should you join the Fast of Daniel?

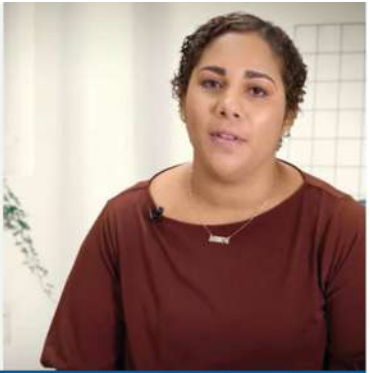
The Fast of Daniel is a 21-day campaign that helps you disconnect from distractions and get closer to God.

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UNIVERSAL  
MIRACLES

"I was taking medications for anxiety, insomnia, bipolar disorder and more"

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What's happening at

# UNIVERSAL NEWS

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## What kind of Justice are you seeking?

*Won't God give justice to his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Luke 18:7*

**God is looking for those who express their faith so He can carry out His justice. So, there's no point in just complaining. Justice only responds to those who actively seek it.**

# CAMPAIGN FOR DIVINE JUSTICE



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## Bishop Edir Macedo

### The justice of faith

## "Drugs offered a temporary escape"

— Gabriella

(Read more details on page 6)





## | IN THIS EDITION |

### Justice

Every human being—whether skeptical or full of faith, famous or unknown, rich or poor, good or bad—has a deep hunger and thirst for justice. That desire lives in every soul. It's so strong that when we see or hear about someone being treated unfairly, something inside us wants to speak up or take action.

But did you know that God feels the same way? He can't stand to see people suffering or being oppressed by injustice, especially those who seek Him and believe in Him. The Bible says in Psalm 37:28, "For the Lord loves justice and does not abandon His faithful ones. They are kept safe forever, but the children of the wicked will be cut off." God loves justice. He is a just God. He will never let evil win over His people—He promised that in His Word. But for us to truly belong to Him, we must live by His Word and practice justice. As Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

God's Word is our best guide for living a just life. If we follow it, things will go well for us. But if we ignore it, how can we expect to be fulfilled? How can we expect things to work out? When we walk away from His Word, we open the door for evil to enter and weigh us down. Justice comes from God. He is the Righteous Judge. And when we put our faith in Him—and in the Lord Jesus, our advocate—we gain access to His justice and righteousness.

Throughout the Bible, we see story after story of people who received miracles through faith—cases of divine justice. Some of them, by human standards, didn't "deserve" anything from God. People like Zacchaeus, the corrupt tax collector, or the woman known as a prostitute who anointed Jesus' feet with expensive oil. But they showed real faith, and because of that, they were made right with God—and He answered them.

Sincere faith and a heart submitted to God's Word show Him that a person truly wants to change. No matter how serious their past mistakes, when someone believes and surrenders their life to God, He forgives, purifies, and transforms them.

If you've been going through injustice or feeling crushed by oppression, know this: God is inviting you to come to His Altar and let Him transform your life. It doesn't matter if you think you deserve it or not. What matters is that you believe, that you surrender completely to Him—and when you do, you'll see His power at work in your life. Read this edition, and learn more about the Campaign for Divine Justice at every Universal Church.

## | 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!



**Bishop Edir Macedo**

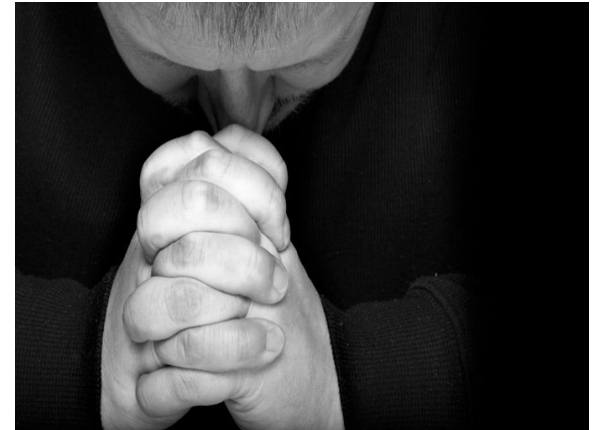
### The Justice of Faith



*"Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation; deliver me from deceitful and unjust people."*

*For You are the God of my strength; why have You rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?*

*Send out Your light and Your truth—let them guide me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to the place where You dwell. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and delight. I will praise You with the harp, O God, my God."*  
Psalm 43:1–4



David longed for justice against those who were trying to harm him. But he didn't just cry out to God over and over, demanding help. No—David understood the right way to approach justice.

He knew that seeing God's justice wasn't just about praying or making emotional pleas. It required something deeper—a living, practical faith. That's why he said he would go to the Altar, the place that brought him joy.

To them, the Altar doesn't bring joy—it feels like a burden. That's exactly why they never see true justice in their lives.

Instead, they end up being wronged, humiliated, and left without anyone to defend them. But God's righteousness is revealed through faith—and true faith always leads to the Altar.

Justice from God comes by faith. And faith cannot exist apart from the Altar.

Many people want justice, but they avoid the Altar. **God bless you!**



### "I made a pact with God."

That all started to change when Edward was introduced to the Universal Church and learned how to use his faith to transform his life.

God gave us a completely new life—far beyond anything we could have imagined."



"My cousin invited me to church after seeing how bad things were. He told me about the power of God and how He could change my life—but I didn't believe him. I was so buried in my problems, I couldn't see a way out. Still, one day, I decided to give it a shot and go.

From the first visit, we were welcomed. I felt God's love and began to build a relationship with Him. As we kept coming, we started putting into practice what we were learning. We learned how to use our faith to change our situation, and we made a pact with God on the Altar. That's when things began to shift—little by little.

Our marriage was restored. Our home is now full of peace, and our family is blessed. Financially, God began to open doors. He gave us wisdom and direction, and today we own nine businesses, employ over 100 people, and have houses, cars, and the freedom to travel internationally. We live comfortably.



When Edward, an engineer, first came to the Universal Church, he was going through a tough time—not just financially, but in his marriage as well. Even though both he and his wife had jobs, they were barely making it.

"I've worked in the automotive industry for 33 years, and my wife is a journalist. On paper, it looked like we had good jobs, but the reality was very different. Our income wasn't enough. We could barely pay the bills or buy groceries. At one point, we had to move in with my mom. It felt like such an injustice. We had to sacrifice one thing just to afford another. Even when it came to groceries, we couldn't buy what we wanted.

And it wasn't just the finances—our marriage was falling apart. Things got so bad, I even got involved in crime. I started stealing cars just to survive."

**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





"I was  
nearly  
crippled."

One of my knees gave out, and after walking with a cane for some time, I ended up injuring my spine from all the pressure I was putting on it. I could barely walk. Doctors gave me pain relief patches and muscle relaxers, but nothing helped. I even tried physical therapy and pain management treatments, but none of it worked. I was in constant pain, and I cried a lot. Then I started using the blessed water, pouring it on my body with faith. And little by little, the Lord restored my health. Now, I can walk normally again—something I hadn't been able to do in a long time. — Cynthia

"I can walk  
again."

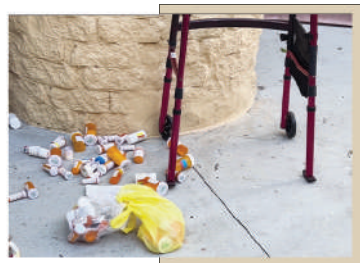
I was in a serious accident while riding in an Access-A-Ride vehicle. The driver lost control, and we crashed on Williams Bridge. I couldn't move, so the rescue



workers had to carry me out of the vehicle.

At the hospital, I fell into a coma. When I finally woke up, I couldn't walk. Even after surgery and therapy at a rehabilitation center, I still had no balance. They gave me a walker, but I kept falling. On top of that, I was taking seven to eight pills a day, which left me feeling dazed and unable to think clearly.

Then I began using the blessed water daily. I prayed, drank it in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and poured it on



neck and back. At first, I couldn't even reach my back, so I asked my sister for help. Little by little, I began to regain movement.

Today, I am healed. I feel strong, I have no pain, and I no longer need a walker—or any medication. ☑ God truly restored my health!  
— Zulma



## Experience the Power of God this Sunday

"I was taking medications for  
anxiety, insomnia, bipolar  
disorder, and more."



My problems started when I was very young. I went through trauma, struggled with addiction, and battled deep depression—you name it. I was addicted to marijuana, alcohol, and prescription medications. At one point, I was taking medications for insomnia and depression. After a suicide attempt, I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. And honestly, I wanted those medications because I believed they were the only thing keeping me stable—at least temporarily. I depended on pills just to sleep, to manage my anxiety, my depression, and to get through each morning.

I had suicidal thoughts since childhood. That dark voice had always been with me. One day, I left my house barefoot and walked about ten minutes to the train station. My plan was to end it all by jumping in front of a train. I felt like no one in the world could understand the emptiness I carried inside. That same emptiness was also destroying my marriage.



After I started attending and truly surrendered my life to God, everything changed. I was completely set free. The void I once felt is gone. Today, I don't take any medication. I have no more addictions, no more trauma, and no more depression. The Holy Spirit lives in me now. And today, I can honestly say—I have everything I need. — Antonia

RECEIVE THE  
HEALING WATERS  
THIS SUNDAY  
at your nearest  
Universal Church







| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

## Where can you find justice?

Just like in the movies, it happens in real life too. When someone is being robbed, abused, or taken advantage of, the first thing they usually do is cry out for help. They shout with all their strength, “Help me! Please, someone help me!”—hoping someone strong enough will come to their rescue. But what do you do when no one shows up? When there’s no human help in sight, where can you turn for justice? Many people have come to that point. They’ve done everything they possibly could—sought help, followed advice, tried every solution—but nothing worked. Now they’re left wondering, “Where can I find justice?”

Job felt the same way when he said:

*“Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, and fill my mouth with arguments.”*

— Job 23:3–4

Job didn’t know where to find God’s seat—he didn’t know where to go for justice. But today, I can tell you exactly where to find it.

In the coming days, you can find justice at the altar of The Universal Church. God’s courtroom is the sanctuary, and His tribunal is the altar.

Bring your problems, your case, and everything you’ve suffered. Lay it all before the altar, and God will rise to bring justice into your life.

But when you come, be sure to bring your evidence. The evidence of your faith is your righteous offering. Present it before the Lord, fight for justice—and you will receive it.

May the God of the Bible bless you.

**“Doctors warned me he’d struggle to sit, crawl, and walk.”**

## A story of Justice at the altar

*Fernanda Andrade is living proof that justice is real — and that it can be found through faith.*

She always dreamed of having a blessed family, and when her son was born, she believed that dream had come true. But reality hit hard. When her baby was just four months old, he was diagnosed with hydrocephalus — a serious condition that causes fluid to build up in the brain.

Doctors made it clear: he needed urgent surgery. But the risks were overwhelming — possible lifelong motor and cognitive impairments. His head kept growing, and doctors said they would need to insert a tube into his brain to drain the fluid. When Fernanda asked for time to think, the doctor replied, “If this were my son, the surgery would’ve happened yesterday.”

At the time, Fernanda was already attending The Universal Church. She believed in a God who heals. She prayed constantly for her son, but at first, nothing seemed to change.

“I looked at my son and saw a fragile child,” she said. “Doctors warned me he’d struggle to sit, crawl, and walk. Every

fasted, and sacrificed during the “Campaign of Justice.”

“I went to the Altar and placed my baby in God’s hands,” she recalled. “I said, ‘Lord, let Your will be done. I know You are just and faithful to fulfill Your promises.’ And God answered.”

To the shock of the doctors, the fluid in John Victor’s brain began to disappear. He was eventually discharged from the hospital — something the medical team had thought impossible.

But the miracle didn’t stop there.

As he grew, John Victor began to excel in school — especially in math and science. His performance exceeded all expectations. He was eventually accepted into

a prestigious federal university to study medicine — with a dream of becoming a neurosurgeon.

“This lab coat I wear is the result of the Altar,” John Victor said. “More than any medal or award, my greatest achievement is salvation — knowing for sure that God changed my life.”

Doctors and teachers are still amazed. Many have asked how a child with hydrocephalus could recover without surgery. John Victor simply shows them his normal test results and replies, “God brought justice.”

“God gave me more than I ever asked for,” Fernanda said. “I stopped focusing on the medical reports and fixed my eyes on the Altar of the Righteous Judge.”



**“I took my eyes off the doctors’ reports and placed them on the altar of the Righteous Judge.”**

appointment felt like a new blow to my hope.”

As the appointments went on, Fernanda only heard more bad news. Doctors told her to accept the situation and prepare to adapt. Some even refused to take on the case. And even though surgery was presented as the only solution, it wasn’t permanent — the tube would need to be replaced every seven years. On top of all that, she was spending more and more time in the hospital.

Then came another storm: financial collapse. Fernanda’s family lost their car, they faced the threat of losing their home to the courts, and unemployment loomed over them.

Still, she refused to give in to despair.

Instead, Fernanda turned to the faith she had learned at the Altar. She prayed,



### 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

## "The Altar Transformed Us"



Today, Tamara and Sebastian enjoy a blessed and happy marriage—but it wasn't always that way. When they first came to the Universal Church, they were on the verge of separation. Their relationship was full of conflict, and they were also facing serious financial struggles that felt impossible to overcome.

"We came to the Universal Church after my mother-in-law invited us," Tamara says. "At the time, our relationship was in a terrible place. We mistreated each other, insulted each other, and even got physically aggressive. I would insult him, and he would react violently. Our children suffered a lot—they would see us fighting all the time.

We separated several times. Even though we missed each other when we were apart, we couldn't seem to live together in peace. There was love between us, but we weren't able to enjoy it. I was very short-tempered, and my husband was obsessively jealous. On top of that, we were struggling financially and living in really poor conditions. Everything felt like a disaster."

One day, Tamara decided to accept the invitation to church and started attending the meetings. Sebastian went with her—despite all the chaos, they still stuck together.

"As I started listening to the Word of God and learning how to use my faith, things began to change," Tamara says. "The first change happened inside me. I began to change my behavior. My oldest son had been having issues at school and was even referred to a psychologist because of all

the problems at home. I didn't accept that. I did my part to change—and when I changed, he started to calm down too."

Sebastian adds:

"There was a lot of mistrust on my part. I didn't know how to truly give myself to my wife, because I had never been taught to value or respect women. In the home I grew up in, that just wasn't part of what I learned. So when I started living with Tamara, everything felt difficult.

On top of that, I had serious addictions—I drank, smoked, and used drugs. My addictions brought out the worst in me, and I would hurt her. The worst moment came when I put my hands on her. That was the final straw. We separated for good.

But then she started going to church, and I noticed a change in her. That caught my attention. I would try to provoke her, try to make her angry—but she didn't react the same way. Her change inspired me. It motivated me to go with her and fight for our family.

It wasn't easy. We had to push through. But we stayed strong, attending the meetings. During the Campaign of Justice, I saw a chance to put God's Word to the test and fight for the family I had always dreamed of having with her. I made my sacrifice on the Altar—and that's when everything changed. Both of us were transformed, and so were our children. From that moment on, we truly learned how to love each other. Even our financial life was restored. Before, I couldn't provide any stability for my family. But today, thank God, we lack nothing," he says with a smile.

Tamara defines her story as a marriage saved by Jesus because she saw a complete difference, her children are calmer, and have the security they need to grow well.

"Today we are fine, the family has peace and good communication. There are no fights or shouting, and the children are doing well in school. What God did was great."

## "My grandson had a slim chance of surviving."



Mirtha's grandson was critically injured when a fire broke out at his mother's home. Doctors gave him a slim chance of surviving, and even if he did, they warned he would likely face serious long-term health issues. But through faith and a challenge made on the Altar, God performed a miracle.

"There was a fire in the home where my daughter lived with my grandson—he was only two years old at the time. A television exploded and caused the fire. Although he was rescued in time, he suffered severe internal injuries.

The fire burned his lungs, and he had to be hospitalized and placed on a ventilator. The doctors told us the next 48 hours would determine whether he would live. And even if he survived, they said he would likely suffer lifelong consequences from the damage.

But I refused to accept that. I didn't accept the doctors' word as the final say. I didn't accept death or disability for my grandson. So I went to the Altar during the Campaign of Justice and made a challenge with God. I used my faith—and God answered.

- Mirtha



## Why should you join the Fast of Daniel?

The Daniel Fast is a 21-day campaign that helps you disconnect from distractions and get closer to God. In a world full of noise, it's hard to hear God's voice—but He is always speaking.

Every day, we're bombarded with harmful content—ads, social media, and messages that fill our minds with impurity or waste our time. Even things that seem "harmless," like video games or music, can take over when used in excess.

The Daniel Fast teaches you to filter what you consume. You give up anything that doesn't help you spiritually and use that time to seek God, meditate on His Word, and strengthen your faith. As a result, your mind becomes clearer, you feel lighter, and you're stronger to face life's challenges. Even if you haven't started

yet, there's still time. Join now, and the changes you make can impact your whole life—not just 21 days.



## "The Fast of Daniel changed my life."

For years, I filled my life with parties, drinking, drugs, and toxic relationships to escape my pain. I'd feel a moment of happiness while partying, but at night, I felt dirty, empty, and unloved. One night, I drank so much I passed out and had to be carried home by strangers. That was my wake-up call.

I heard about the Daniel Fast—a time to disconnect from the world and seek God. I decided to give it my all. I let go of bad influences, old habits, and focused on hearing just one voice—God's.

On a Wednesday, during the fast, I experienced true peace for the first time. I was baptized with the Holy Spirit and met the Father I never knew. From that moment, my life completely changed. Now, I no longer live in doubt. I have certainty inside me, because God's voice brings that certainty. The Daniel Fast is the perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to silence the noise of the world and hear only God's voice. And just because I've already received the Holy Spirit doesn't mean I'll skip the Fast of Daniel—never! It's an opportunity to have new experiences with God and relive the most important day of my life. — Victoria





**I**t can happen in a moment—a phone call, a diagnosis, a conversation, a discovery, or a piece of unexpected news. And suddenly, the cruel realization hits: “There’s nothing more to be done.” Right now, thousands of people around the world are feeling this same pain. Maybe it’s the diagnosis of an incurable illness... The shock of betrayal... The grief of losing a loved one... The collapse of a business you poured your time, effort, and money into... The fear of death caused by overwhelming debt or unemployment... The agony of addiction... Or simply the emptiness of not knowing what to do with your life anymore.

Maybe that’s where you are right now. To illustrate what it means to not be intimidated—even in the face of the impossible—Jesus told the parable of the unjust judge, found in Luke 18:2-3:

“There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’” At that time, being a woman—especially a widow—meant having almost no rights. Most wouldn’t even try to seek justice, knowing their voices would go unheard. But not this widow. She persisted. She kept coming back. And though the judge was corrupt and heartless—someone Jesus described as “unjust”—he eventually gave in, not out of goodness, but because he was tired of being bothered. Jesus shared this story to teach us something powerful: If even an unjust judge gave justice because of one woman’s persistence, imagine what the Just God will do for those who cry out to Him day and night! So instead of thinking, “This is the end,” what if this is actually your chance to start over? God wants to do more than just solve a problem—He wants to transform you and, as a result, transform your life. The question isn’t whether God will do justice. He is Justice. The real question is: Who is willing to seek it? And there’s only one way to do that—by walking in God’s righteousness.

It doesn’t matter what kind of evil has tried to write the final chapter of your life. The final word belongs to God. And here’s the key: He speaks that word through your faith.

That means you have the power to decide whether your life stays the same or begins to change—right now. But this decision isn’t just made with words. It’s revealed through actions—bold, faith-filled steps that show God you’re serious. Read the stories of those who have taken that step and seen real results. Find a Universal Church near you, and take a step of faith on God’s altar. That’s where Divine Justice begins.

## “Drugs and prostitution offered a temporary escape.”

**G**abriella had a difficult childhood. She says that experiencing “power outages, gas shortages, and food shortages were common occurrences. Turning to relatives for help to ensure basic food became constant.”

To escape these difficulties, her parents began going to a house of esoteric, witchery practices when the girl was eight years old. There they would make offerings, as they were promised financial returns that never came.

Everything got worse when, at the age of ten, she began attending the place with only her brother. An employee of this place began to abuse Gabriella, as she revealed: “This man abused me and threatened me. If I revealed anything, I would suffer serious consequences, since my father had an explosive temper. Over time, Fridays became a torture, plunged into panic. I would beg for rain because I knew that it would prevent us from passing through the path that led us to that silent house.”

Gabriella’s suffering was immeasurable. Her childhood was stolen and her hope seemed fragile, according to her. After three years of abuse, she found the courage to reveal everything to her father. “With only two rooms in our house, my father accompanied me to the bathroom, where he hugged me and had a deep conversation with me. He assured me that such a situation would never happen again and that he would be there to watch over me.” Her family broke away from that environment and, afraid that the abuser would persecute her, sold the house and moved to a safe place.

### A dangerous path

Financial difficulties persisted, but now there was a determination to face them. Gabriella emerged from this dark period with renewed strength. At 14, she began working to support her two younger brothers and help pay the rent. Work led to new friendships and a dangerous path: drugs and prostitution. These two practices offered a temporary escape from the pain that still haunted her.

“When I was 16, I met someone who made me unimaginable promises and fulfilled all the needs I felt. I left home, seduced by these promises, but later I discovered that this person was married. This depressed me deeply, leading me to further intensify my substance use,” she says.



“My clothes, which used to be size 10 became size 4 due to the impact of these drugs. My existence ended up becoming this sad reality.”

After this failed relationship, Gabriella met another guy, whom she soon lived with. “Drug use was excessive between us. This relationship was full of conflicts and constant disagreements. His influence was not beneficial to me, but when I reached the point of hanging myself in a gesture of desperation, he intervened, stopping the act and preserving my life.”



### Path of love and faith

Working in front of a Universal Church, Gabriella was always invited to enter. She resisted, embarrassed, but a seed of hope began to grow inside her. “My pain was silent and I resisted every time someone mentioned the Lord Jesus. Every day I received the Universal Newspaper, but I hid it so as not to be seen. However, the time came when I decided to offer my soul an opportunity.”

Attending the meetings, her emotional wounds gradually began to heal. She ended the relationship that was hurting her, returned to her family, and discovered that her mother was already attending the Universal Church. “Little did I know that Jesus had already been taking care of me long before I met Him.”

Little by little, she understood that true transformation came from within and not from drugs or fleeting pleasures. A highlight for Gabriella was her participation in the Campaign of Justice. There she made an act of faith that symbolized her determination to overcome the past. As she ascended to the Altar, a profound conclusion enveloped her: her life was about to change forever. “The Holy Spirit gave me the certainty that I would never be the same person again. Jesus healed me of all my wounds and traumas. The desire I had to take my own life gave



way to courage and love for myself. I received my greatest treasure: the presence of the Creator within me.”

With new strength and joy, Gabriella

chose to follow a path of love, faith, and resilience. She became a volunteer, helping those facing similar situations, formed a family, and built a successful business alongside her husband. She

finally found the peace she so longed for. Today, Gabriella does not measure her achievements in material things, but rather in the deep sense of fulfillment and the certainty that she overcame

adversity. Her journey is an inspiring story of transformation and renewal, living proof that hope can emerge even in the darkest moments of life.

## “The doctors gave me a 1% chance of survival.”

The flu-like symptoms of José Miranda evolved into a serious case of pneumonia that, according to doctors, compromised 85% of his lungs. In addition, new tests confirmed an even more worrying diagnosis for him at that point: he had COVID-19. This health condition led him to be hospitalized

### Surrender to God

After six days in the hospital, Joseph still had excessive shortness of breath and constant fluctuations in oxygen saturation levels. He was then transferred from a local hospital to a city hospital. The three-hour trip was intended to provide him with the necessary medical care. Halfway through the journey, however, he made the following request to the ambulance crew: “I wanted to stop at a Universal Church before I go.” His request was granted and he tells what he did: “When I got there, I gave my life to God and went to the



### Serious after-effects

Of the 100 patients intubated and monitored in the intensive care unit, Joseph was the only one who survived, contrary to medical expectations. In addition to the after-effects of COVID-19, which made him dependent on machines to breathe, he had wounds all over his body, was unable to speak due to a median paralysis in the trunk of his tongue, and could not walk or eat. “The doctors said that this condition would be permanent and that I would live like a ‘vegetable,’” he reports.



hospital.”

### Minimal survival

Thirty minutes after arriving at the hospital, he was intubated due to a critical drop in oxygen saturation. He remained in this state for 20 days. While he was still in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), an attempt was made to extubate him, but his body could not resist and he was intubated again. He also underwent a tracheostomy (surgery in the trachea region to implant a small duct and facilitate the passage of air). “The hope of survival was minimal and the doctors gave me a 1% chance of living,” he recalls.

Faced with this situation, Izete, Joseph’s wife, turned to Faith, as she explains: “I prayed to God and asked that if my husband was going to suffer, that He would take him, but if my husband was going to live, that God would heal him.”

She began using the

blessed water in the Universal Church meetings to treat José and, in the hospital, she would drip a few drops into his catheter. During this same period, the Campaign of Justice took place and Izete made a vow at the Altar for her husband’s cure and revealed the result: “He began to show improvement and, after five months

and 15 days in the hospital, he was finally discharged.”

### A new life

Today, fully recovered, Joseph lives normally and none of his senses or parts of his body are compromised. “I speak, eat, and even drive. The doctors themselves were impressed and recognized me as a true miracle from God,” celebrates Joseph.

Join us Monday to Friday in prayer for Justice  
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# JOURNEY TO THE ALTAR OF JUSTICE

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So don't you think God will surely give  
justice to his chosen people who cry  
out to him day and night?  
Luke 18:7

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## UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

*You are NOT alone!*ARRESTED AND IN JAIL  
MORE THAN 15 TIMES

From a very young age, I got involved in gangs and started hanging out on the streets with the wrong crowd. Eventually, I got into drug dealing. It didn't happen overnight—it was a process. At first, the guys on the block “embraced” me. They made me feel secure, like I had a family out there on the streets.

Over time, I started learning how the game worked—how to deal drugs. And not long after, I started using too. The first time I smoked, I was probably around 12 years old.

By 15, I was already selling marijuana. As I got older, I moved on to selling heavier drugs like crack cocaine, and I became addicted to alcohol. I drank every single day. The truth is, I never really wanted the street life—I just felt like it chose me.



It was all I saw, and all I knew. I didn't have any other example to follow, so I surrendered to what

was in front of me. The lowest point of my life happened during an argument with someone from a rival gang. My gang and his gang had serious beef. That day, things escalated fast. One word led to another, then came the punches.

“

I hit him, and he retaliated—he pulled a gun on me. He pushed me to the ground, held the gun over my head, and tried to kill me. He fired the first shot... but the gun jammed. In that split second, I got up and ran for my life.



That moment made me realize God was giving me a chance—He was saving me. My life had been on the line so many times before because of the way I was living, but this time felt different. Honestly, God has completely changed my life.

The young boy I used to be—the one growing

up on the streets—never thought he'd become anything. I never imagined I could feel the kind of happiness I feel today. When I gave that old life to God, He revealed the good life He had been holding for me all along.

Back then, I thought I was living the “good life,” but I was fooling myself. Now, something as simple as going to sleep in peace—laying my head on the pillow without fear or anxiety—is a blessing I don't take for granted. That's something I never had before.

I'm not in a gang anymore. I'm no longer addicted to drugs or alcohol. Today, I walk the streets without fear. I used to always be looking over my shoulder, constantly watching my back because I knew someone might be coming for me. But now, I have peace. And I wouldn't trade where I am today for anything in the world.

If you're reading this and you're caught up in that life, let me tell you something: if you take the first step toward God, He will meet you where you are and help you turn your life around.



*I'm counting down the days...It feels like forever. I want to go home.” You don't understand.*

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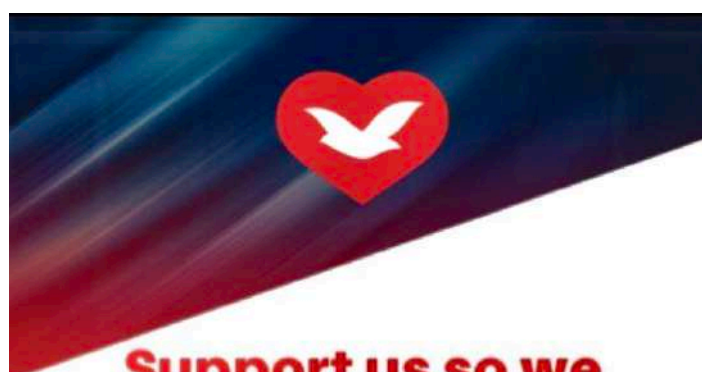




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# The problems in your life are not meant to harm you

So, how long will you keep hardening your heart?

How long will you keep ignoring the signs?

How long will you keep turning a blind eye?

What’s interesting about the story of the plagues in Egypt is that the Egyptians weren’t afraid of God—they were afraid of the consequences. Pharaoh’s fear was visible every time he spoke with Moses. He knew, and so did the people of Egypt, that every time he refused to listen, the plagues only got worse.

Now, the point I want to make—the heart of this message—is that the problems in your life aren’t there to destroy you. They’re there to wake you up. God wasn’t trying to hurt Pharaoh or the Egyptians. What He wanted was to open

how can God bless someone who is stubborn, disobedient, arrogant, and unwilling to change? Would that help them? Absolutely not. In fact, it would only make things worse. They’d feel entitled—believing they can continue doing wrong and still be rewarded. That’s not how God works. Let me be blunt—God is not foolish.

Ramses eventually gave in—not because he had a change of heart, but because he could no longer stand the consequences. His pride brought suffering not only to himself but also to his people, his family, and even his children. Have you ever stopped to think about how your own stubbornness has affected the people closest to you? Your family? Your children? The truth is, when we refuse to let our problems teach us, we end up digging a deeper hole and letting our circumstances consume us.

But here’s the good news: if you make a wise decision—if you let the problem guide you to change—then it doesn’t have to harm you. It can actually be the very thing that helps you draw closer to God.

However, if you keep going down this same path, it will lead to darkness—like the ninth plague—and eventually, spiritual death—like the tenth. Be watchful. Be wise. Let the problem serve its purpose. Let it help you.

their eyes, to stop them from worshiping idols, and to push Pharaoh to do what was right: let His people go. But because of Pharaoh’s constant stubbornness, he kept suffering.

The same applies to us. The challenges you’re facing right now aren’t meant to crush you. God is not a God who takes pleasure in pain—it actually hurts Him to see people suffer. And yes, I know what you’re thinking: “If that’s true, why did God send the plagues?”

“Why doesn’t He stop bad things from happening to good people?” Here’s the truth:

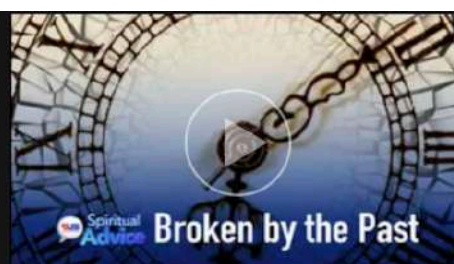
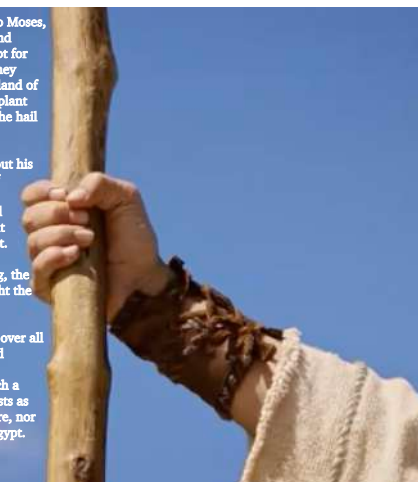
Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left.”

So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night.

When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts.

The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again. Egypt.

Exodus 10: 12-15



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## "I COULDN'T PROSPER AND SANK DEEPER INTO ADDICTIONS."

After spending years trapped in addiction, misery, and spiritual torment, Mario Araujo finally discovered a faith that brings real results. But his life only truly changed when he decided to surrender it completely to God.

**M**ario, an accountant, faced challenges from an early age. In addition to growing up in a troubled family, he struggled with addiction and frequent financial setbacks. He also experienced intense spiritual oppression. "Every night, I had horrible nightmares," he recalls.

At just 13 years old, Mario started drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes—desperate to escape the anxiety and emotional pain he felt. But as he explains, these weren't just personal struggles—they were generational. "My father had the same addictions. He was once a prosperous man but lost everything because of them. The same happened to me. I started working young, but everything I earned went to parties. I couldn't prosper. I just sank deeper into addiction, which eventually took a toll on my health—and my love life was a wreck," he says.

Mario battled daily anxiety attacks and crushing loneliness. But he truly hit rock bottom when he became unemployed and completely alone. He desperately searched for something—anything—to pull him out of the pit. One day, while flipping through radio stations looking for music to distract himself, he came across a pastor preaching about salvation.

"The pastor invited listeners to the Universal Church—and I went. From the first day, I felt something change inside me," he says. Mario kept attending and began to put into practice what he learned. Slowly but surely, he was freed from the addictions that had controlled him for eight years. "Change didn't happen overnight, but it started. I noticed it in the way I thought, the way I lived," he shares.

After a while, he participated in a special event at the church that marked a turning point in his life: he surrendered himself fully to God. "I made a vow to turn all my financial plans over to Him. The next day, I started seeing results—I began

closing sales and making purchases. Things just started moving," Mario recalls.

As his faith grew, so did his results. But Mario realized that financial success wasn't enough. "I felt like something was still missing. I had blessings, but I lacked the most important thing—the presence of God inside me," he says.

That's when he made a deeper commitment: not just to be blessed, but to truly serve God with his entire life. "I gave Him everything. From that moment on, everything changed. I had peace, certainty, and a joy I can't even explain."



Today, Mario enjoys a blessed and prosperous life, with a comfortable home, a happy marriage, and a strong family. But for him, nothing compares to what he treasures most: "The Holy Spirit is my greatest inheritance. Nothing compares to the peace and refreshment He brought to my soul. I'm so grateful to God for every opportunity He's given me." — Mario Araujo



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