

"In the beginning was the WORD ... and the WORD was God ... and the WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory..." John 1:1,14

December 2022
Nacogdoches & Livingston

GODTEL Report



Christmas Blessings

But before Christmas there is Thanksgiving. Thanks to so many who contributed turkeys, hams, vegetables, desserts, and leftovers from their early Thanksgiving celebrations, we served a delicious community meal at each of our three locations. In Nacogdoches we fed approximately 87, in Lufkin we fed 41, and in Livingston we fed over 42. (We had many residents of an assisted-living facility join us for the meal in Livingston.)

Our thanks to all who helped make this a wonderful time of sharing our bounty with the poor and homeless individuals we serve.

A Word from GODTEL's President:
What a great time of year. Thanksgiving with its family gatherings and delicious holiday foods. I do hope you were, and are, thankful to God. Thanksgiving can be celebrated even when the world is in turmoil and we face war, recession, and elections. Thanksgiving should be about thinking about what God is doing to cause us to be the people we are supposed to be. It should not be about all the food and fun we have. Even though food and fun are part of our well-being. I can be thankful just because God loves me.

Next is Christmas, when we pause to exchange gifts and celebrate the amazing gift God gave us. He gave us His Son! He gave us

salvation. He gave us His Holy Spirit. He gave us a life worth living. He gave us a relationship with Him. He gave us Heaven. To sum all this up, He gave us Jesus.

That should set each of us up to start the New Year off with confidence and courage. We will need both because the world is in trouble. However, if we cling to Jesus, we will be okay because He overcame the world. Jesus gave us a promise to never leave us alone even to the end of the age/world.

As we come to the end of 2022, I feel the need to tell you that the donations we received this year are many thousands of dollars short of what we received the previous year. Even so, God has given us, through many of you, all we have needed to take care of everyone He brought to our missions. Please pray and see what God would have you do as we end 2022. — Martin Baker

Lines from Livingston

We are very grateful for the many private individuals, churches, and organizations (including the Livingston **Lions Club** and the Livingston **Rotary Club**) for their continued encouragement and financial support. Most of all we are thankful to our loving Heavenly Father who provides all our needs—and even some of our wants. Psalm 37:4 lets us know

that if we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts. Bro. June used to quote that verse and would always add, "If you are truly delighted with the Lord, your desire will be for more of Him, not for the trinkets of the world."

By God's grace, Benita and I drove 6 hours to Abilene, attended her son's memorial service and then drove back to Livingston. We were blessed by the service and had many adventures as we traveled. We left Livingston at 4:00 a.m. and returned around 8:30 p.m. rejoicing to arrive home safely.

I once again recognized the importance of having a good set of directions (map) and visible and accurate road signs (we wound up at a dead end in one city and "lost" our highway in another). We also need the guidance of knowledgeable people to clarify and point out the correct way to go (we stopped twice to ask directions).

If you think about it, this is a picture of Christianity. If we want to get to Heaven, we need a map—the Bible and knowledgeable people (pastors, teachers, believers with spiritual experience) to help show the way. Once we learn that **Jesus is the Way**, give up trying to go our own "direction," and allow God's Holy Spirit to take up residence within us, we have an internal guide and teacher.

GODEL Ministries, Inc.

Sharing Practical Christianity Since 1975

Nacogdoches Stats — October, 2022

October Residents:	83
Nights' Lodging Provided:	1,575
Meals Served:	4,903
Christian Help Ctr. Clients:	588

Livingston Stats — October, 2022

October Residents:	29
Nights' Lodging Provided:	399
Meals Served:	1,223
Christian Help Ctr. Clients:	403

Lufkin Stats — October, 2022

October Residents:	53
Nights' Lodging Provided:	774
Meals Served:	2,376



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. GODEL Ministries, a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Following the death of

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

GODEL is incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas but we do not seek nor accept government funding of any kind. GODEL 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 GODEL 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.godel.org

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News from Nacogdoches

God continues to show us His goodness and faithful provision. The Central Heights FCCLA held a sock drive and invited Ms. Stephanie (our Mission Manager) to come accept the proceeds. What a lovely group of smiling faces:



At this writing we have 53 residents at our Nacogdoches shelter, many men and women and one

child. Quite a few are working and the others (who are able-bodied) are required to be looking for work each weekday. Those not out job-hunting are given chores here at the mission and most are so glad to have a place to live, food to eat, and clothing provided, they are happy to cooperate.

We were privileged to be invited to speak about GODEL at a Sunday School Class at FUMC and to the Presbyterian Women recently. Martin and Mary Baker went to the Methodists and I went to the Presbyterians. In both cases, we were graciously received and were able to answer many questions about GODEL and the homeless individuals we serve.

As in Livingston, the Nacogdoches mission received many contributions to help make our Thanksgiving more delicious and bountiful than it would have been otherwise. Many thanks to all who helped. Bless you. — Nancy Gentry

For Your Information

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 GODEL (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 October,
2 of GODEL's residents
made a profession of
Faith in Jesus Christ.**

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