

# COGA NEWS



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Shepherds: Privileged and Obligated
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About

## "THANK GOD WE CAN START ANEW"

*Bishop Cecil Reid*

It was December 1914, in West Orange, New Jersey, at the factory of one of America's greatest, most productive inventors — Thomas Edison. The building was made of concrete and thought to be fireproof. But on that cold December night, fire burst through the roof causing a spectacular display of roaring flames that lit up the night.

At the height of the blazing inferno, Edison's 24-year-old son Charles searched frantically for his father.

He finally found him calmly watching the fire, his face glowing in the reflection, his white hair blowing in the wind. "My heart ached for him," Charles said. "Here he was, 67 years old, and everything he had worked for was going up in flames.

When he saw me, he shouted, Charles! Where's your mother?" When I told him I didn't know, he said, "Find her! Bring her here! She'll never see anything like this as long as she lives!"



Since the buildings were thought to be fireproof, they were insured for only \$238,000. Yet damages exceeded two million dollars. The next morning Edison looked at the ruins and said, "There's value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew."

### So what can you do?

When you look around, you see so many people with seemingly insurmountable problems— broken homes, shattered lives, broken dreams, and neglected children. Thank God, though, they can start anew. But they need your help.

Your financial support of the Lord's work through your Church gives you the power to reach out in a way not possible on your own. You can attend to the sick and needy, and reach out in perilous times to broken families, due to loss—all through your gift of love to God's work through your church. Jesus said, "For whosoever shall do the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother."

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Just imagine how much good you can do by being a part of Jesus' family! All because of you doing the Father's will (Matt. 12:50). It means that you, yes you, and the good you can accomplish through your financial support of our Lord's work can help others start anew and begin again all in the name of Jesus.

Consider the magnitude of such an accomplishment as you make your commitment to God's work through your church for the coming year. Think about what your gift can do, and whom it will touch. Think about Edison's statements, "There's value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up." Thank God we can start anew;" This can fuel your new beginning! When our mistakes are finely behind us, when we correct our attitude about ourselves and others, we too; can present to the world as did Thomas Edison, something it has never enjoyed before!

The year 2023 brings a challenge. It cannot be taken lightly by kingdom people. We must submit to the full rule and reign of our King (Jesus) and must also be responsible for His kingdom being established on the earth! (Matt. 6:10).

***Thank God, there is always the chance for a new beginning ... and thank you for offering that chance through your generous giving to the Lord's work. Think about that.***

*Bishop Cecil O. Reid*



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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### JANUARY

- **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- Daniel's 21 Day Fast
- 2023 Bible Reading begins

### FEBRUARY

- 27th > So. District: Black History Program
- 29th > 5th - NW/SE Saturday District Meeting

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



## A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- Last year's resolution was to lose 20 pounds by Christmas. Only 30 pounds to go.
- I would lose weight for my New Year's resolution, but I hate losing.
- 9 pm is the new midnight
- If it takes me more than 2 days to break my resolutions, I've made too many.
- A New Year means you will be a little bit older but not any wiser than yesterday! Wisdom is something you'll actually have to work on.
- May this upcoming year actually bring change in you – not just all your old habits wrapped in a new package.

