

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."* John 3:16

*Believe and receive. — Don't miss the Boat!*

**July 2023**  
**Nacogdoches & Livingston**

# GODTEL Report



## *Don't Miss the Boat!*

As you read this column, you will understand the title of this month's newsletter Report.

Near the end of May, I was surprised with an invitation to go on an expense-paid cruise to Mexico and back. (An adult chaperone was needed and I have a passport, so I just needed to pack my suitcase in the next four days.)

Let me back up a bit. At the beginning of this last school year, my oldest son, Michael, and his wife, Janie, decided they would use some of their hard-earned money to take four graduating high-school seniors (two of their daughters, one of their daughter's best friends, and a nephew, as well as a son who was not yet a senior) on this cruise. What an awesome gift!

Sadly, the Monday before the Saturday sailing, one daughter and her non-senior brother informed their dad that they were not going on the cruise. I was shocked that they would turn down this amazing offer and experience. They "missed the boat." People who refuse God's offer of salvation (the "boat" that will take them to Heaven), will miss the "boat" to Heaven.

From observations I made on the ship, I took away two spiritual applications. One: that, though salvation is freely offered to us, it was paid for by Jesus. This cruise was paid for by my son and his wife who had worked hard to save up enough money to do this. It is God's Son Who paid the price of

the salvation we are freely offered. To say, "no," to Jesus is to miss the boat in an eternal and tragically serious way.

The other application concerns food/mealtime. There were two main places to eat where the food was at no additional charge (and countless other eating venues). One of the "free food" areas consisted of around 150 feet of buffet tables piled high with copious amounts of an amazing variety of foods. That place was generally crowded with patrons.

The other place to eat freely, was the formal dining room where we did not have to serve ourselves. We were seated at our reserved table with the white table-



cloth where the waiter and his assistant would pick up our napkin from the table and lay it across our laps and hand us a menu. We could order as much as we desired from the appetizer, main course, and dessert. It was delightfully decadent. Sadly, though, many people were gorging themselves at the buffet, and they never made it to the main dining

room (where we were served rather than serving ourselves).

The spiritual application I saw in this instance was that the many people who are so busy "grabbing all the gusto" the earth and sin offer, they are going to miss the pleasure of the main dining room, a.k.a. Heaven and the Marriage Supper of The Lamb.

The invitation goes out to all, but only those who have their identity in Jesus Christ (their passport, so to speak) will get to enjoy, not only the voyage, but the destination God has prepared for those who accept, love, trust, and obey Him. May you be one who has a Bon Voyage — Good Sailing and a safe arrival to a destination where everyone would truly like to be.

### **Blueberry Pancakes**

The Nacogdoches Kiwanis Club prepares thousands of blueberry pancakes each year at the Blueberry Festival. And each year they come to GODTEL and prepare a blueberry pancake supper for us.



This year we not only received the prepared but unsold pancakes from the festival, but also, eleven five-

## GODTEL Ministries, Inc.

*Sharing Practical Christianity Since 1975*

### Nacogdoches Stats — May, 2023

May Residents:	100
Nights' Lodging Provided:	1,879
Meals Served:	5,748
Christian Help Ctr. Clients:	323

### Livingston Stats — May, 2023

May Residents:	14
Nights' Lodging Provided:	338
Meals Served:	1,041
Christian Help Ctr. Clients:	479

### Lufkin Stats — May, 2023

May Residents:	62
Nights' Lodging Provided:	768
Meals Served:	2,491



Martin Baker  
Executive Director

Martin was a founder of and, since 1975 has been affiliated with, God's Open Door To Eternal Life d.b.a. GODTEL Ministries, a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Following the death of

Bro. June Gentry in September of 2021, GODTEL's Board of Directors unanimously voted to promote Martin from Vice President to President of the Board and Executive Director of GODTEL.

GODTEL is incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas but we do not seek nor accept government funding of any kind. GODTEL operates three homeless shelters in East TX, located in Nacogdoches, Lufkin, and Livingston where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is presented daily in word (twice daily Bible classes & Christian counseling) and deed (shelter, food, clothing, and other necessities).

In Nacogdoches and Livingston GODTEL operates "Christian Help Centers" which freely provide clothing, furniture, and household items to the poor.

**"The poor have the Gospel preached to them."  
Matthew 11:5**

On the Web: [www.godtel.org](http://www.godtel.org)

E-mail: [godtel@minister.com](mailto:godtel@minister.com)

Facebook: @GODTEL.Ministries

gallon buckets of batter. Yum, yum. Thank you, Kiwanians!!!

### Storm Damage

Last month's turbulent weather in Livingston caused tree damage in many places, including across the sidewalk leading to our Chapel (Mission On The Hill).



It happened on a Saturday evening, which meant we had to find another way to get to church the next

morning. Thanks to our two very handy men, Terry and Robert, the large branch was cut up and hauled away post haste after church.



### Welcome New Donors

We are very grateful to the new donors added to our list of regular supporters: Alma's Donuts (for donuts, kolaches, etc.), Pit Row Pit Stop (baked potatoes), and Bumblebee Academy (milk). At all three of our locations, we are enjoying the donations of garden vegetables.

Until next month, may the Lord bless you and keep you. — Nancy Gentry

### Resources Available

Bro. June's sermons, music, and memorial service are available for viewing and listening to on YouTube. Just search for "June Gentry preaching" and you can hear the sermons he has preached at the missions.



His music CDs and helpful Christian literature, including the series on Faith by Manley Beasley, are also available directly from GODTEL (Contact information is at the bottom of this page). Call, email, or write us.

### Praise the Lord!

**We rejoice to report that  
In the month of May,  
4 of GODTEL's residents  
each made a profession of  
faith in Jesus Christ.**

1902 Douglass Road  
Nacogdoches, TX 75964-3817  
(936) 569-7914  
FAX: (936) 564-2976



323 Moody Street  
Lufkin, TX 75901-0445  
(936) 637-2520  
FAX: (936) 637-2289

1607 South Washington Avenue  
Livingston, TX 77351-4047  
(936) 327-8863  
FAX: (936) 327-2287