

# COGA NEWS



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- It's Time for Real Love – Beyond Words
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



## It's Time for Real Love — Beyond Words

Bishop Cecil Reid

**“DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.” — 1 JOHN 3:18**

We live in a world overflowing with the word love. It's in our songs, our movies, our social media posts, and even our advertisements. We say we love our coffee, our favorite team, a good vacation, and our friends—all using the same word. Yet despite all this talk about love, many people feel lonelier, more divided, and more unseen than ever.

That's why it's time for ***real love***.

Real love goes beyond words. It doesn't stop at good intentions or kind-sounding phrases. Real love shows up. It listens. It sacrifices. It stays.

Jesus showed us what real love looks like. He didn't just tell people that God loved them—He touched lepers, ate with outcasts, defended the rejected, and ultimately laid down His life for the world. His love was active, costly, and deeply personal.

In the church, we are called to reflect that same kind of love. Real love is not just

greeting someone at the door; it's noticing when they don't come back. It's not just praying for someone in need; it's asking how we can help carry their burden. It's not just agreeing with truth; it's delivering truth with gentleness, humility, and grace.

**REAL LOVE** is also uncomfortable at times. It challenges us to forgive when we'd rather hold a grudge. It asks us to cross boundaries of culture, politics, age, and background. It invites us to love people not as we wish they were, but as they are—while trusting God to do the transforming work.



In a divided world, the church has a powerful opportunity. When we choose real love, we become a living testimony of the gospel. Jesus said that the world would know we are His disciples not by our arguments, our perfection, or our programs—but by our love for one another.



So let's ask ourselves: What would real love look like in our homes? In our conversations? In our church? In our community?

It might look like slowing down to truly listen. It might look like reconciling a broken relationship. It might look like welcoming someone who feels invisible. Small acts of real love can have eternal impact.

It's time—not for louder words, but for deeper love. The kind of love that reflects Christ and changes lives, starting with our own. Don't forget "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." — Matthew 5:9

We are living in a time of deep division. Differences in politics, culture, race, and beliefs often feel sharper than ever. Conversations quickly turn into arguments, and disagreements can become defining lines between "us" and "them."

Real love does not mean pretending differences don't exist. It doesn't require agreement on every issue. But it does demand that we treat one another with dignity, humility, and grace—especially when we disagree.

Jesus consistently crossed lines others refused to cross. He spoke with Samaritans, welcomed sinners, and showed compassion to those society dismissed. His love disrupted expectations and challenged prejudice.

As followers of Christ, we are called to that same radical love. Real love listens before it speaks. It seeks understanding rather than winning. It refuses to reduce people to labels or opinions.

Remember in the middle of everything, the call of Christ remains clear: *love your neighbor*. That's Real Love! 



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

- Black History Month
- TBD

### MARCH

- TBD

Find more information on [www.cogainc.org](http://www.cogainc.org)



## A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- Love isn't just in the air—it's in our actions.
- Valentine's Day lasts one day—God's love lasts forever.
- Thank God for his love and grace: because none of us have it all together.
- Snowflakes melt—God's promises don't.
- Valentine's Day tip: Love like Jesus—no candy required (but appreciated).
- Be the reason someone feels God's love today.
- Marriage in February: "I love you" sounds warmer when someone else pays the heating bill.
- True love is sharing your blanket—and not mentioning it later.
- Marriage: Where 'I'm fine' definitely requires follow-up questions.
- Valentine's Day plans for singles: Jesus, pajamas, and peace.
- February reminder for singles: You're loved, chosen, and not required to split dessert.



**February**

**Black History Month**

