

HISTORY

God's Open Door To Eternal Life, Inc., d.b.a. GODTEL, was chartered in 1975 by Rev. June and Nancy Gentry. (Bro. June died of COVID in September, 2021.) When God gave them a vision to minister to the homeless and less fortunate in their community, Bro. June and Nancy, with the help of Martin and Mary Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Englert, and a host of other Christian friends, began this work. The first mission opened in January 1977 on the brick streets of Nacogdoches, the oldest town in Texas. The Lufkin facility was established in October 1983. Then, in December 1988, the Livingston shelter began serving yet another East Texas community. Since opening the first shelter early in 1977, GODTEL has daily presented the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor while providing them with temporary shelter, food, clothing, and other necessities.

CHC

At our Christian Help Centers (CHCs,) we give away donated household items and clothing to those in need. Each year we assist approximately 1,000 people per month in our East Texas communities. (For the year 2025 we provided clothing for 10,924 individuals.) This service provides an opportunity for us to silently witness by handing out Christian literature with the items given.

HOUSING

At our three missions we offer temporary shelter to men, women, and families. Each mission is able to house at least 60 people (96 in Nacogdoches). Throughout 2025, we housed 1,957 individuals, providing them 35,987 beds (this number represents each night a bed is occupied). Our guests may stay as long as they obey house rules and are continually working or seeking work. Upon their departure, we hope they have gained financial stability and have acquired a greater understanding of basic Scripture.

MINISTERING

To help meet the spiritual needs of our guests, we require them to attend Bible Studies twice a day during their stay (generally at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.) seven days a week. Bible Studies are a formal way of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We conduct personal counseling sessions with those who have a deeper desire to come to the saving knowledge of our Lord. Staff members live in our missions, allowing an even greater opportunity to witness to our guests. Mission Directors and staff members teach the majority of our Bible Studies. We also have several dedicated volunteers who regularly conduct some of our other Bible Studies. During 2025, a minimum of 19 of our guests made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

MEALS

All the missions provide three meals daily, to our guests as well as to anyone who shows up hungry. Collectively, the missions served over 9,251 meals each month and a total of 111,013 meals for the year of 2025. Since 1977 we have served over three million (approximately 3,121,305) meals to the hungry. These mealtimes allow another occasion to witness to our guests through prayer and a brief Scripture reading.

MISSION

Since 1975 when we received our charter (two years prior to opening our first shelter) this ministry has met the spiritual and/or physical needs of well over a million people. We minister to homeless, and otherwise needy, individuals, families, single parents, drug addicts, alcoholics, prisoners, parolees, and probationers. Our monthly newsletter is mailed to many states in the USA and to Germany. Our message focuses on the practical applications of the Scriptures. Although many come to our missions with physical needs (housing, food, and clothing), our primary purpose remains: to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. We strive to allow the love of Christ to reach every person who enters through the open doors of GODTEL Ministries.

FUNDING

GODTEL is funded in various ways by individuals, churches and organizations in and around the communities in which each mission is located. **We do not seek nor accept funding from government sources.** Here are examples of types and sources of support:

- † Local Churches
- † Prayer Groups
- † Bible Study Teachers (Volunteers)
- † Individual Donations
- † College Organizations
- † Canned Food Drives
- † All Types of Food Donations
- † Personal Hygiene Items
- † Clothing Donations
- † Household Items, Bedding, Towels
- † Furniture
- † Volunteer Work
- † Nacogdoches Area United Way



Monetary gifts are used at the GODTEL mission in the county from which the gift was received. All items donated to GODTEL that are not directly used in our missions, such as household items and furniture, are given to local needy people in our communities. Donated household and clothing items are distributed free of charge to those in need.

God's Open Door To Eternal Life, Inc.
is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Monetary donations are tax-deductible consistent with
Internal Revenue Code Section 170.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Alston	Joshua Gentry- <i>Vice</i>
Clay Alverson	<i>President/Secretary</i>
Martin Baker- <i>President</i>	Nancy Gentry- <i>Treasurer</i>
Mary Baker	Bruce Robinson
Chris Englert	Lanny Williams
Olivia Holley	Pete Zapata

GODTEL's Missions

Executive Director: Brother Martin Baker

Assistant Director: Nancy Gentry

Livingston

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Lufkin

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Nacogdoches

Manager: Richard & Stephanie Silva
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ...

- † Contact us at one of the Missions listed above.
- † Visit us online at www.godtel.org
- † Find us on YouTube at GODTEL Productions
- † Find us on Facebook at GODTEL.Ministries
- † E-mail us at godtel@minister.com

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Homelessness ...



It's not just a big-city problem.

The poor have the gospel preached to them.

Matthew 11:5