

COGA NEWS



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- The Mother's Spirit: Love in Action
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



The Mother's Spirit: Love in Action

Bishop Cecil Reid

In the heart of Christianity lies a profound understanding of love, nurturing, and compassion—qualities that are often associated with motherhood. While the traditional image of a mother typically involves raising biological or adopted children, the essence of a mother's spirit transcends the boundaries of biological parenthood. It is a spirit characterized by selflessness, love, and nurturing care—a spirit that all believers are called to embody.

Scripture tells us that God's love is like that of a mother—unconditional, nurturing, and sacrificial. In Isaiah 49:15, the Lord declares, "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" Here, God contrasts His love for us to that of a mother for her child, emphasizing His unwavering commitment to care for and nurture His children. He will not forget.

Even for those who may not have children of their own, there are countless examples of individuals in the Bible who embodied the spirit of a mother through their actions and attitudes:

Mary, Mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7):

Mary is the quintessential example of a mother's spirit, not only in her role as the mother of Jesus but also in her faithfulness, humility, and devotion to God. Despite the challenges she faced, Mary exhibited unwavering trust in God's plan and nurtured Jesus with love and care.

Ruth, the Faithful Daughter-in-Law (Ruth 1:16-17):

Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law, Naomi, exemplifies the selfless love and loyalty characteristic of a mother's spirit. Despite the hardships they faced, Ruth remained steadfast in her commitment to care for and support Naomi, demonstrating the sacrificial love and nurturing care of a mother.

Dorcas, the Acts of Kindness (Acts 9:36-42):

Dorcas, also known as Tabitha, was known for her acts of kindness and charity toward others. Through her selfless deeds, Dorcas exemplified the nurturing and compassionate spirit of a mother, caring for the needs of those around her and embodying the love of Christ.

Moses, the Leader and Protector (Exodus 2:1-10):

Moses, though not a biological mother, displayed a mother's spirit with Joshua. Moses and Joshua shared a significant relationship characterized by mentorship, leadership, and spiritual guidance.

Continue on page 2



Throughout their time together, Moses mentored and trained Joshua, preparing him for future leadership roles. Joshua accompanied Moses to Mount Sinai when he received the Ten Commandments from God (Exodus 24:13), and he was among the select group of leaders chosen to spy out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:1-16).

Joseph, the Guardian and Protector (Matt. 1:18-25):

Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, demonstrated a mother's spirit through his love, protection, and care for Mary and Jesus. Despite the challenges and uncertainties he faced, Joseph remained faithful to God's call, providing for and safeguarding his family with a steadfast and nurturing heart.

These examples serve as a reminder that embodying a mother's spirit is not limited to

biological motherhood but encompasses a broader sense of love, nurturing, and compassion for others. Whether caring for elderly parents, mentoring younger believers, or ministering to those in need, we can all cultivate a mother's spirit by extending love, compassion, and care to those around us.

As we reflect on the significance of motherhood this season, let us honor the mothers in our lives and also recognize the invaluable contributions of all who embody the spirit of a mother, whether with or without children. May we all strive to emulate the love, nurturing, and compassion of our Heavenly Father, who cares for each of us with a mother's heart. *Amen*



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

SE NW District Convention
& AYPU Retreat

Happy
Mother's
Day

JULY *Lets Get ready!*

2024 Annual Church Growth Conference
July 15th-19th

Find more information on www.cogainc.org

A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- Mother's Day: the one day a year when you can guilt-trip your kids into doing the dishes by reminding them how much you sacrificed for them. Hey, whatever works!
- May is the month when we're torn between wanting to be productive and wanting to spend all day lounging. Decisions, decisions...
- May is like the month of false promises: you tell yourself you'll exercise more, eat healthier, and finally learn how to fold fitted sheets... and then you end up binge-watching Netflix instead.
- May is the month when you realize you should probably start planning your summer vacation... but then you remember you haven't even finished planning your last vacation from three years ago.
- Mother's Day: the one day a year when you can ignore your mom's phone calls and still get away with it. Just kidding, don't do that. She knows where you live.

