

# COGA NEWS



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- The Paint Can
- Upcoming Events

## The Paint Can

BY BISHOP CECIL REID

In a Christian home for homeless girls, a young lady came in carrying a paint can. Everywhere she would go she carried it. Into the shower, the can was not far away. It was close by her bed at night, and with her in school in all her classes.

One day at lunch, one of the attending supervisors came over to the table where the young girl sat alone eating, with her paint can. The supervisor inquired, "Come on, out with it... what's in the can?"

Hesitating, the young lady reached for the paint can, pulling it close to her.

She said, "My Mother." This young homeless girl who had never been excepted by her peers told a gripping story about herself. "My mother", she began her story, "after giving birth to me she had no money and no place to go. So, she wrapped me up and put me in a dumpster in a back alley. Later I was found by a policeman and was cared for by a fine elderly lady, who has now passed away."

"The years had gone by, and I longed to meet and see my real mother. Through some friends, I learned that my mother was in a nearby hospital dying of aids. When I finally arrived at the hospital, it was the day before my mother died. Despite everything I loved my mother and was able to get her ashes from the funeral home."





## How much do I really love?

Turning the paint can around, she showed the supervisor the label with her mother's name, date of birth, and date of her death. The young girl held the can close as both she and the supervisor wept. Her story was checked out by the Police department and confirmed by the hospital records, newspaper articles, and the funeral home that was named on the label of the paint can. It all bared record that the story was indeed true.

The next day, the supervisor made it her duty to find the young girl to give her another hug. She wanted to show love to the young lady who carried her mother in a paint can.

This true story should present you with some challenging questions that can be discussed in a Bible class, at family gatherings, or in the circle of your friends. The scriptures have a lot to say about the parent and child relationship, as well as the accountability of each of us in our interactions with other human beings that share space on this planet.

It would be wise to check your answers to the following questions, with your Bible in hand:

- How much love does a child need from a parent? (*John 15:13*)
- Is it right to stop loving your parents because you have been mistreated? (*Matt 6: 43-48*)
- What kind of investments should a parent make in their children? (*Ex 2:26-27; Deut 6: 6-7; 1Tim 5:4*)
- Is there a difference between grief and love? (*John 11: 35-36*)
- Are we ready to be sensitive to the needs of others? (*Philippians 2:4*)
- Are we to judge others? (*Matt 7: 1-3*)
- When should we involve ourselves with the troubles of others? (*Gal 6: 10*)
- When is the last time you gave someone a healthy hug?
- Is hugging spiritual or scriptural? (*Luke 15: 20-24*)
- Where do you carry your parents?

I'm sure other things can and will come from this story whenever it's discussed. That is of course if you desire to discuss it. However, the story of the "mother in a can" just might creep into your thoughts, and you shouldn't dismiss it if it does.

Perhaps you might consider this thought as well... How much do I really love my mother... (in or out of a can)?

I'll leave you with your thoughts.

*Bishop Cecil O. Reid*





## MAY CURRENT EVENTS

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- 16TH - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
- 19-20 - LEADERSHIP ZOOM MEETING
- 29TH - FIFTH SUNDAY AYPU AUXILIARY DAY
- 30TH - MEMORIAL DAY



## OTHER EVENTS

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UPCOMING THROUGH JULY 2022

### JUNE

- 12TH - 43RD FOUNDER'S DAY PROGRAM
- 19TH - FATHER'S DAY

### JULY

- 18TH - 22ND, 2022 COGA FAMILY AND CHURCH GROWTH CONFERENCE
- 31ST - SOUTHERN DISTRICT MISSION AUXILIARY DAY

