

"I can't stand the smell of alcohol or cigarettes."

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UNIVERSAL

Alcohol became his escape from inner torment

He tried to fill the emptiness in his soul with alcohol and parties, but only through faith was he able to put an end to his pain.

What's happening at

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UNIVERSAL NEWS

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"My life was destroyed by alcohol."

Read their story on page 7



The abusive use of alcoholic beverages causes serious harm to physical, mental, and social health and the effects are even more severe for women. Alcohol consumption among women has increased in recent years.

Sip by sip: The dangers of alcohol

UBB



I was known as "the son of the devil."

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MIRACLES

"I had three stents placed in my heart."

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Bishop Edir Macedo

Intelligent faith involves obedience to God's Word



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NOT TO BE SOLD

| IN THIS EDITION |

Alcohol: There is no safe dose

Drinking alcohol can easily become a harmful and even deadly habit. Learn to recognize the signs of physical and psychological addiction and discover how to find complete healing.

Whether on social media, TV, or billboards, alcohol consumption is constantly promoted through creative campaigns that make it seem like something positive. Around this time of year, especially during Carnival season, companies that sell alcoholic beverages increase their advertising to boost sales. But behind the marketing magic and the brief feeling of pleasure, many end up sinking into the dark pit of alcoholism.

According to a report from the World Health Organization, 2.6 million people die every year as a result of alcohol dependence.

Just one drink

A small drink at a social event or at home may seem harmless, but as the WHO warns, there is no safe amount. Alcohol use can quickly become a dangerous need without a person realizing it.

Experts say that drinking frequently can indicate a strong tendency toward future addiction. Warning signs include tolerance—when someone needs to drink more to feel the same effect—and withdrawal, when attempts to stop lead to symptoms like anxiety, shaking, sweating, confusion, and even seizures.

Beyond the short-term effects, long-term alcoholism can seriously harm physical and mental health. Alcohol damages the nerves and central nervous system, which can cause memory and attention problems and, in chronic cases, dementia. It is also a major risk factor for heart disease and cancer.

Loss of control often destroys relationships as well. The damage spreads to others through conflicts at home and problems at work. Many become more aggressive or even suicidal.

There is a way out

For those who have reached the point of dependence, it may seem impossible to break free—but recovery is possible. Along with healthy habits such as good nutrition, sleep, and physical activity, a person can seek medical treatment, therapy, support groups, or institutions that help people overcome alcohol problems.

One example of effective support is found in the Friday Deliverance Meetings, held weekly at the Universal Church. These meetings have helped thousands of people overcome all kinds of addictions and rebuild a normal and happy life. They are based on the Bible and include prayers that help fight the spiritual roots behind addiction.

Visit the nearest Universal Church. There is healing for addiction!

| 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



Intelligent faith involves obedience to God's Word

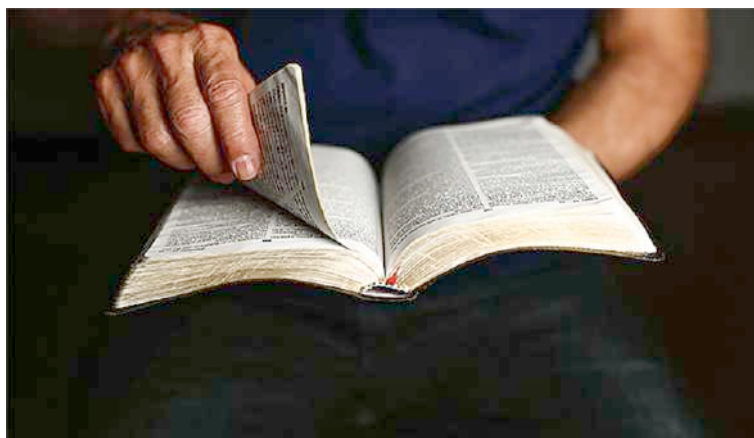
God's blessing is His Word given and guaranteed. Whoever believes in it receives the fulfillment of His promises. But this faith is expressed through obedience, and that requires understanding that believing in God's Word means putting it into practice. Without obedience, a person ends up reaping the bitter fruits of disobedience.

We see this in the story of Jacob. Even though he received Isaac's blessing, he suffered greatly. His suffering was not due to a lack of blessing but to his lack of obedience to God's Word.

Many people know God's promises and yet continue to suffer. Some do not understand why. It is not because God is unjust or because He has not heard their prayers. Often, it is because they are in church, honoring Him with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him (Matthew 15:8).

Honoring God only with your lips means living a religious kind of faith—one that makes no real difference in a person's life and does not manifest God's blessings. What good is it to tithe, give offerings, and attend church services if your thoughts and desires remain far from God?

So, if you are in church but have not



received God's blessings or even the Holy Spirit, understand that this is not His punishment. In reality, you may simply be reaping the results of what you have sown. As the Bible says in Galatians 6:7:

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Therefore, do not treat God's Word lightly. Either you obey it and reap good fruit, or through disobedience, you will reap what is harmful.

Take time to examine your life before God. Be honest and sincere. If up to this point you have lived a merely religious faith and sown what is evil, repent and begin to obey God's Word. Then you will have an intelligent faith based on obedience, and you will be ready to receive the blessings He has prepared for your life.

"I can't stand the smell of alcohol and cigarettes anymore"

When retired teacher, Mary came to the Universal Church, her life was in shambles due to alcohol and cigarette addictions. "I was a sad person, impatient, and had very low self-esteem. I was extremely jealous of my husband, which led to constant arguments. Cigarettes and alcohol were my escape. I only realized how serious it had become when I embarrassed one of my children because I was drunk.

Initially, she had declined a friend's invitation to attend a Universal meeting. But

after seeing the Church's TV program sometime later, she felt drawn to learn more. "I remember walking to the nearest Universal Church because I was unemployed and struggling financially. On that very first day, I felt a peace I had never experienced before."

In search of this peace, Mary attended various services at Universal. It wasn't long before she overcame her addictions.

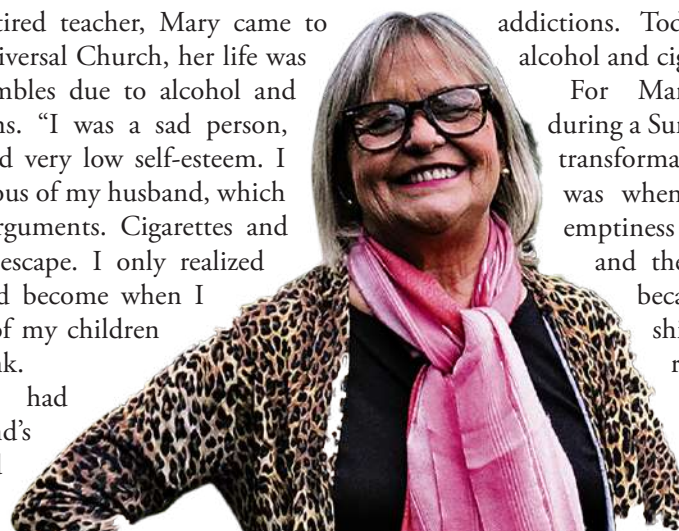
"It wasn't easy, but as I persisted in learning about God, I found the strength to let go of my

addictions. Today, even the smell of alcohol and cigarettes disgusts me."

For Mary, encountering God during a Sunday service was the most transformative experience. "That was when I truly changed. The emptiness in my soul was filled, and the sadness disappeared. I became patient, my mindset shifted, and shortly after, I received the Holy Spirit, which remains my greatest achievement," she recalls.

Beyond overcoming her addictions, Mary was also healed of a vocal problem. Some time after, she was diagnosed with vocal polyps and had to stop teaching. Surgery was required, and there was no timeline for her return to the classroom. On Sundays at the Universal Church, she used consecrated water as part of her healing, drinking it and declaring her recovery. Later exams confirmed that the polyps were gone, allowing her to return to teaching until her retirement.

Mary Coelho



“With God all things are possible”

Matthew 19:26

Come and experience the power of God this Sunday.

He lost movement in his legs

Suddenly, 49-year-old Arnold began to feel numbness in his feet and hands. In just one day, he lost the ability to perform simple daily tasks, like buttoning his own shirt. Because of these symptoms, Arnold sought medical care until he finally received a diagnosis. “I went to three clinics and even saw a neurologist, who immediately identified Guillain Barré syndrome. The diagnosis was confirmed through an analysis of my cerebrospinal fluid, which showed changes consistent with the disease.”

Upon receiving the diagnosis, Arnold was immediately admitted to the Intensive Care Unit to begin treatment. “I was transferred by ambulance because I could no longer stand on my legs,” he recalls. From that moment on, the medical team began studying treatment options to fight the disease, which is considered rare.



Even after starting treatment, he noticed no improvement in his symptoms, and because of that, he decided to put his faith into action. “I constantly prayed in my mind and asked God to manifest Himself. After five days of treatment combined with the use of blessed water, my condition began to improve, leaving the doctors amazed.”

He was discharged 15 days after starting treatment. However, to regain full movement, he was referred to physical therapy sessions. By following all medical advice and using his faith, his rehabilitation — which doctors said would take about a year — was completed in just a little over a month, leaving no aftereffects.



“Today I have no more dizziness.”

Three months ago, I started feeling dizzy whenever I got out of bed or walked down the street. I didn't like it because I enjoy walking fast, but I had to slow down because of it. If I walked quickly or made a sudden turn, I felt like I was going to fall.

I went to the doctor and explained what was happening, but he didn't tell me what was causing the dizziness. He just prescribed some medication for me to take every night before bed, which I did. Even though I was taking the medication, the dizziness only got worse.

By faith, I drank the blessed water I received at the church. I used to pray and say, “Father God, heal me from the crown of my head to the sole of my feet.” Now I am healed. I have no more dizziness. I can jump, I can walk at the same pace I used to before, and I feel great. — Norine



“I had three stents placed in my heart.”

The doctors put three stents in my heart. The first time, I was standing by the microwave when I suddenly felt a shock go through my chest. When I went to the hospital, the doctor said I had to stay so they could place a stent in my heart. They explained that my arteries were blocked and the blood was not flowing to the main artery of my heart. After some time, my heart started feeling weak again. When I went back to the hospital, they said the blood was not flowing properly and had to put in a second stent.

In 2024, a third stent was placed in my heart because I could not even walk a block. If I walked up my ramp, I would have to stop to catch my breath. I was panicking a lot, and my heart just was not functioning well. At that point, I said, “You know what, I will just put my trust and faith in God.” When I received the blessed water at the church, I drank it all the time.

After that, this year, 2025, I went to the doctor and he said everything was fine. I do not need any aspirin or any other medication. My heart is good. — Brenda Barker



**RECEIVE THE BLESSED
WATER THIS SUNDAY**
at your nearest
Universal Church





| MESSAGE |

Bishop Joshua

How to find comfort and help when feeling down



When babies are born, the first thing they do is cry. It's natural. As we grow, crying becomes our way of expressing sadness and pain. When we are children, our parents comfort us and make us feel better. But as adults, it becomes harder to find that same comfort and help when we are feeling down.

What is making you cry? Problems with your children? An illness that doctors can't cure? Financial struggles? Are problems and sadness suffocating you and even tempting you to seek comfort in all the wrong places such as parties, drugs, alcohol, and other distractions? Those things may provide temporary relief, but soon enough, you will find yourself alone again, facing the same issues.

Think about what the Psalmist said:

"My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, 'Where is your God?'"
(Psalm 42:3)

Maybe you are asking yourself the same question: "Where is my God?"

God is ready to change your life. He doesn't want to see you suffering and crying all the time. You don't have to go through life in tears because God wants to make you happy. Sure, tough times will come, but with God, you will be strong enough to endure and overcome them.

So, let go of the distractions that offer only temporary relief and allow God to be part of your life. He is waiting to bring you happiness and peace. With God, we can get through anything.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

Is there a way to defeat this evil?

"Claudio believed he was suffering from an irreversible curse, but something made him change his mind."



He recalls his experience visiting the church: "When I arrived, I received a prayer, and immediately I noticed that something had changed inside me."

Encouraged to attend the deliverance

meetings, Claudio began to

Businessman Claudio, 53, says that at the age of 13 he became addicted to alcoholic beverages and, over time, began to suffer from convulsive and epileptic seizures.

Although he sought medical help, nothing was found that could explain either problem. "So, I decided to look for help in a religion. There, they told me that a ritual had been performed against me and that I would need to do another one to counter it. I followed the guidance of the entities, convinced that I would be freed from both the illnesses and the addiction," he recalls.

But his problems remained, and from that moment on, they even intensified. "I felt lost, because if neither medicine nor religion had solved it, I no longer knew what to do. I started to believe that these afflictions would stay with me forever and that the evil done to me would remain for all my days."

Without hope, after hearing a co-worker speak about Jesus, Claudio accepted an invitation to attend a meeting at the Universal Church, thinking, "If I gave a chance to others, why not give one to Jesus too?"

"I felt lost, because if neither medicine nor religion had solved it, I no longer knew what to do"

notice a gradual transformation within himself and, consequently, in his life. These changes have continued to this day, and he shares how he lives now: "Since then, I haven't had any more epileptic or convulsive seizures, and I was freed from addiction. But everything truly happened once I surrendered my life to God and the Holy Spirit completed the healing in my soul, bringing me peace, joy, and lightness. Through Him, today my life and my mind are protected," he concludes.

OCTOBER BIBLE READING 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 MATTHEW 1 ✓	2 MATTHEW 2 ✓	3 MATTHEW 3 ✓	4 MATTHEW 4 ✓
5 MATTHEW 5 ✓	6 MATTHEW 6 ✓	7 MATTHEW 7 ✓	8 MATTHEW 8 ✓	9 MATTHEW 9 ✓	10 MATTHEW 10 ✓	11 MATTHEW 11 ✓
12 MATTHEW 12 ✓	13 MATTHEW 13 ✓	14 MATTHEW 14 ✓	15 MATTHEW 15 ✓	16 MATTHEW 16 ✓	17 MATTHEW 17 ✓	18 MATTHEW 18 ✓
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26 MATTHEW 26 ✓	27 MATTHEW 27 ✓	28 MATTHEW 28 ✓	29 TITUS 1	30 TITUS 2	31 TITUS 3	

What's happening at Universal

He once lived in the gutters



My name is Jader Ferreira, I'm 46 years old, and I work as a merchandising specialist.

For many years, I struggled with alcohol addiction. It reached a point where I completely lost control. I started drinking socially, just like anyone else, but I could never stop there. I always ended up humiliated, lying in the gutter or wandering the streets. I became someone with no direction in life. Everything I achieved, I lost. I lived in constant suffering and shame.

Even though I drank to try to escape my problems, the emptiness inside me never went away. Deep down, my soul was crying out for help. That's when I came to the

Universal Church. There, I heard a message based on Ephesians 5:18, and it touched me deeply. I realized that only by being filled with the Holy Spirit could I overcome my addiction and weaknesses.

From that day on, I made a decision to change. I cut off bad friendships, left behind the vices, and gave up my wrong desires. Then the best thing in my life happened: I received the baptism with the Holy Spirit. That moment was greater than even my wedding day or the birth of my son, because that was when I truly met God. I had been rejected by many people, but that day, I felt embraced by Him.

Today, my life is completely different. I live with joy and purpose. I rebuilt my career, became a better man, and learned how to care for my family. The transformation God did in me also reached my entire household. He took me out of the gutters and brought me into His presence. And for that, I will be forever grateful.

Alcohol became his escape from inner torment

My name is Jadeilson Moreira, I'm 49 years old, and I work for myself.

I grew up in a very troubled home. My father was an alcoholic, and he used to be aggressive with me, my mother, and my brothers. As I got older, I ended up becoming just like him. I turned into a rough, angry, and resentful person, someone hard to deal with.

Even though I looked like I didn't care about anything, deep down I was full of pain and confusion. To hide what I was feeling, I threw myself into alcohol and parties. I would go out on Friday and only come back on Sunday without even calling my family. On the outside, it looked like I was having fun, but inside, I was falling apart. Eventually, I sank into depression, and my life started to crumble.

At one point, my financial situation got really bad. I couldn't even fix the paperwork for my car. I ended up renting a small room near my work that had nothing but a bed and a radio. I didn't believe in God, and I blamed everyone else for what was happening in my life. I couldn't see that the problem was inside of me.

One day, when I was completely lost, I made a simple prayer and asked God for help. Not long



after, I was tuning my radio and came across a program from the Universal Church. As I listened to the message, something inside me changed. I felt peace, something I hadn't felt in years. So I decided to go to the Universal Church. When I got there, I felt a calmness that was completely different from anything I had ever known.

I started going to the meetings regularly, learning, and changing my habits. But I realized I still needed something more: The Holy Spirit. So I gave myself completely to God. I surrendered everything. And then it happened and I knew without a doubt that God had come upon me.

From that day on, I was never the same. I became a new man. Today, I'm completely happy because I found the door I had been searching for all my life: the Lord Jesus.



YPG COMMUNITY TOURNAMENT



UNFOLDING THE REAL ME

YPG feels like that one song that hits different late at night, comforting, real, and quietly healing. It's more than just a group; it's a feeling. Being around people who truly care, who pray with you and push you to grow, makes you realize that maybe you're not as lost as you thought.

It's where I learned that strength isn't always loud. Sometimes it's just showing up when you really didn't want to. I used to think I had to face everything on my own, but now I know I have people who stand by me even when I don't have the strength to stand by myself. I never felt that before, and honestly, it's something I'll never take for granted.



- Leila Daghmoumi

The YPG Community Basketball Tournament brought youth and families together for a day of unity, fun, and faith. The event promoted healthy competition and teamwork while strengthening community bonds. Beyond the games, participants also received an uplifting message of faith, reminding everyone that true victory comes not only on the court but through perseverance, character, and trust in God.



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NEED TO TALK? 1 888 332 4141



Alcohol abuse is harmful to physical, mental, and social health

The first sip is usually for fun or just to feel accepted by friends. Some feel happy, others sensitive, and still others become aggressive, but the adrenaline released in the body makes many want to drink again. Some say, "I only drink socially," but the truth is that most people consume alcohol excessively, either momentarily or because they are already suffering from alcoholism.

Most American adults consume alcohol at least once in their lifetime. Among them, 6.7 percent will develop alcohol use disorder.

- Every day, 385 Americans die as a result of excessive alcohol use.

- 83.9 percent of these deaths involve adults aged 35 or older.
- Worldwide, up to 3 million people die every year as a result of alcohol abuse.
- Collectively, Americans lose over 3.59 million years of potential life due to excessive drinking.

Experts explain that deaths caused by alcohol consumption can result from external causes such as traffic accidents or drowning. They can also come from the onset or worsening of physical illnesses or poor mental health. Alcohol can cause respiratory depression, which may lead to respiratory arrest and, consequently, death. It can also act as a trigger for suicide.

Recognizing the harmful effects of alcohol before accepting an invitation to drink is the best way to protect your health. However, for those who are already using alcohol, it is important to understand that alcoholic beverages bring no benefit. Quit the habit as soon as possible and, if necessary, seek professional help, support from friends and family, or other approaches that can help you recover.

These are some signs that may indicate alcohol abuse, whether in your life or in someone close to you:

- Drinking heavily and frequently at inappropriate times
- Being unable to control how much alcohol you drink
- Experiencing problems in your personal life, at work, or at school because of alcohol
- Showing behavioral changes such as irritability, aggression, or sadness
- Needing more alcohol to feel the same effect
- Experiencing withdrawal symptoms when you stop drinking

If you are tired of suffering from the problems that led you to drink, or the problems that addiction has caused in your family, the Universal Church holds deliverance meetings every Friday. See the back page for the location nearest to you.

Source: <https://drugabusestatistics.org/alcohol-abuse-statistics/>



The dangers of alcohol

My love life was always a mess. Every time I thought I had finally found happiness with someone, I ended up being betrayed. Once, I even caught my boyfriend in bed with another woman.

Some time later, I got involved with another man who was about twenty years older than me. That's when I found out he was married too. My mother begged me to come back home, so I did. But I came back depressed. I went to the doctor and took several tests, but they said nothing was wrong with me, at least not physically. The truth is, the pain I felt inside was unbearable. I used to cut my legs with a razor. You don't even feel the pain of the blade or the cut because the pain inside is so much deeper that it numbs everything else.

I became an alcoholic because of depression. When the medication stopped working, I turned to alcohol to numb the pain. I would stay home, lost in sadness, sometimes hitting my head against the wall.

One day, my daughter, who was only three years old at the time, looked at me and said, "Mom, I know you, but I can't see you." That broke me. I thought, I need to change. I have to do something, because if I keep going like this, I'll destroy not only myself but my daughters too.

My mother was already a member of the Universal Church. She called me one day and said, "Fabiana, I'm coming to get you."



"I became an alcoholic because of depression."

When she arrived, I told her, "At least let me take a shower." She said, "No, you're coming just as you are."

At the church, I sat in the last row near the door. I saw everyone praying, and I looked at the Altar

front of a car the moment I leave here."

Maybe because of how bold I was with God, something hit me deeply. I fell to my knees and felt completely exposed before Him, as if I were standing naked in His presence. I felt ashamed, truly ashamed, and my whole face tingled. I said to God, "This is where I want to stay. What do You want from me? What do I need to do to know You?"

Soon after, a purpose of faith was announced at the church, and I knew that was my chance. I grabbed that opportunity as if it were a precious gift. I asked God what I needed to do to be forgiven, and He made it clear: I had to forgive others.

So I chose to live by intelligent faith, not by emotion. I called the father of my daughters and asked for his forgiveness. He didn't even know what to say.

When the medication stopped working, I turned to alcohol to numb the pain.

and said, "If it's really You here, then let's talk. I came here because I had no choice. You see what kind of person I've become. You know everything I do out there. If You're real, then change my life right now, because if nothing happens, I'll throw myself in

That Saturday night, I prayed and said, “Lord, I did what You asked me to do. Tomorrow morning I’ll go to church again, but this time I want to truly know You. I’ve heard about You, but I don’t really know You.”

The next morning, I put on my best clothes, no makeup, just me. I did my hair, my nails, everything. By 5:30 a.m., I was ready. That day felt completely different, like it was my first time in church.

And there, I experienced something I can’t even describe. Just like a father lovingly

embraces his child, I felt that same warmth when God embraced me. That day, He baptized me with His Spirit.

Today, I no longer suffer from depression. I’m married, I have a career, and my life has been completely transformed through the Holy Spirit. I listened and obeyed that inner voice during the Fast of Daniel, setting everything else aside to receive His Spirit. He is my peace. — Fabiana

“My life was destroyed by alcohol.”



Married to Rosana, Ulisses had been cheating on her since they were dating. After the wedding, things got even worse. In addition to the cheating, he became dependent on alcohol.

“My life was destroyed by alcohol. When I was drinking, I tried to kill my wife and daughter because I couldn’t stand her getting involved with my lovers. During one of those moments, she kicked me out of the house.”

After the separation, Ulisses moved out on his own and thought it was the best decision he had ever made. But the temporary feeling of freedom soon turned into torment. “Because of my addiction, I couldn’t keep up with work or my responsibilities. I was fired and didn’t even have enough money to pay the rent. That’s when I fell into depression.”

Rock bottom

Desperate from debt and loneliness, Ulisses attempted suicide twice. The first time, he was drunk and stepped in front of a truck, which miraculously avoided him. The second time, also drunk, he tried to hang himself with the ropes of a hammock. He was rescued by a neighbor who knocked on his door and saw him through the window. The neighbor

called for help, and together they broke down the door and saved him.

Once home, Ulisses turned on the TV and began watching a late-night Universal program. “It felt like the pastor was speaking directly to me, so I decided to go to the church. When I left, I felt like a heavy weight had been lifted off my shoulders.”

The transformation

Ulisses began attending meetings regularly and soon overcame his addiction and the desire to cheat. After a year and a half apart, he decided to fight for his family. His wife gave him another chance, but she didn’t want to go to church with him, and he chose not to pressure her.

“

When I was drinking, I tried to kill my wife and daughter.

“One rainy night, the power went out at home. I told her I was going to church, and she asked if I would really leave her alone with our baby. I said yes. I walked in the rain to get there. When I came back, she told me she wanted to go too, because whatever made me leave her and the baby that night had to be something truly powerful.”

Since then, the couple has been attending the Universal Church for 15 years. Today, after 22 years of marriage, with three children and a completely renewed life, Ulisses and his family can say they have found peace in every area of their lives.

MAKE A



IT WORKS!

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

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



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



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

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

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



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



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

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

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



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



Saturday - Impossible Cases
8am & 12pm

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

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



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



I was known as, “the son of the devil.”

I remember one morning around 3:30 a.m., after using a lot of drugs, everything suddenly went silent, so silent that it scared me deeply. Much of the conflict I carried inside came from the problems between my mother and father. My dad was involved with drugs and eventually became a drug trafficker. For many years, that was how we lived.

One afternoon, the police came to our house. They were armed and asked for my dad. My mom told them he wasn’t home, but they didn’t believe her and arrested her instead. I was furious. I knew it wasn’t my mother’s fault. She spent six months in prison. When she was released, she moved to another city to start over and asked my dad for a divorce.

At first, it seemed like things might get better. But soon, I also got involved in crime. By the age of 18, I committed my first assault. In that moment, I realized I had become just like my father. Two days later, the police found me on the beach and sent me to prison.

Sitting there, I thought, Is my life going to be destroyed here, or can I start over someday?

My mom came to visit me, and I’ll never forget her words: “Was this the reason I raised you?” I wanted to answer, but I couldn’t. Inside, I thought, I’m just the image of my father, the man I feared becoming.

After six months, I was released on probation. But only two months later, I went right back to crime, this time as a drug trafficker. I was worse than before. My mom was heartbroken, and I became addicted to cocaine. I even said once that I loved cocaine more than my mother. I was so lost that I hated humanity and wanted to hurt everyone I saw.

Eventually, I got married. But I found out my wife had cheated on me. I saw her with the man, and anger filled me. I wanted to kill them both. But another voice inside said, Don’t do it. Just leave. So I walked away. I ended the marriage and went back to live with my mother.

That should have been my turning point, but the addiction didn’t let me go. I was a prisoner inside myself.

One night around 3:30 a.m., my mom told me she



couldn’t have me in her house anymore. She refused to let me keep using drugs there. I didn’t care at that moment because I was high, but when I ended up on the street, I finally had to stop and think: What am I doing with my life?

I used to say my mom was my “heroine” because of everything she had done for me. But when she pushed me out, it felt like nothing mattered anymore. I met a drug dealer on the street and told him everything I was going through. He gave me a chance to work with him. I was completely lost. I would use drugs constantly, even while walking down the street. I’d try to clean syringes with my own urine. People called me “the son of the devil” because, no matter what happened, I never died.

Once, someone ordered for me to be killed. I even thought about killing myself first. But one day, while walking down the street, I saw a Universal Church (UBB). There was a helper standing outside who held my arm and asked, “Would you like to come in for a prayer?” I was rude and said no. But when I finally went inside, my intention was actually to rob the church.

I spoke with the pastor, and he counseled me with such patience and love, something I had never experienced before. He gave me a Bible. I asked, “How am I supposed to understand this?” and he said, “Little by little, you’ll understand.” One day, I read John 6:37, where Jesus says, Those who come to me, I will never cast out. In that moment, I realized that even though my mom had sent me away, Jesus never would.

I started going to church faithfully. Then one Sunday morning, I made a decision. I gave up everything: The drugs, the crime, and the weapons because it was either

surrender to God or continue down the same path. That day, I got baptized. Later that night during a service, the bishop called those who wanted to receive the Holy Spirit to come to the altar. When the pastor prayed for me, I felt something I had never felt before, a strength and certainty inside me that I was no longer the same Eduardo. I was no longer “the son of the devil.” I had become a son of God. God worked so beautifully in my life. When the Holy Spirit entered me, peace and joy filled my heart. There was no more condemnation, nothing holding me back from God’s Kingdom. From that day on, I became a new man.



I had nothing, but I owed nothing to the justice system either. My life was clean. I started living a normal life again. I got married; my wife also received the Holy Spirit and became a woman of God. Today, I can say I’m a happy and fulfilled man. God opened a door for me to start my own business, and I work for myself.

I’m not a millionaire, but what I’ve received is far greater than any treasure on earth, the certainty of my calling and the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. I was once known as “the son of the devil,” but today I’m known as a son of God because His Spirit lives in 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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“¿Hablas español? En la aplicación de Pando puedes encontrar segmentos de la UBB ¡también en español!”

Faith teaches that nothing happens by chance

Faith teaches us that nothing in life happens by accident. Every choice we make, even the small ones, shapes the direction our life will take.

Psalm 1 puts it like this:

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of mockers.”

These three words: Counsel, path, and seat show how influence works. It starts small but can either draw you closer to God or pull you far away from Him.

The advice that misleads

It all begins with a voice, someone's opinion, advice, or tip. Maybe it is a friend, a cellmate, a video, or a message that sounds right but is not from God.

The question is: who are you listening to?

In life, many people talk big, but not everyone speaks truth. Some advice comes from pain, pride, or selfishness, not from God's Word. When your faith is not grounded, it is easy to fall for what sounds good instead of what is good. That is why you have to be careful. Every word you take in is like a seed, and that seed will grow into something, either good or bad.

The path that traps you

After taking the wrong advice, the next step is walking down the wrong path. The path represents your habits, your choices, and the people you spend time with. Many times, we think we are still in control, but before we know it, we are stuck in a lifestyle or routine that pulls us away from God.

Maybe you started spending time with the wrong people or doing things you told yourself you would only do once. Before long, it became normal.

The truth is, sin always promises freedom, but it ends up becoming a prison of its own.

The circle that pulls you down

Then comes the last stage, the circle. This is when someone becomes part of a group or mindset that mocks God or does not care about doing what is right. You stop feeling out of place around the wrong crowd, and before you know it, you start to think and act like them. That is when things get serious, because what started as a little influence can destroy your spiritual life completely.

Choose wisely who you listen to

That is why the Bible says, “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.” You cannot always change where you are, but you can change who you listen to and what you believe. The truth is, the life you have right now, good or bad, is the result of the choices you have made and the voices you have followed.

So before blaming God or your situation, stop and ask yourself:

- Whose advice have I been following?
- What path am I walking?
- Who am I surrounding myself with?

Real peace, real change, and real direction come only from one source: Walking with God and following His Word.

No matter where you are, God can give you a new path to walk on today.





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Anxiety is the mother of frustration

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FIND OUT HOW....

Adriana Santos once lived in a small house in her mother's backyard. "My husband and I were drowning in debt and depended on our parents even to eat. I accepted that situation for seven years, with no way out. I worked twelve hours a day, and sometimes I did not even have money for transportation or food. It put a huge strain on our marriage, and we stayed away from each other just to avoid constant arguments. Was it right to work so hard and still not have enough for our basic needs?" she asks.

One day, she and her husband visited The Universal Church. "We had already tried everything humanly possible, and it was time to go further. When we challenged the Word of God on the altar, we saw His promises come to life in our own lives. We learned that we needed to obey and take action," Adriana says. From that moment on, their financial life began to change. "We started paying off our debts, and since then, we have opened six stores, bought real estate and vehicles, and built up good equity. I used to live off commissions, and today I provide jobs for about two hundred families," she shares. Even during the biggest crises, her projects did not stop. "During the pandemic, we kept all our employees, continued selling well, and even opened another store while many companies were laying people off or closing their doors."

So how did such a big turnaround happen? Adriana explains: "I depended completely on the altar. I made a financial sacrifice. I sold everything I had. I made natural snacks and sweets and sold them at traffic lights until late at night. I did not stop." She makes it clear that her commitment was not only about money. "I fasted, prayed through the night, and sought God with all my strength. In just five months, we got our first property worth around one million dollars. Once you discover this secret, nothing can stop you," she says.

"Of everything we have today, financial stability, professional success, a strong family, and a

restored marriage, the only true treasure is the Holy Spirit. Nothing compares to Him," she affirms.

Adriana understands the source of many people's frustration. "You can enjoy everything you achieve, but without the Holy Spirit, something will always feel missing, just like it did for Abraham. My husband and I know that everything we have comes only from the altar. We gave ourselves completely to God," she says.

In the media, many so-called prosperity gurus claim to reveal the secrets to success, usually their own. But Adriana gives a real and practical piece of advice: "Invest one hundred percent in your spiritual life. Seek first the Holy Spirit, who is the greatest wealth anyone can have, the foundation, the strength, and the direction for everything."

Does it work? She is living proof.

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