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Micronesian
community
in action



UNIVERSAL

What's happening at

THE
FALL OF THE
WALLS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

All problems that
have been blocking
your life will fall down

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UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

The Universal Church • The Universal Church of the Kingdom of God • www.universalchurchusa.org • Weekly Edition N° 617 • Facebook / Instagram: @TheUniversalChurch • [free distribution] • Enjoy & share!

Breaking all strongholds

Addictions Suicidal thoughts
Depression Poverty
Anxiety Sickness

There are people whose lives feel completely tied down. No matter what they do, nothing seems to go right. What many don't realize is that they may be victims of spiritual attacks that are meant to block their progress. You're invited to fight back through faith and break these strongholds of evil. Join us on Fridays for a powerful deliverance session.

FRIDAY OF DELIVERANCE

"I just wanted to sleep and never wake up again."
(Read Yasmin story on page 6)



"She received
a death
sentence."



"It was papillary thyroid cancer—a level 6 malignant tumor. Read Vanessa's story on page 3."

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Bishop
Edir Macedo

Repellent
against evil



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Breaking all strongholds

Does your life feel stuck?
Do things always seem to go wrong—no matter what you do?
Do you feel like there's a curse over your life or family?
Have you experienced paranormal activity, unexplained fear, or deep emotional suffering?
If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may be facing spiritual strongholds—and it's time to break free.

What are evil strongholds?
It's no secret that unseen spiritual forces are at work in the world. While the forces of good—God, the Lord Jesus, and His angels—bring peace, healing, and blessings, there are also evil forces at work. The devil and his demons aim to do the exact opposite. As the Bible says in John 10:10: "The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy." Spiritual strongholds form when a person unknowingly gives room for evil to enter their life. Over time, these strongholds block progress, destroy relationships, feed addictions, and trap people in cycles of failure, depression, and fear. But here's the good news: you can break free. Through the power of faith in the Lord Jesus, no spiritual force can remain in control of your life.

A special invitation for you
If you or someone you love is facing curses or witchcraft, family problems or a broken love life, addiction, unexplained setbacks, nightmares or spiritual attacks, depression or suicidal thoughts, we invite you to join us every Friday at a Universal Church near you for our Spiritual cleansing and deliverance service.

During this service, a prayer of faith is made to break every curse and rebuke all evil at its root. You'll also receive biblical guidance on how to protect yourself and stay free. Come as you are—leave transformed.
Service times: 7 AM, 10 AM, 4 PM, and 7 PM
(Times may vary by location. Contact your nearest Universal Church for details.)

| 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 what remedy can be used to 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

Repellent against evil

"...You anoint my head with oil..."
Psalm 23:5

What David said in this verse really caught my attention. Before becoming king, David was a shepherd—so he understood the needs of sheep better than most.

In the dry deserts of the past, shepherds had to care for their sheep with great attention. Insects and flies constantly tormented the animals, often seeking the moisture in their nostrils to lay eggs. Once those eggs hatched, the larvae would cause intense irritation. The poor sheep would become frantic—running from side to side, shaking their heads in agony, trying to relieve the discomfort.

It's said that some sheep grew so weak and depressed from this torment that they'd bang their heads against rocks or trees to stop the pain—sometimes even killing themselves. To prevent this, shepherds would anoint the sheep's heads with oil, which worked as a repellent to keep the insects away.

In a similar way, the devil acts like those flies—seeking chances to plant his "larvae" in our minds. He tries to torment us with toxic thoughts, doubts, fears, and lies that leave people discouraged, anxious, and spiri-



tually broken. Some even reach the point of despair and take their own lives. But just as the oil protected the sheep, we also have a spiritual repellent—the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

The oil in Psalm 23 isn't just a physical substance—it represents something far greater: the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the new birth. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we're not just comforted—we're **protected**. Evil may try to attack, but it cannot prevail. The anointing becomes our shield, our repellent against every force of darkness.

As the Bible says:
"...but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him." 1 John 5:18



"I got involved with witchcraft to save my marriage"

I got involved in witchcraft, hoping it would make my husband stay with me forever. I truly believed it would work. But instead of fixing our relationship, things only got worse. We had even more problems, and eventually, we separated. At the same time, I was struggling financially—my business started falling apart, and everything seemed to be going downhill. As a result, I fell into depression.

Desperate, I decided to move in with a witch doctor, think-

ing things would somehow turn around. For a short while, it felt like my life was improving, but before long, I lost everything I had worked for. It got so bad that one day he beat me so severely, I had to be hospitalized. Still, because of the spiritual control he had over me through his witchcraft, I couldn't find the strength to leave.

On top of that, I began hearing strange noises in the house, seeing shadows, and having terrifying nightmares about cemeteries. I was tired of living like that, but I didn't see a way out.

Then I remembered the peace I once felt when I had attend-

ed the Universal Church years ago. I decided to go back. When I returned, I started using my faith again. I joined the chain of prayer on Fridays for deliverance and spiritual cleansing, and I used the blessed water to sprinkle throughout my house.

Today, I'm completely free from all witchcraft. I found peace and happiness in God. Even after being delivered, I continued persevering until I was filled with the Holy Spirit—because I didn't want to leave any room for evil to come back. Since receiving the Holy Spirit, the depression, fear, and dark shadows have completely disappeared. Now I live with peace and joy, even when problems come my way.
— Jenifer Estban

Experience the Power of God this Sunday



**"Free from
depression
after 30 years."**

I battled depression and anxiety for 30 years. It was a constant struggle, and at times, I didn't know how I'd make it through. But one day, I decided to visit one of the Universal Churches. They were talking about the power of the blessed water—that it could bring healing. So I decided to try it. As soon as I received the water, I started drinking it every morning. I'd wake up around 7 a.m. with my toddler son, and I'd say a prayer: "God, protect me and heal me." I gave the water to both of us every day. That's when I began to notice a change. The problems in my life didn't just disappear, but I wasn't overwhelmed with anxiety like before. I wasn't sinking into deep depression. I believed God and the water were taking care of everything. It's been almost a month now, and I feel so much better—refreshed, lighter, more like myself again.

And I truly believe you can feel the same. -Nisa McGee



**"His condition
is serious. If
you have faith,
hold on to it."**

That's what the doctors told Francisco's wife after days of uncertainty. He was confused, had lost his ability to speak, and his kidneys were failing. He was hanging between life and death. But instead of giving in to fear, Lidia—his wife—chose to act in faith. She prayed for him, trusting God to intervene. And the miracle came quickly: his kidney failure reversed, and Francisco began to recover.

Today, he lives a normal life and says with confidence:
"Everyone says it was a miracle, and I believe it was too."

**"She received
a death
sentence."**



Vanessa, 41, is a technical analyst. In 2017, her faith was put to the test. During a routine annual exam, doctors found nodules on the right side of her neck. "It was papillary thyroid cancer—a level 6 malignant tumor," she recalls. "I read the test results myself before even seeing the doctor, and I was devastated. I cried a lot. When you hear the word 'cancer,' it really does feel like a death sentence."

She underwent surgery, and when the pathology report came back, it showed no additional treatment was necessary. Vanessa believed she was in the clear. But a year later, during follow-up exams, she got unexpected and unwelcome news: new nodules had appeared.

"It turned out to be metastasis," she says. "Both the ultrasound and biopsy confirmed another level 6 tumor—this time on the left side of my neck." Once again, she turned to her faith. "I started using the blessed water and prayed for the nodules to disappear. I didn't want to go through radio-iodine therapy again, which was one of the treatment options after surgery."

Then something remarkable happened on the day of the operation.

"During the neck dissection surgery, the biopsy came back normal," she says.

"The doctor had planned to inject a radioactive liquid, but because the nodules were so small, he couldn't even find them. To everyone's surprise, there were no malignant nodules at all."



**RECEIVE THE HEALING
WATERS THIS SUNDAY**
at your nearest
Universal Church





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

Don't let affliction win



You show up. You smile. You do what's expected. But deep down, your soul is unraveling. You can't explain it—it just hurts. While everyone sees you functioning, no one sees you breaking—quietly, constantly.

That's exactly where Job was when he said:

"And now my soul is poured out because of my plight; the days of affliction take hold of me." Job 30:16

But listen—Job didn't stay there. His pain didn't define his end. He refused to die in affliction. He didn't give up. He didn't let suffering silence his faith.

And neither should you.

Maybe your soul feels heavy. Maybe affliction has taken hold of your days—but it doesn't have to take your future. The same God who restored Job with twice as much is the same God calling you now.

That spirit of depression, emptiness, and silent suffering is not from God—it's from hell. And you have the right to reject it. Use your faith. Stand up and declare: My life will not end in tears, but in victory.

Job didn't understand everything that was happening, but he chose to trust. And when you trust in the God of the Bible, even in silence, He moves. He lifts. He restores.

Don't let the devil win in your mind. Don't let affliction steal your days. Turn your pain into a weapon of faith. Cry out like Job—then fight.

Because the end of Job's story wasn't defeat. It was blessing. And so will yours be.

May the God of the Bible bless you.



"A terrifying experience that haunted my childhood."

My name is Celia Minicelli. I'm 59 years old, and today, I can truly say I'm free—but that wasn't always the case.

I was born in 1958 in a small town and adopted at the age of 3 by a couple who couldn't have children. Like any child, I hoped that I had finally found a family and that I would be happy. But that dream quickly became a nightmare.

From the beginning, the home I entered was spiritually troubled. My adoptive parents prepared a beautiful room just for me—decorated with the best furniture, filled with dolls, and made to look like a child's dream. But what I didn't know was that the room had been offered to spirits, supposedly to protect me and help my adoptive mother, who struggled with deep emotional and spiritual issues.

That room became the place of my greatest torment.

Night after night, I would see and hear the dolls talking to me. I had over 30 of them, but one in partic-



“

What should've been toys turned into tools of terror. They would pull my hair, hit me, push me out of bed and say terrible things.

ular—a doll named “Blá Blá,” who could talk when you pulled a

string—stood out. What should've been toys turned into tools of terror. They would pull my hair, hit me, push me out of bed, and say terrible things. They even told me to fight with my mother. When I did, one of the dolls would laugh loudly, mocking me.

Many nights, I stood silently outside my mother's bedroom door, hoping she would help me. But when she finally opened the door, she didn't believe me. Instead, she dragged me back to the room, covered my mouth, and beat me. She said I was lying—that none of what I was experiencing was real.

So I was left to suffer alone—spiritually attacked by the dolls and physically punished by the person who was supposed to protect me.

This torment followed me into adulthood. For decades, I lived with fear, sleepless nights, and a deep sense of oppression.

Everything changed when I was 37 years old. That's when I walked into the Universal Church for the first time. That very night, I experienced something I had never known before: peace. For the first time in my life, I slept without any attacks, without fear, without torment.

In that moment, I knew—God had set me free. I began attending the chain of prayer services on Fridays for deliverance, and from that point on, my life was never the same.

For the past 22 years, I've lived completely free. I no longer suffer torment. I no longer live in fear. I have peace. I have joy. And I have purpose—all because I came to know the power of God's Word.

A word to those who are suffering

If you or someone you love is facing spiritual attacks, torment, or oppression—don't wait. There is freedom in Jesus. I'm living proof of that.

Come to a Universal Church near you. Step into a place where faith is alive and God is ready to change your story—just like He changed mine.

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:32

What's happening at the Universal Church

"I just wanted to die"



From a young age, I struggled with suicidal thoughts. I remember when I was 14, I picked up a screwdriver and nearly stabbed myself in the heart. I truly believed that ending my life would end all my pain. But in that dark moment, another thought came into my mind: "You are important to God."

That was the first and last time I ever tried to take my own life, but the sadness and disappointment continued to build for years. I held a lot of resentment toward my mom. I felt ugly and less than other girls—I would compare myself to them and try to be like them just to feel accepted.

On top of that, I faced spiritual torment. I heard voices, had constant nightmares, and felt a dark presence

watching me all the time. I couldn't sleep at night. But no one around me knew what I was going through.

I had known about the Universal Church since I was a child. My family had visited a few times, but we were never consistent. In my teens, I started going regularly with my mom. As I took part in the meetings, the nightmares and torment stopped, and the sadness started to go away. But I realized something deeper: it wasn't enough just to feel better—I needed the Holy Spirit so I wouldn't fall back again.

I gave my all to that search. God opened my eyes to friendships that were pulling me down and helped me let go of the past. He taught me how to forgive.

Now, with the Holy Spirit living in me, I don't think about dying anymore. My thoughts are full of peace. Even when problems come, I know I'm not alone—God is with me.

If you're reading this, I want you to know there is hope. Even if you feel like you don't deserve it, Jesus is ready to give you the peace and joy you've been searching for.

— Andrea Garcia

"I was handed over to an evil entity."



was believed to belong to him.

For 15 years, I was tormented by this spirit. My self-esteem hit rock bottom, and I even thought about ending my life. But then something changed—my mother met God at the Universal Church and invited me to come with her.

I started attending the chain of prayer for spiritual cleansing and deliverance, asking God to remove the evil from my life. At first, when I didn't see immediate results, I felt like God was letting me down and wanted to give up. But then I realized the problem wasn't God—it was me. I wasn't fully surrendering or obeying His Word.

That was a turning point. It wasn't easy—I had to fight to let go of the wrong things in my life and forgive the people who had hurt me. But once I gave my entire life to God, He delivered me completely. He even healed my marriage and blessed me with two daughters.

Today, my relationship with my mom is strong, I sleep peacefully, and I live with confidence—because I know God is my refuge.

— Liliana Alcantara

Micronesian Community Outreach

This past week, The Universal Church in Washington State carried out a powerful social outreach effort—a time when church volunteers come together to give back to the community in a meaningful way. The Bible teaches us not only to spread the gospel but also to love our neighbor and treat others the way we would want to be treated.

As part of this mission, volunteers united to serve the homeless and support the growing Micronesian community in Washington. They provided meals to over 60 homeless individuals—feeding them physically, yes, but also offering something deeper. Volunteers took time to pray with them and provided spiritual and emotional support to those who needed it.

In addition to street outreach, the volunteers also visited local hospitals. There, they prayed with patients and offered encouragement and comfort to their families, sharing words of faith and hope rooted in God's Word. This outreach reflected the church's commitment to making a real difference—not just in words, but in action.



Breaking all strongholds of evil

Have you ever noticed negative things happening in your life—or around you—for no clear reason, almost like you're fighting against something invisible? What if we told you that might actually be true? Spiritual problems are more common—and more damaging—than most people realize. Unfortunately, many dismiss the influence of evil as something imaginary or exaggerated. That's exactly what evil wants: if you don't believe it exists, you won't defend yourself against it.

Of course, not every problem is spiritual. Some issues come from poor decisions—like financial trouble caused by bad spending habits or health issues from an unhealthy lifestyle. But there are situations that seem abnormal and go beyond logic. These include repeated setbacks, generational problems, or sudden obstacles that appear just when everything was going right.

The truth is, there's a spiritual world where a constant battle is taking place. Each life is like a territory being contested by two forces: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. And when a problem has a spiritual root, it can only be solved by a greater spiritual power—through faith in the Lord Jesus. As the Bible says:

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...” (2 Corinthians 10:4)
If you're reading this and realize that your life may be under spiritual attack, don't be afraid. Our goal isn't to scare you, but to show you there's a way out. You don't have to accept what you're going through as normal. Jesus is ready to fight for you—and when He steps in, no force of darkness can stand against Him. But for that to happen, there's one important step: you need to let God work in your life. That means identifying the root of the problem and, by faith, allowing Jesus to remove it. That's exactly what we focus on every Friday at the Universal Church.

Spiritual deliverance means the Kingdom of God drives out every force of evil from your life—putting an end to the problems caused by spiritual oppression. It's time to break free.

Join us this Friday for the Breaking of all strongholds of evil, at a Universal Church near you.

Service times: 7 AM, 10 AM, 4 PM, and 7 PM. (Times may vary by location—see the back page for details.)

Breaking all strongholds of evil



“I just wanted to sleep and never wake up again.”

When Yasmin Naal was six years old, her parents separated. She stayed with her mother, who moved back to her hometown. Yasmin lived with her mom and stepfather until she turned 18, when she left home in search of what she thought was “freedom.” Although she was cared for, Yasmin admits she grew up feeling bitter about not having a traditional family.

“I struggled a lot as a teenager. I wasn't happy. My dad wasn't around—by my choice. I didn't want to hear from him for 12 years, and today, I regret that,” she says. Her relationship with her mother was also tense.

“She wanted to protect me, but I just wanted to go out and see the world,” Yasmin explains. Although she went to the Universal Church with her mother, she says she never truly gave her life to God.

Drugs and emotional collapse

Yasmin tried marijuana for the first time at 16. “I used to skip school to smoke and drink with my friends,” she recalls. At 17, she started experimenting with other cannabis extracts and eventually got involved in drug trafficking.

“At first, it seemed fun—but it quickly became a burden.” Inside, she was falling apart. She felt deeply insecure, anxious, depressed, and empty. “There were nights I just wanted to sleep and never wake up again,” she says. “But at the same time, I was scared to die because I knew where my soul would end up.” Her love life was also marked by pain, betrayal, and emotional chaos.

“There was a time I was dating three people at once. I stopped caring about anyone's feelings. I was acting out of pride and pain,” she admits.

The strongest dose

In 2024, Yasmin returned to the Universal Church. “I had nowhere else to turn. God opened my eyes to faith, and I started remembering all the sermons I used to hear.” She began attending the Friday deliverance meetings, as well as the Wednesday and Sunday services. She cut ties with the sins that once held her and started growing her faith through prayer and Bible reading.

“I asked God to make me hate sin—and He did. I started valuing myself and realizing that He had something greater for me,” she says. After one service focused on John 15:6, she woke up spiritually.



“That's when I truly got baptized and began seeking the Holy Spirit with all my heart.” Then everything changed. “When I received the Holy Spirit, I felt peace, strength, and joy I can't even explain. I wanted to dance and shout to the world that salvation is real,” she says. Today, Yasmin is a different person. “I have peace—even in the middle of battles—and I find rest in the Lord. I want to live to tell others what He can do. After receiving the Holy Spirit, everything changed. He shapes me. He completes me,” she says with confidence.

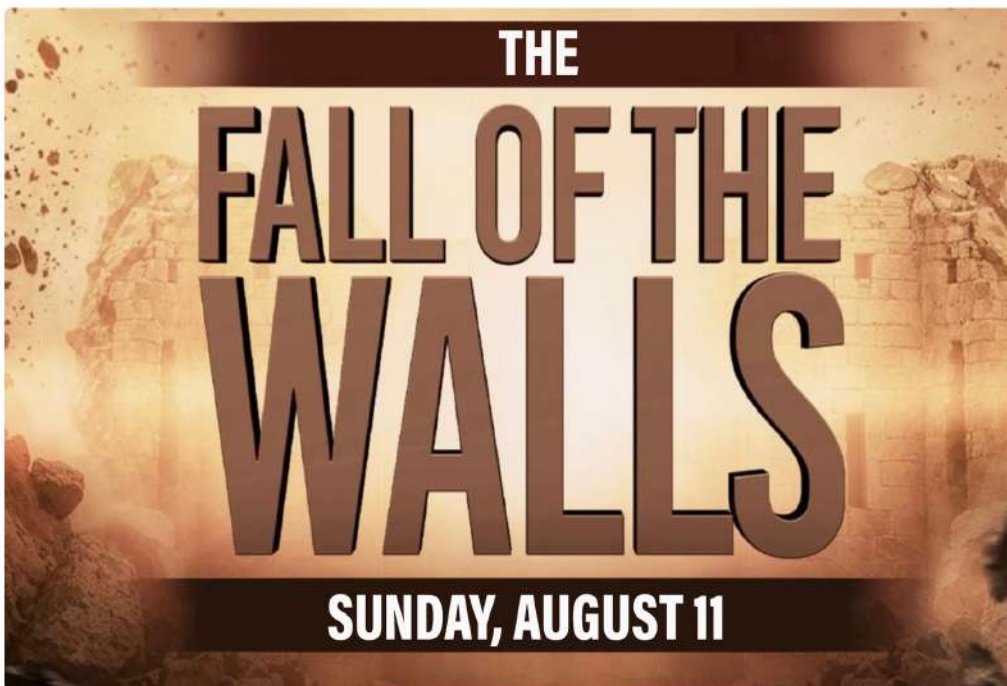


On this day you will receive healing prayers through the laying of hands. Jesus once said:
“...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”
MARK 16:18

SUNDAY AUGUST 3rd AT 10AM

Sharitta is Healed!

One day I felt a lump on my right side that my physician later diagnosed as Limpoma which they concluded was 99% cancerous. I came to the church and received prayers through the laying of hands. I went back to my physician for the results and there is no cancer in my body.



So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat.
Joshua 6:20

What Are These Walls Today? The walls of Jericho today are the spiritual obstacles and the spiritual barriers that try to block God's people from moving forward. What have been the setbacks and barriers you have been facing? Losses, anxiety, an impossible case, an injustice, blocked money, financial stagnation, delayed documents, reoccurring health issues.

shout the shout of victory against the problem. And this wall in Jesus' name will fall down. We invite you to write down below the walls you have been facing and bring it to The Universal Church nearest you! See the back page for locations.

Regardless of what you are facing, do not give up on yourself! On Sunday at 10 AM, we will shout against the walls. It's not against a city. It's not against a man. It's not against an institution. It's not against the landlord or a bank. We are not fighting against institutions or human beings. We are fighting against the evil spirit that built walls around you. We are going to

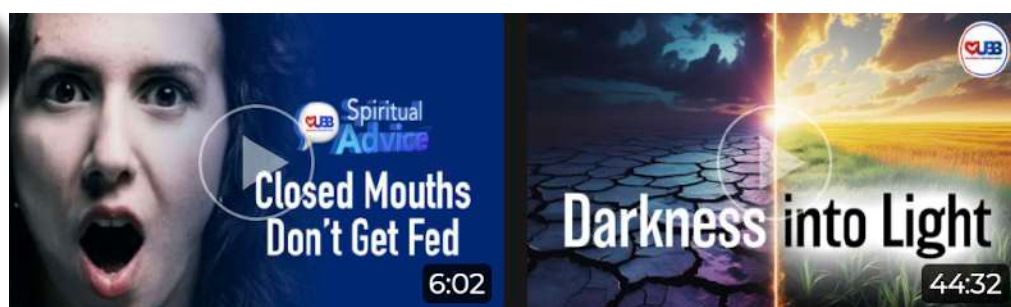
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Every day the UBB has a new episode for you.

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!"

WISE FOR EVIL, "CONFUSED" FOR GOOD

Why is it that so many people seem sharp and clever when it comes to doing wrong—but somehow lost or confused when it comes to doing what's right? The Bible already pointed this out. In Jeremiah 4:22, God says:

"My people are foolish; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they do not know how to do good."

In other words, they were stubborn and closed off. This was the cry of a heartbroken Father—a God who longed to see His children do what's right. The history of Israel reflects this pattern: whenever they were suffering, they sought God. But as soon as things got better, they abandoned Him and turned to idols.

And the result? More suffering. It became a never-ending cycle. God didn't call them "senseless" because they lacked intelligence—but because they used their intelligence to do evil.

Twisted wisdom

Maybe you, as a parent, have been shocked by something your child did. When the truth comes out, the reaction is often: "My child? I can't believe it!" It's hard to accept. But sometimes, what's revealed is worse than expected. You might ask yourself: "Where did they learn this? How did they become so good at lying, hiding, or manipulating?"

Sadly, many become experts in wrongdoing but remain completely unaware of how to do what's right. They use their intelligence to cheat, steal, and deceive—but don't know how to use it for honesty, kindness, or truth. Why does this happen? The answer is found in the verse itself:

"They do not know me." When someone drifts away from God, they lose their sense of right and wrong. Even without realizing it, they begin to serve evil—and over time, they become skilled

at it. Serving something means trying to please, understand, and obey it. That's how it works with God. But it's also how it works with evil. Whoever doesn't serve good will, by default, end up serving evil. There is no neutral ground. As the saying goes: "The fence belongs to the devil." Indecision is a decision—and a dangerous one.

The self-deception of "balancing" good and evil Some try to cancel out their wrongdoing with good deeds—like a drug dealer who donates food, or a corrupt person who gives to charity. But that's not redemption—that's self-deception. You can't erase evil by sprinkling in good. If someone lies, steals, or harms others—even if they help someone afterward—they're still serving evil.

It's like putting makeup over a deep wound. It may cover it up for a while, but the damage is still there.

Becoming skilled in evil

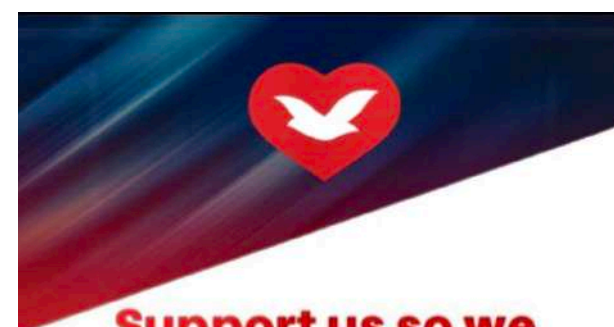
The more someone does wrong, the more effort it takes to justify, cover up, and maintain that behavior. Evil demands upkeep—and that requires intelligence. That's why people can become wise in doing evil. It becomes a system... and in time, it becomes their master.

This isn't my opinion—it's what the Word of God says. And while it's a hard truth, it's also an open door: a call to change.

Use your intelligence for good

God doesn't want empty religion. He desires intelligent faith—faith that thinks, questions, and obeys based on His Word. If you've already been using your intelligence for wrong, that's proof that you're capable. You're not weak. You're not clueless.

You just need to redirect that intelligence toward what's right. When you choose to serve God, you begin a journey of true transformation—for yourself and for everyone around you.



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.

You allow us to conduct graduation ceremonies for the inmates, provide food, distribute hygienic kits occasionally, and much more. To donate, simply scan this QR code for Zelle or make a direct deposit in our Wells Fargo account!

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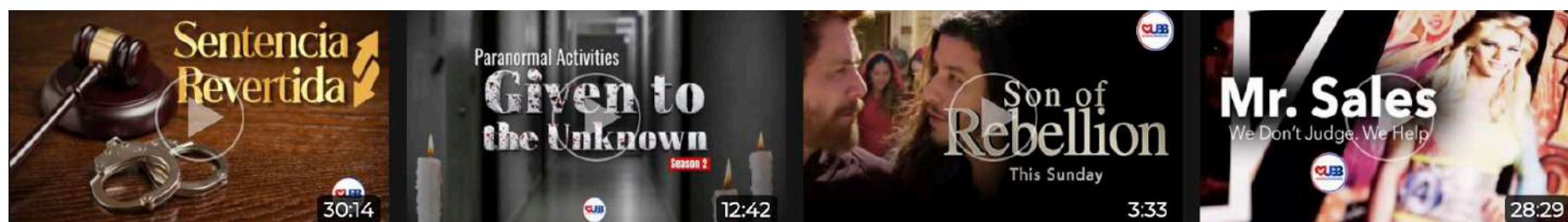
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I'm going to the TOP, down with the UBB! Stay locked in for DAILY videos from the UBB.

UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

You are NOT alone!



Businessman David Silva's journey from crime to redemption

David Silva, 40 years old, first came to the Universal Church with his mother during a difficult time in their family. "My mom used to listen to church programs a lot, and because she had a troubled marriage, she started attending meetings and brought us along," he explains.

David attended Universal Church services regularly from age 13 to 17. But after that, he "rebelled against God" because of disappointments and problems in his love life. "I met a girl from the church, we got along, and eventually got married. But it wasn't easy—we fought constantly and broke up after three years," he recalls.

“

Feeling frustrated, David abandoned everything, including his faith, and started living without limits. "I tried to fill the emptiness inside me. I got involved with drugs—cocaine, marijuana, and ecstasy."

Over time, David's life spiraled downward. Before he knew it, he was involved in crime. "I started stealing and joined robbery gangs. Later, I got involved in organized crime, stealing cargo and robbing houses in my neighborhood."

With his partners in crime, David often spent nights in brothels, which became a refuge for the group. "Because I lived with my mom, I didn't want to cause her trouble, so we stayed in brothels. We did drugs and were with the girls there."

In 2005, David was arrested. "That arrest was a wake-up call." He spent a year in prison. After his release, David moved to the Northeast, married, and then returned to his old city. But old habits pulled him back.

"I still had contact with people from my past, and before I knew it, I was deep in crime again—worse than before. I even became a drug trafficking manager."

In 2018, David was arrested again for cargo theft and spent another year behind bars.

He calls that time his rock bottom. "I wanted to die. I thought God had abandoned me. I even thought about hanging myself in my prison cell." While David was in prison, his wife attended Universal Church and prayed for his transformation.

After serving his sentence, David was released



DAVID BEFORE

and felt the need to return to God. "I saw a video invitation on Facebook to a vigil. I went to the church to make a decision about my life.

In that moment, I felt Jesus embrace me, and everything changed."

Since then, David's life has been completely transformed. "My past is behind me. I'm free from addictions, trauma, and emptiness. I've received the Holy Spirit."

Today, David has a full and happy life—he has a loving family and a successful career. "Now, I share God's Word with people who are going through what I once went through," he says.



DAVID AFTER

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

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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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**Misery, abuse,
and violence:
She thought she
was born to
suffer**

Every time Ana Paula de Sousa searched for happiness, she ended up hurt—until she found God.

At 44, Ana Paula, a self-employed woman, can look back on a life marked by extreme poverty, abuse, and heartbreak. She grew up in a broken home with four siblings, often going to bed hungry. A kind neighbor fed the children through a hole in the wall while their mother worked nights as an escort. Later, Ana Paula was adopted and taken to a new city, where she hoped for a better life. But that hope quickly turned into horror. In the home that was supposed to protect her, she suffered physical abuse—and even sexual assault.

As an adult, she entered a relationship hoping to find love and safety. Instead, she was beaten by the father of her first child. Trying again to escape the pain, she began a new relationship and had a second child—but the cycle of abuse continued. “It felt like there was no way out,” she recalls. “It really seemed like I was born to suffer.”

Desperate for relief, Ana Paula sought help at a spiritual center, but instead of healing, her emotional wounds deepened. Her suicidal thoughts intensified—and shockingly, she was abused again, even there.

“I came from a world where I was already hurt—and then I was hurt again in a place where I thought I would be safe,” she says. Then one day, a coworker invited her to the Universal Church. She was hesitant at first, held back by her own prejudices. But the pain she carried was too heavy, and something inside her pushed her to go.

She remembers that first visit clearly: “I was welcomed with such kindness. I already felt different when I left.”

Through the Word of God, Ana Paula began to understand that true change starts with the decisions we make. She let go of empty religious traditions and left behind the life of pain and sin.

And the result?

“I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I had felt alone my entire life, but in that moment, I felt embraced. I found my true place—in the arms of the Lord Jesus. He opened the door for me to finally be happy in every area of my life.”



FINANCIAL TIPS

6 Benefits of Budgeting as a Young Adult



1 Financial stress relief

Budgeting can help you understand the lifestyle you can afford and help reduce the risk of ending up in a stressful financial situation.

2 Debt-free living

Budgeting can help you prioritize paying off debt to limit the money wasted on interest payments.



3 Earlier retirement

The earlier you start saving for retirement, the earlier you'll be able to retire.



4 Increased savings

By starting with budgeting early, you can reap the benefits of compound interest and boost your savings.



5 Preparation for the future

Taking early control of your finances can help you be better prepared for the future, whether you're purchasing a home or planning a vacation.



6 Long-term growth

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