

# COGA NEWS



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Reflect on the Year Then Look Ahead
- Daniel's Fast & Bible Reading
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About

# 2026

## REFLECT ON THE YEAR **THEN LOOK AHEAD**

### ***Isaiah 43:18-19***

***<sup>18</sup> Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.***

***<sup>19</sup> Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.***

### ***Lamentations 3:22-23***

***<sup>22</sup> It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.***

***<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.***

### **LEARN FROM YESTERDAY TO WALK WISELY TOMORROW:**

Reflection is a gift—one that helps us grow in wisdom, humility, and faith. As the year comes to a close and a new one begins, we are given a sacred opportunity to pause and ask, "What has God been teaching me?"

The past year may have revealed areas of strength we did not know we possessed. It may also have uncovered weaknesses, habits, or attitudes that God is gently inviting us to surrender. Reflection is not about regret or self-criticism; it is about learning. Proverbs 4:7 reminds us, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom."

### **REFLECT HONESTLY:**



When we reflect honestly, we can acknowledge both victories and struggles. We can celebrate spiritual growth while also recognizing where we need God's grace to continue shaping us. Perhaps we learned patience through waiting, compassion through hardship, or trust through uncertainty. These lessons are not wasted—they are preparation for what lies ahead.

### **GRATITUDE BEHIND US, HOPE BEFORE US**

As one year draws to a close and another begins, our hearts naturally turn toward reflection. This is a holy moment—a chance to pause, give thanks, and prepare for what lies ahead. Psalm 103:2 encourages us, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

Gratitude grows when we take time to remember. Even in difficult seasons, God's presence never wavers. He provides strength when we are weary, comfort when we grieve, and direction when we feel uncertain. Looking back helps us see how often God carried us, even when we did not realize it at the time.

Gratitude also softens our hearts. It reminds us that every blessing—large or small—is a gift. Relationships strengthened, prayers answered, lessons learned, and even challenges endured are all part of God's shaping work in our lives.

### **LOOKING AHEAD!**



Looking ahead does not mean everything will be easy or predictable. But it does mean we move forward better equipped. God often uses past seasons to prepare us for future responsibilities. What you endured last year may be strengthening you for a calling you have not yet seen.

As a church, reflection also helps us discern direction. It allows us to ask meaningful questions: How have we loved well? Where can we serve more faithfully? How can we deepen our impact in the community? These reflections help align our hearts with God's vision.

*Continue on page 2*

Looking ahead, let us step forward intentionally. Rather than rushing into new goals or resolutions, let us seek God's guidance. Pray over the coming year. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead your decisions, relationships, and priorities.

Looking ahead, the future may feel unknown, but it is not uncertain. God already stands in tomorrow. He invites us to walk forward with faith, courage, and expectation. This new year holds opportunities to grow deeper in our relationship with Him, to love others more fully, and to live out our calling with renewed purpose.

### DO BOTH THIS YEAR:

Looking back helps us see God's fingerprints across our journey. It shows us how He provided, corrected, encouraged, and sustained us. Even moments of difficulty can become testimonies of His grace when viewed through the lens of faith.

As we look ahead, God calls us to step forward with purpose. Not with fear or hesitation, but with trust. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that God's plans are filled with hope and a future. While we may not know every detail, we know the One who does. 

## GET READY FOR THE NEW YEAR! **DANIEL'S FAST & 2026 BIBLE READING**

### DANIEL'S FAST NOURISHING THE BODY AND SOUL & BIBLE READING WILL IMPACT YOUR GROWTH

As we engage in the 21 Day Daniel's Fast, we choose to deny our physical desires temporarily, allowing our spirits to become more attuned to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The fast in addition to daily Bible reading offers a transformative journey of self-discovery, spiritual growth, and deeper intimacy with God. May this intentional season of fasting to nourish the body and soul and feasting on God's Word daily be a catalyst for a year filled with divine encounters, purposeful living, and unwavering faith.

This intentional act of self-discipline creates a sacred space for prayer, meditation, and seeking God's guidance for the upcoming year. Pairing the Daniel's Fast with a commitment to daily Bible reading amplifies the impact of this spiritual reset. The Bible serves as our ultimate guide, providing wisdom, comfort, and divine revelation. Setting aside dedicated time each day to immerse ourselves in God's Word allows us to align our hearts with His will and deepen our understanding of His character.

**TO HELP YOU TRACK YOUR BIBLE READING PROGRESS, CONSIDER USING THE TWELVE-MONTH BIBLE READING OUTLINE WE'VE PROVIDED FOR YOU ON OUR WEBSITE.**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY

- 1st > Happy New Year!
- 2nd-5th > Begin 21 Day Daniel's Fast

#### FEBRUARY

- Black History Month
- 14th > Valentine's Day

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



### A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- January: When the calendar is new, but the bills are not.
- Starting the year off right... by finding where we left our Bible last year.
- January: When everyone knows the date for exactly one week.
- January is the month where gym memberships and prayer requests both increase.
- January: When "I'll start tomorrow" meets "Lord, help me."
- Thank God grace doesn't expire on December 31. New year, new goals... same grace.
- New year, same prayer list, bigger faith.

