

COGA NEWS



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- "Modeling God" A Father's Insight
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



"Modeling God" *A Father's Insight*

Bishop Cecil Reid

With Father's Day just over the horizon, I am drawn to consider again the extraordinary responsibility of fatherhood.

Coming up in a single parent home devastated by divorce, I watched my mother take on the role of homemaker and provider. I had no image of a loving, caring, teaching, and providing father to interact with on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis. With the demands on my mother to secure us as a family, my sister and I had to be content with enjoying her presence with us only on the weekends. But how she memorialized those weekends!

When questioned about our father, her response was never derogatory. She highlighted his absence as "he was just away in the big city with our other mother making a living."

My uncle was the only male figure I had in my upbringing. He was a single businessman whose time with us was very infrequent. What I am saying, I had no father to teach me manly principles, help me with my homework, share sports activities, share my awards, or comfort me in my failures. No father to set the example of worship and enlighten me in the things of God.

At the age of 16, I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, opening a new chapter in my life. Through the Scriptures I was brought face to face with the "Fatherhood of God," and the importance of honoring, obeying, and respecting our earthly fathers (parents). I was taught, when these virtues are embraced and practiced, it will go well for children even translating to the extension of a longer earthly life (Deut. 5:16).

These same infallible Scriptures taught me to respect my parents, regardless of what they did or did not do. They challenged me after I was married and became a father, to address my high calling as a father. To exhibit the glory of the Fatherhood of God to my family. It would mean that in my fathering I would take my cues from the Lord Jesus, who in his human nature and earthly ministry directed the disciples repeatedly to the Father in heaven. Modeling for us through his life and death how we ought to relate to God as our father. As Jesus was the image of the invisible God to the world, our highest calling as fathers is to be the visible image of God's fatherhood to our children. How? "Fathers do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up by training and instructing them about the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

Continue on page 2





To be impactful as a leader, one must become an example, a pattern to cut by. I didn't experience this godly instruction and training from my childhood to my young adult life, for as I shared, I had no modeling father. So, I resolved with a covenant, that with God's divine help, I would instruct my family, and many others, in the things of God and his righteousness. We had strict standards but plenty of fun and great times. Our guidelines for our children were not to make them unhappy, but to protect the good field and purity divinely installed in each of them. The result, our family has become a ministry to Christ and to others.

Did I do everything right? – No! Many times I came up short in my parenting skills. But it can be said that - "I gave them the whole heart of a man earnestly striving to model the Fatherhood of God." Make no mistake; this is the will of God and a reachable goal for every father.

Jesus longest prayer in John 17 begins in verse one, "Father, the hour is come; glorify your son that the son may glorify you." It is my prayer that your office as a father – modeling God, will be so clearly defined that, what you are, and who God is, will be seamless. *Amen*

Happy Father's Day!

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- > June 16th Father's Day
- > June 19th Juneteenth

JULY *Get Ready for a Blessing!*

- > July 15 - 19th
- 2024 Annual Church Growth Conference
- Theme: INCARNATION: God in our Neighborhoods

Find more information on www.cogainc.org

A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- June: when you realize you have a beach body—because everyone has a body, and you go to the beach.
- June: when every day feels like a vacation, except you still have to go to work.
- Father's Day: when dads receive gifts they bought with their own money.
- Father's Day: a celebration of the man who can fix everything... except dinner.
- Father's Day: the perfect day to appreciate Dad's unique ability to fall asleep in any situation

A few "Dad Jokes" in honor of dad:

- What did the baby corn say to the mama corn on Father's Day? "Where's popcorn?"
- Why did the golfer bring an extra pair of pants on Father's Day? In case he got a hole-in-one!
- Why don't dads write with broken pencils? Because it's pointless!