

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27

**August 2022
Nacogdoches &
Livingston**

GODTEL Report



Practicing Pure Religion (James 1:27)

I have heard it said that, though there is life in a relationship with Christ, religion (impure religion) kills. I do know that no matter how "religious" a person may be, that does not get them into Heaven. I know, because I have read it in God's book, specifically in Matthew 7:21-23 where Jesus says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (*Talk about being very religious!*) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

What gets us into Heaven is a living relationship with Jesus, and, we enter into that relationship by faith—believing that God is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Lines from Livingston

In Livingston, we have been helping a recently-widowed Christian sister, N.S., who moved from Colorado to Livingston. It took six of us ladies from GODTEL about two hours to unpack the ten boxes of kitchen items and place them in cabinets and on shelves. Benita had us all organized. She and I

were taking items out of the boxes, unwrapping them and, after N.S. instructed us where the contents were to go, handing them over to the girls. One got food pantry items, one got items for the "Butler's Pantry", one got baking area, one got plates, bowls, and glasses, and one was folding the paper we unwrapped. It was a veritable beehive of activity. (*Those limeades we enjoyed after the job was done were very refreshing.*) It is said, "a picture is worth a thousand words." Well, here are three thousand.



was very appreciative and we were all blessed to be able to help her. Now she has the task of shuffling things around to her liking, but at least she can walk into her kitchen without having to squeeze between the boxes. Did I say she was appreciative? She was, and made out a check to be portioned out to each helper and to GODTEL in general.

Board of Directors Report

We had a lengthy meeting the second Tuesday of July. Many topics were discussed and voted on. One exciting change is the expansion of our services to the homeless by joining Mike Brister of Stepstones Ministry International, for disaster relief. When called upon, we can send volunteers, a tractor for clearing away debris, twelve-man tents, and cots that were donated to GODTEL a while back. The focus will be on smaller towns where there is not generally an abundance of aid.

No other major changes were made as we continue to hold to our number-one purpose: to show God's love in a practical way by



The next week we went back to unpack a few more boxes. N.S.

GODTEL Ministries, Inc.

Sharing Practical Christianity Since 1975

Nacogdoches Stats — June, 2022

June Residents:	79
Nights' Lodging Provided:	1,296
Meals Served:	3,946
Christian Help Ctr. Clients:	741

Livingston Stats — June, 2022

June Residents:	21
Nights' Lodging Provided:	316
Meals Served:	982
Christian Help Ctr. Clients:	378

Lufkin Stats — June, 2022

June Residents:	50
Nights' Lodging Provided:	614
Meals Served:	1,904



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

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housing, feeding, and clothing the homeless and poor, while presenting the message of God's love and offer of salvation from hell, while warning of God's righteous judgment against those who reject His love and authority over mankind and who fail to make an unconditional surrender to Him.

News from Nacogdoches

Our Mission Manager, Stephanie Silva and her three children were very ill with COVID for several days but have recovered and are back in action.

Once Stephanie returned to work, she had to contend with many of our lady residents who were wearing shorts that were way too short. One of the rules in Nacogdoches is that shorts must be knee length. After reminding the women day after day, we have decreed that shorts are no longer al-

lowed. Women are allowed to wear skirts (mid-calf or longer), capris, peddle pushers, jeans or long slacks—just no more shorts. When we made the announcement, much complaining and finger-pointing ensued. It was not just one woman necessitating this change. They were told that if they had all been abiding by the rules they agreed to when we checked them in, they would not have lost the privilege to wear Bermuda shorts.

Some may think it harsh, but God means what He says, whether it is "don't eat the fruit from a certain tree," or "don't pick up sticks on the Sabbath." We do not hold to the saying, "Rules are made to be broken." There are consequences for disobedience. (At least these ladies did not lose their place to live as did Adam and Eve! — and, they weren't stoned to death!) Please pray for us all.

Until next time. — 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 GODTEL (Contact information is at the bottom

Donate Your Scrap Metal

GODTEL accepts scrap metal donations, including old cars, lawn mowers, and appliances at each of our three locations.

(We will pick up vehicles when possible.)

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