



"I had a stroke, so I was slightly paralyzed on the left side."

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MIRACLES

Micronesian community in action
Gathering of Faith in the Island of Maui



"A curse stole eight family members from me."



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UNIVERSAL NEWS



SCAN ME

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Don't let your family be attacked and destroyed

The family is a Divine project, but lately it has been increasingly threatened by situations of pain and suffering. Learn how to fight against this and have a "little piece of Heaven" in your home.



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"I was raised without a father figure. At 13, I lost my mother."

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Bishop Edir Macedo
The terror of threats



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Fighting for your family, not against them

The family was created by God as a divine project, a reflection of our relationship with Him and of the unity within the Holy Trinity. But today, many families have come under attack. Instead of being places of love and peace, homes have turned into battlefields marked by conflict, loss, and separation. For many, what was once a dream has become a nightmare.

Why are so many families falling apart? One reason is that many have pushed God aside. He, who was once the foundation of the home, has been left in the background. Others grew up in dysfunctional households and, despite their efforts, carried the same pain and chaos into their own families.

But no matter what your family has been through, there is hope. Instead of fighting with your loved ones or against them, you can choose to fight for them. God made a promise to Abraham that still stands today: *"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* (Genesis 12:3). Through your faith, God wants to bless your home and restore your family.

When you place your loved ones in God's hands, when you pray and act in faith, He will begin to guide your decisions and transform your home. It does not matter how broken things may look now—what was once a curse can be turned into a blessing. The Word of God never fails in the lives of those who believe.

Do you believe this? If so, take hold of this promise and begin to live by faith. Join us at the Universal Church for the **Gathering of Faith and Miracles** at 7 AM, 10 AM, 3 PM, or 6 PM, and learn how to fight for your family the way God intended.

| BEATING DEPRESSION |

Depression is more than just feeling sad. It is a deep, overwhelming sorrow that weighs down the soul. It brings hopelessness, drains motivation, and makes even the simplest tasks feel impossible. In severe cases, it can even take away a person's will to live. Depression is not only a state of mind, it is a sickness of the soul. But what 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 will receive spiritual strength through powerful prayers, practical guidance, and one-on-one counseling.

You are not alone in this fight. Thousands of people 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

The Terror of Threats

Only with spiritual eyes can we understand what God wants to do in the lives of those who obey Him. Many of the battles we face today are the same battles God's people faced in the past. The same evil spirits that stirred up the enemies of Israel are at work against the Kingdom of God today.

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, despite his loyalty to the Lord, was shaken when his ministers brought alarming news: powerful enemies had united to invade the nation, and they were already on their way—close to Jerusalem.

His immediate reaction was fear, not just ordinary fear but terror. If the king himself was terrified, imagine the people. This news struck Judah with desperation. Those who have ever lived under death threats know this feeling—the paralyzing dread of knowing that danger is near and destruction is possible. Jehoshaphat and his people knew the cruelty of their enemies: armed and merciless, they were ready to wipe everything out. Caught off guard, the king had no time to prepare for war.

How many times have we faced this same kind of fear? The spirit of terror blinds its victims, making them unable to see a way out. Often, what we hear or imagine sounds worse than reality, but Satan uses exaggeration and lies to drive people to despair. Those who ignore or neglect the Word of God end up unstable, desperate, and emotionally broken.

Jehoshaphat, however, remembered the



faith of his forefathers. He knew that God had delivered His people in the past, and so he turned immediately to the Lord. He proclaimed a fast throughout Judah and called all the people to cry out to God in the Temple. United in faith, the entire nation humbled itself before the Lord—and He gave them victory over their enemies.

Today, we face different but equally terrifying threats: the threat of losing a job, the threat of losing a marriage, the threat of losing children to destructive paths, the threat of dying from an incurable disease. These threats are the weapons of Satan and his demons to paralyze and destroy.

But just as Jehoshaphat and Judah overcame through faith, you too can overcome. Cry out to God, unite with others in prayer, and stand firm in faith. Visit a Universal Church near you and learn how to break free from the spirit of terror and overcome the threats that rise against you.



Antonio's wife had been a faithful member of the Universal Church for many years. Despite her efforts to be a good wife and mother, she faced the painful threat of divorce. Yet, she never gave up on her family. Instead of fighting against her husband, she learned to fight for him through faith—and God honored her perseverance.

Hate vs Love

"I was a very bad person and extremely difficult to deal with. When my wife started attending the church, I couldn't accept it. I did everything I could to stop

"I made her choose between me and God."

her. I locked her in the house, tore up her Bible, and even burned it once. I didn't understand why, but I felt a deep rage inside me against the church. Still, she remained calm. She never fought me back. She always kept her faith and treated me with love despite everything I did," Antonio recalls.

"Even with all my hatred, she managed to go to services. And when she came home, she would treat me with kindness. But I was arrogant and cold. I ignored her, told her not to speak to me, and at one point I made her choose between me and God. Filled with pride, I eventually abandoned her and our baby daughter."

A wife's faith, a husband's change

Instead of collapsing under the

weight of betrayal and pain, Antonio's wife placed her case on God's altar. She cried out to Him for the transformation of her husband and family. She persevered in a chain of prayer, believing that God would restore her home.

Grateful and happy

"Today, I thank my wife for never giving up on me or our marriage. It was through her faith that I found God. I became a completely different man. The anger and bitterness that consumed me are gone. I found true happiness in God's presence. Our family was restored, and my love for my wife and daughter grew stronger than ever. It's been 34 years, and I look forward to growing old with the woman I once pushed away—the woman I now cherish and love dearly."



Use your faith and see God's Power this Sunday



“I had a small hernia in my stomach for over 13 years.”

I had a small hernia in my stomach for more than 13 years. It grew so much that it looked like I was nine months pregnant.

I worked seven days a week because I have six children, and I was worried about who would take care of them. One day, a member of this ministry invited me to come on Sunday. I drank the blessed water and rubbed it on my stomach for a week. One morning, while I was getting ready for work, I felt something pop in my stomach.

I was rushed to the hospital, had surgery, and now I am doing great. —Tina



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



“I had a stroke, so I was slightly paralyzed on the left side.”

I had a stroke that left me slightly paralyzed on the left side. I could not move around much and had to use a walker.

When I came to the church, the pastor prayed for me. I had faith, used the blessed water, and that same day I threw the walker away.

As you can see, I no longer need it, I am fine. Later, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. During one of my chemotherapy sessions, I collapsed. The doctors told me that surgery would be necessary. But I drank the blessed water with faith and determined that I would not need surgery. At one point, they placed a tube attached to a machine. When the doctors came back with the results, they told me, “You do not need an operation, you are healed.” Today, I am completely free. —Mrs. Angela

“My mother was sick.”



My mother was sick for a few months and was admitted to the hospital. She came out thinking she was okay, but a few weeks later she had to be admitted again.

When I came to the church on Sunday morning, I drank the blessed water and prayed for her because she was not able to be physically present. I prayed to God saying that I was drinking it on her behalf.

After a month, my mother was discharged, and today she is doing great.

—Ms. Nopsy



|Message|

BISHOP JOSHUA

The biggest weapon against the family



There is a powerful weapon being used to destroy families today: separation.

When unity is broken, division takes over. This can happen between brothers, in marriages, between parents and children, or when someone in the family falls into addiction or gets into trouble with the law. Instead of support, accusations and blame often arise. Problems are exposed and spread, until little by little, the entire family turns against itself.

The Word of God is clear:

“Every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”

Matthew 12:25

When your family is facing struggles, don't step on those who are already down. That only deepens the wounds. Instead, be the one who takes a stand to help. And if you cannot help on your own, seek help from the One who created the family and knows how to restore it—God.

It only takes one person to change the course of an entire family. Will that person be you?

May the God of the Bible bless you.

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

The shame of the family

Every parent dreams of seeing their children happy and moving forward in life. But for Carlos dos Santos, now 76, that dream turned into seven painful years as he watched his daughter, Luana Rodrigues (today 36), sink deeper into addiction and destruction.

“The drugs and alcohol completely took over her life,” Carlos recalls. “She would leave home in the evening and only come back the next morning, stumbling drunk. It was one wild night after another.”

Luana admits it all began when she was just 15. “I was insecure and wanted to fit in. I started drinking, then came marijuana. When that wasn't enough, I turned to cocaine. My use was so out of control that I overdosed twice.” Along with addiction came depression and several suicide attempts.

As a father, Carlos tried everything, but he knew only God could transform her. “I would invite her to church, but she refused to even listen,” he says. He prayed, made vows, and persevered, even as her situation grew worse.

“I used to mock him,” Luana confesses. “I told him that if I went to church, I'd get worse. I laughed at him, saying his pants would rip from kneeling so much in prayer, and still, I wouldn't change. But he never gave up.”

To feed her addiction, Luana began selling drugs. “I got drugs from a dealer to sell, but I used everything in three days. I couldn't pay the debt, so I had to run and hide. Once, I let a man shelter me in exchange for sleeping with him. I lived in constant fear of being killed or my parents being harmed. In the end, my father had to negotiate with the dealer and pay my debt,” she says with pain.

The turning point came when Carlos placed both his suffering and his daughter's life on the Altar of God. Soon after, Luana walked into the Universal Church looking for him. “I was still under the influence of drugs, but I sat through the meeting. At the end, I spoke to the pastor, told him my story, and said I wanted to change. He pointed me to the Altar,” she shares.

That day was the beginning of her transformation. “I understood that God didn't just want to bless me—He wanted to change me completely. I let go of the addictions, the old friendships, everything from the past. I truly repented and asked God for strength. From then on, I never needed drugs again. The one who used to be the shame of the family is now their joy. Today I am married to a man of God, and I have true happiness inside me,” Luana testifies with a smile.

The decision to fight

Luana's story shows how the suffering of one person can affect the whole family—but also how the faith of one family member can bring salvation to the household.

That is why, every Sunday and Thursday, prayers for families are held in every Universal Church. These special meetings are an opportunity to place your loved ones before God and receive the protection and restoration that only He can give.

Carlos and Luana



The turning point came when Carlos placed both his suffering and his daughter's life on the Altar of God.

What's happening at the Universal Church

"A curse stole eight family members from me!"



Because of a hereditary curse, Rose faced the unimaginable: she lost eight family members one after another, while also battling painful challenges in her own life. The weight of so much tragedy pushed her into deep depression—until she found the power of God to overcome.

Losses upon losses

"My parents became very sick and were hospitalized at the same time. My father had epilepsy and suffered frequent seizures, sometimes so severe that we had to rush him to the hospital. My mother also had seizures and convulsions every month and took heavy medication. We even traveled to another city seeking help from a team of five doctors, but they couldn't discover what was wrong.

Meanwhile, the losses began: my uncle committed suicide; then other relatives—still so young—died in car accidents. Others passed away from heart and liver problems. It felt like one death after another. My family and I lived in fear, always waiting to see who would be next. Not long after, I lost my father and then my husband."

The breaking point

"At that time, I was married with children and working. After years of dedica-

tion at my job, I was suddenly laid off for no reason, which only added to my despair. When my father died, the sadness grew unbearable. Three years later, I also lost my husband to bowel cancer. He left me with an 18-year-old son and a 4-year-old child to raise on my own. That injustice was the final blow—it sent me to rock bottom.

Surrounded by so much death, I began to think that my only way out was to die too. One day, in the midst of so much pain, I prayed and asked God for light. As I was going down the stairs, I heard a song about God that filled me with peace. The sound came from a nearby church—the Universal Church. I decided to walk in, and from that day forward, I never left.

When I went home that night, I lay down and slept peacefully for the first time in years. As I continued attending, I learned about forgiveness and began seeking the Holy Spirit. When I finally forgave myself, God filled me with His Spirit."

Resilience through faith

"Today, my life is completely renewed! The hereditary curse that destroyed my family has been broken, and now we are blessed. My mother even survived a stroke that left her five days in a coma. The doctors said that if she survived, she would live in a vegetative state. But five years later, she is alive, healthy, and completely normal.

I overcame personal, family, and financial battles. The justice I couldn't find anywhere else, I found in God. Through Him, I discovered peace, strength, and a new beginning."

— Rose

Learning to love again



When Ana and Manuel met, both carried deep wounds from betrayal. They shared the same distrust of relationships—and even of love itself.

"I started working at the bakery where Manuel was a baker," Ana recalls. "At the time, I was depressed and carrying trauma from a previous relationship, where I had been cheated on. It was very difficult for me to start something new."

Manuel had gone through the same pain, twice. "I was in a relationship for five years until I was cheated on. Then I got into another relationship, and again I was betrayed. So, when I met Ana, even though things were going well, I had my doubts."

Disunity at home

"We got married, but because we didn't have much money, we had to move in with my parents. We had no privacy," Ana explains. Tension grew until one argument between Manuel and his father-in-law pushed the couple to leave.

"That's when the difficulties really began," Manuel says. "We had to rent a house. My income was very little, and Ana was out of work. What she had earned was all spent on debts and food—just the bare minimum. We began arguing constantly to the point we couldn't stand being around each other. But whenever we were apart, we missed each other. Still, the moment I came home,

the arguments would start again." Ana's depression grew worse.

Cancer and despair

"I discovered a lump on my neck and went to the doctor. After tests, I was diagnosed with lymphoma. I immediately began chemotherapy, but the doctor told me the cancer was too advanced and there was no hope for me," Ana laments. Manuel tried to be her strength. "When Ana told me she had cancer, I did everything I could to encourage and support her." But inside, Ana was giving up. "All I thought about was ending my life. One day, I gathered all the pills at home, ready to take them. But at that moment, my husband came in with my son, and I couldn't go through with it."

A newspaper of hope

One day, Manuel found a newspaper from the Universal Church in his mailbox. "We decided to go," Ana says. "We went with the idea that this was the last door we would knock on in search of transforming our lives." From that moment, everything began to change. Ana's depression, sadness, and insomnia disappeared. Manuel was freed from addictions, emptiness, and oppression. Even when Ana was hospitalized again, Manuel fought for her with faith. "I started to feel better," Ana recalls. "I went back to the doctor, and the tests showed there were no signs of cancer anymore."

Rebuilding love

"After my healing, we realized we also needed to rebuild our marriage," Ana explains. They began attending the Love Therapy chain of prayers every Thursday, where they learned the secret to a strong relationship: to give themselves to each other.

"Today, both of us are baptized with the Holy Spirit. We have love, wisdom, and we know how to communicate. Our home is now a piece of Heaven."

Micronesian Community Outreach in Hawaii

Last Thursday, August 28, we carried out our first missionary visit of 2025 to the island of Maui. The meeting was held at the Maui Beach Hotel in Kahului, the island's largest city and main hub.

Our journey began with a 40-minute flight over the vast Pacific Ocean. As we landed, we were reminded of the importance of reaching souls who often feel distant and isolated. Maui, with a population of nearly 165,000 people, has no Universal Church yet, and many residents are in need of hope and spiritual support.

Despite being a weekday, around 40 people arrived at the hotel conference room, some driving long distances to attend. Each one came carrying their own struggles—sickness, family problems, addictions, and inner battles. But they also came with open hearts, searching for relief in body, soul, and spirit.

The atmosphere was filled with faith. We sang, prayed together, and shared the Word of God. During the prayers for healing and deliverance, many people were visibly touched by the power of God—some testified that pain left their bodies immediately, others expressed how a heavy burden was lifted from their hearts. Above all, everyone left with the peace that only the Lord Jesus can give.

This first missionary visit was a seed planted in Maui. The Universal Church is working toward opening its doors permanently on the island, but until then, our team will return once a month to continue providing prayer, counseling, and spiritual support to the people who live there.



The family is a Divine project, but lately it has been increasingly threatened by situations of pain and suffering. Learn how to fight against this and have a “little piece of Heaven” in your home.

God Himself is family: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. From the beginning, He designed humanity to live in families. Though a person can live alone, true fulfillment comes when we live according to the standard established by the Lord. In God's family there is no mother, for He is self-existent, but in the human family, the woman completes the man.

As God's design, family life is essential for every society. It was meant to be the foundation of all human development, where the victories of one become the victories of all. The earthly family reflects God's family, yet this divine design has been corrupted. Still, God seeks to restore families to His plan. Through His Spirit, He raises people to build homes that reflect the fragrance of His presence in this world.

The Word of God teaches us that the family is the mother cell of society—the starting point of everything. Within it, we learn values of love, discipline, respect, and coexistence that guide us in school, work, marriage, and friendships. That is why the family has been under so much attack. When its foundation is weakened, the whole structure collapses, leaving lives vulnerable to moral decay and destruction.

In His wisdom, the Father chose to send His Son into the world through a family. Jesus was entrusted to Mary and Joseph, who nurtured Him, protected Him, taught Him His first words, guided Him in respect and obedience, and gave Him tasks in the home. Joseph taught Him carpentry and the value of work. That humble couple from Nazareth helped the Messiah experience the strength and importance of a family rooted in God.

Every Sunday at 10 AM, we lift up prayers for all families. Join us and bring your family before the Lord.

(See the back page for locations.)



Don't let your family be attacked and destroyed



“I was raised without a father figure. At 13, I lost my mother.”

His health and emotional struggles soon worsened. “I suffered from asthma and often felt suffocated when I tried to sleep. Then

I developed panic syndrome. I began attending the Universal Church, but when I came home, my sister would sometimes lock the door in protest, leaving me to sleep outside. That left a deep mark because all I wanted was to go to church.”

A domestic accident nearly cost him his leg, and once again he felt abandoned. “I was hospitalized, and no one from my family visited. When I was discharged, no one came to pick me up. I chose to live alone but faced hunger, debts, and utilities cut off.”

Even greater than the financial hardship was the emptiness inside. “I was in a relationship, but I still felt rejection and loneliness. A pastor told me that if I still felt empty with someone

by my side, it was because I didn't truly have a relationship with God. That same day I ended the relationship, and I heard God's voice clearly say: ‘I am with you, My son.’ Until then, the only person who had ever called me son was my mother.”

Strengthened by that encounter, Carlos pressed forward. He pursued law school despite ridicule from classmates who mocked his faith. “I couldn't accept having such a big God and such a small life,” he recalls.

With perseverance, vows on the Altar, and faith in God, everything began to change. He graduated, opened his own law office, and now also manages a company that works with soccer players. His wife, Tatiana, owns a photography studio, and together they have built a marriage rooted in God rather than neediness.

Most moving of all, God restored his family. “The same sister who once locked me outside later walked me down the aisle at my wedding. Today she is a woman of God, and our relationship has

been completely healed. I now have family peace, which came because I sought God first.”

Looking at his life today, Carlos sums up

his mission: “My family is my priority, right below God. Whoever looks at us should see His presence. I want my home to be a glimpse of Heaven, where the Spirit of the Lord Jesus dwells.”



“I thought it was impossible to be happy.”

Jorge grew up carrying deep wounds. As a child, he was sexually abused by a priest at the parish he attended. That trauma shaped his life, and for 35 years he sought happiness in relationships with men. “I thought I could only be happy with a man,” Jorge recalls. “I longed for fidelity, companionship, respect, and consideration, but I never found it.”

His suffering reached its peak one Sunday when he betrayed the partner he was with. “It felt like reopening an old wound. I cried out inside, ‘My God, this suffering can’t go on.’” A few days later, while watching TV, Jorge saw a pastor from the Universal Church speaking about the possibility of a fulfilling love life. “Inside me there was a battle. A voice said, ‘That’s not for you. These testimonies are for couples.’ I truly thought it was impossible for my life to change.”

Still, he decided to give it a chance. “When I walked into the church for the first time, I immediately felt peace. It was my Encounter with God. I had never experienced that anywhere else. What shocked me most was that I had been a stubborn and aggressive critic of the Universal Church.”

The prejudice he carried vanished when he was welcomed with love. “No one judged me. The pastors and assistants encouraged me with words of faith. That same night, I slept peacefully—something I hadn’t experienced in years because of nightmares and insomnia.”

From that moment, his journey with God began. “I understood that more important than breaking free from addictions or bad relationships was having a Covenant with God. He showed me that my soul was precious to Him and that if I surrendered body, soul, and spirit, He would make me whole.”

Jorge later received the Holy Spirit. “When He came upon me, I knew I belonged to Him. It wasn’t just a feeling, it was certainty. My transformation was exactly as the Lord Jesus promised: ‘Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.’” (Matthew 6:33)

“I longed for fidelity, companionship, respect, and consideration, but I never found it.”

Not long after, God blessed him with a new chapter. He met Josebete, a woman who had also endured years of suffering in relationships but found healing in God. “After receiving the Holy Spirit, I realized the area still missing in my life was family. God gave me Josebete as my wife. She never doubted my commitment, even knowing my past. Today I have the privilege of waking up next to the most beautiful woman in the world.”

Jorge sums up his story with joy: “Today I can say that I am truly a man made in the image and likeness of my Father. I am living the best days of my life, something I thought was impossible for many years.”

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.

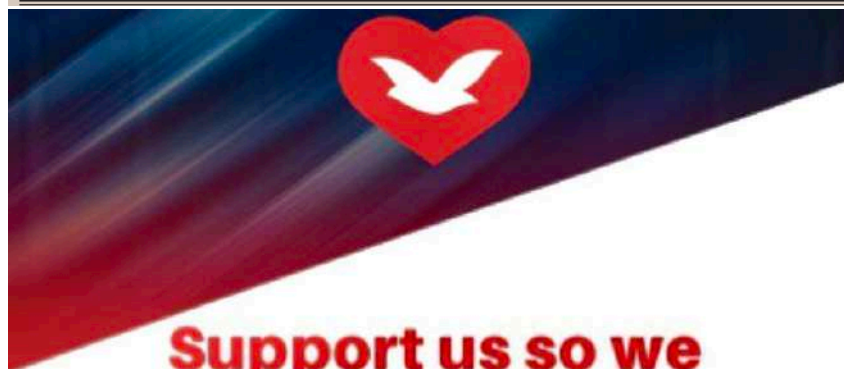
**Sunday - Gathering of Faith & Miracles
7am, 10am, 3pm & 6pm**



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.



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God’s promises — Your obedience

Faith teaches us that God’s Word never fails. But many still ask themselves:

“Why do I pray, read the Bible, go to church, get baptized, and yet I do not see God’s promises in my life?” The truth is, the problem is never with God. Often, the problem is within us.

Think of it like a radio. The station is always transmitting, but if the radio is not tuned, the music will not play. In the same way, God’s promises are always true, but they only manifest when we are aligned with His Word.

If we live without sincerity, without true repentance, or without obedience, we end up blocking the very blessings we are asking for. Jesus showed us the way:

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, something powerful happened. The heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended, and God declared:

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

That moment was about more than water. It was about surrender. Jesus was showing us the path:

- Genuine repentance
- Baptism
- Total commitment to God

That is what opens the door for the Holy Spirit to guide our lives. Not just a ritual but real change. Some people go through baptism but never let go of their old ways. They continue in sin and then wonder why nothing changes.

Here is the truth: God’s promises are conditional. They require a real

relationship with Him. Being saved is not about singing songs, paying tithes, or going through religious motions. It is about putting God first in your heart and your daily life. Moses understood this when he prayed:

“If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.” (Exodus 33:15)

Your part matters and God will never fail Jesus said:

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:16)

That is the first step toward a new life. And the good news is, you do not need to be perfect to begin. Even behind bars. Even with mistakes in your past. Even if you feel unworthy. Nothing can stop you from giving your whole heart to God.

Real change is possible When we come to God with faith, repentance, and obedience, everything begins to change:

- His Word becomes alive in us
- The heavens open over our lives
- The Holy Spirit guides us every day

So do not be discouraged. Do not give up. If you do your part, God will always do His.





"I thought about ending my life many times."

At just five years old, I witnessed constant violence at home. My father was abusive toward my mother. He would beat and slap her, and over time I began to hate him. As I grew older, my mother started taking her anger out on me. She saw me as the black sheep of the family. Whenever she lashed out at me, I exploded with rage.

To escape, I turned to drugs, started hanging out with the wrong friends, and sought attention from boys and different groups. I did things I had once promised myself I would never do. Deep down, I knew better, but I kept going down the same path.



When I was sixteen, I got pregnant and ended up having an abortion. Not long after, I was arrested for the first time. A huge anger consumed me, and because of that anger I did one of the worst things I could have ever done. I hurt someone I loved. In a fit of rage, I stabbed my own sister. I do not even remember doing it because I had completely blacked out.

My second arrest was for domestic violence. My mother said just one word, and once again I lost control. I turned the entire house upside down, breaking everything inside. I felt rejected, unworthy, and hopeless, as if no one could help me

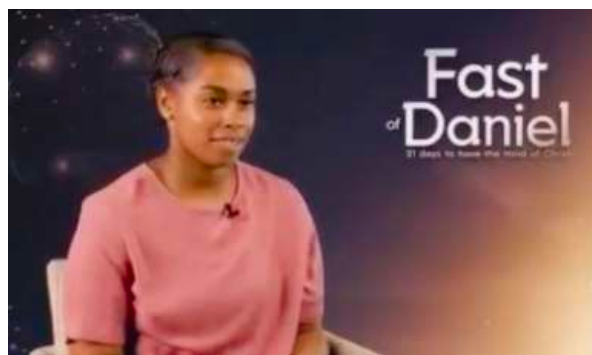
or even believed in me. I thought about ending my life many times, but I never had the courage to go through with it.

I accepted my criminal record and convinced myself I no longer cared what anyone thought.

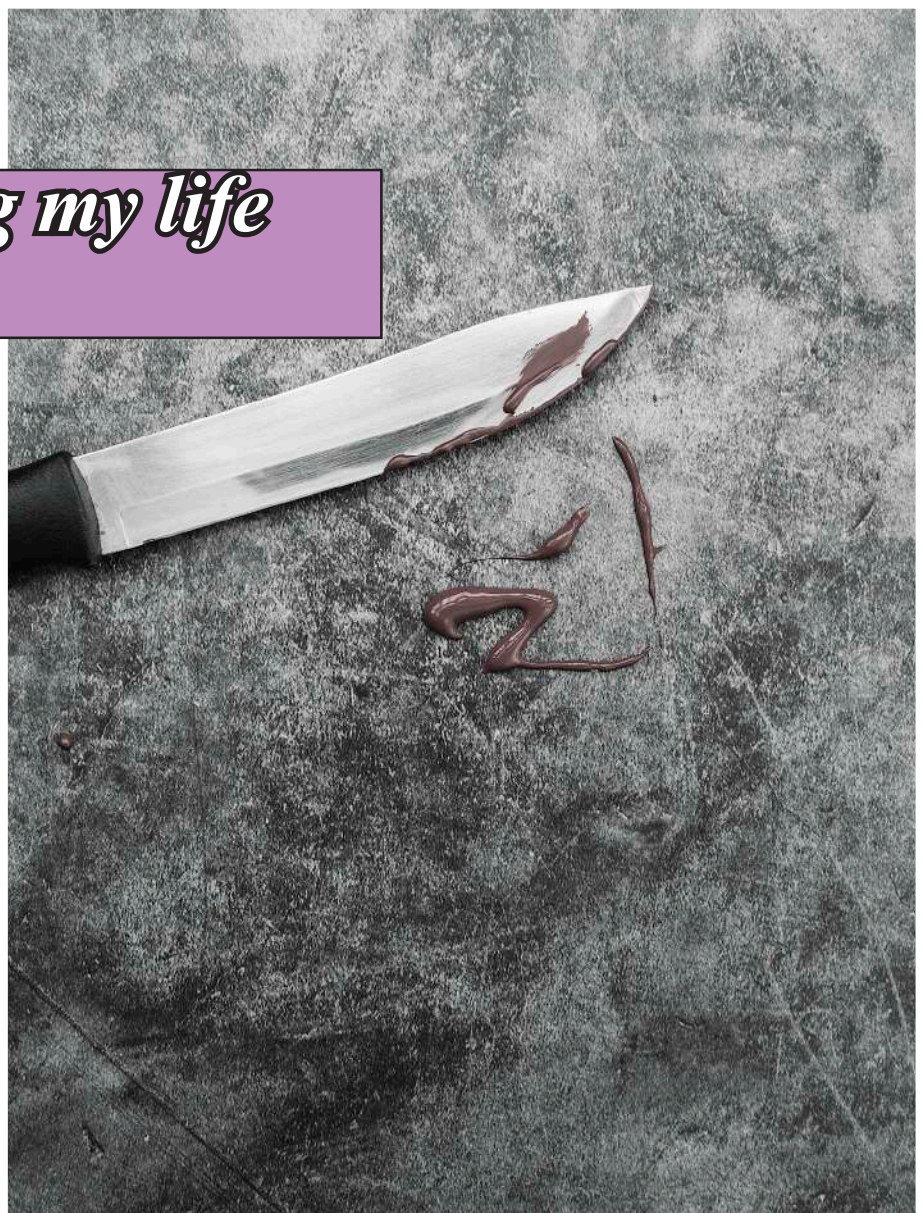
My life already felt destroyed. What more could possibly be done to me?

In 2005 I came across the UBB ministry through my sister, but I did not stay. I came and left. Years later, in 2017, I returned.

This time I admitted to myself that I needed help. I needed someone to guide me. I remembered the ministry and the pastor who had once advised me to attend faithfully. I obeyed. I started letting go of grudges, anger, and addictions. After my deliverance, I realized I needed more. I needed the



Holy Spirit. I knew that without Him I would go back to being the same person. I gave my mind to God and let go of every promiscuous and



destructive thought. I humbled myself before my family, confessed what was inside me, and asked for their forgiveness. The more I sought God and prayed, the more He confirmed that I would receive His Spirit. One Wednesday evening, during a meeting, I finally received the Holy Spirit. Now I believe in myself. I have peace, happiness, and the assurance that God is with me.



"I never imagined my life would turn out like this. Well... I didn't think I would get caught. I thought I could keep doing the same wrong things, and get away with it. I'm stuck in this place, and stuck in my thoughts, I NEED help. I can't do it anymore....I feel STUCK. Stuck in my past, stuck in my thoughts, stuck with unforgiveness and grudge."

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“Every day I wake up confident, knowing that He holds my hand and makes me a winner.”



I went bankrupt, lost my company, my only apartment was up for auction, and I had no money to buy bread. On top of that, I was addicted and depressed, and wanted to die.” That’s how Fatima Silva arrived at The Universal Church.

Fatima explains that, despite working since she was young, she could never establish a stable life. From a family of 14 siblings, she did not have a happy childhood. As an adult, she worked hard, but her salary was never enough. Later, she opened a company with her brothers. “I had cars, an apartment, and a peaceful life, but everything I achieved slipped through my fingers. Money was like sand in my hand. I couldn’t hold on to it, and I spent it all on gambling.” During this time, Fatima was in a relationship for seven months, but her partner cheated on her. “I thought the money I had would keep the relationship going, but that wasn’t the case. I realized money doesn’t buy anything.” After the betrayal, she sank deeper into gambling, hoping to win more money. “Money was everything to me. I believed in God’s existence, but I didn’t believe He would ever act in my life.”

Even at her lowest point, she refused invitations to attend the Strong Nation meetings. “The Church was my last hope, but that’s where I finally found a way out,” she recalls. When she first arrived, she made an oath to God that she would only stay for two months—just enough time, she thought, to get money to continue gambling.

But two months turned into five years. During that time, Fatima saw blessings by giving her tithes, yet she admits she was not fully faithful. “It looked like life was getting back on track. I bought a car, got back the apartment, and rebuilt the company. But out of greed, I stopped honoring God and went back to square one.”

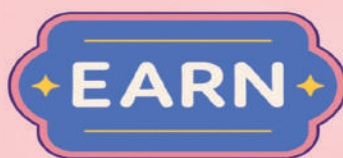
For six months, she distanced herself from God. Then one day, she realized where she had gone wrong and decided to make things right. “I did what I should have done from the beginning: I made a covenant with God. This time, I wasn’t after money. I wanted to focus on my spiritual life. When I first came to the Church, all I wanted was financial success. I conquered it, but I lost it again. From that moment on, I wanted the main thing: God.”

Fatima forgave those she held grudges against and was baptized in water. “I learned that God must come first in everything, with faithfulness and obedience. That’s when my transformation began, because money can’t buy what I have inside me—the Holy Spirit. It’s impossible to receive Him without being faithful, and I wasn’t before. Today I depend on Him, and that’s why my life is successful. Tithing changed my life in every way.”

Now, Fatima hardly remembers her painful past. “I am determined, courageous, and bold. Every day, I wake up confident, knowing that He holds my hand and makes me a winner,” she declares.



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