

*"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet."*

1 Corinthians 15:52

**September 2023**

**Nacogdoches &  
Livingston**

# GODTEL Report



## *Are You Ready?*

J.W. walked into my Nacogdoches office early one Monday morning requesting a letter of residency. My computer was not on yet so, while it booted up, I asked him to have a seat and inquired where he was from. One thing led to another, giving me an opening to ask him about his spiritual condition. When he said, "Fine," I asked him how he knew it was fine and what made it so. He said he was following Jesus. I then asked him, "But is Jesus living within you?" When he told me, "Yes," I asked him to tell me how that came about.

His story (testimony) went like this: He left work one afternoon in a very angry mood. As he drove along, he spotted a tool which "just happened" to be lying in the road. He pulled over, jumped out of his truck, picked up the tool and unceremoniously threw it into the back of his pickup. This "just happened" to take place in front of a resale shop operated by Raymond Smith a.k.a. "Papa Ray."

J.W. was surprised to hear Mr. Smith call to him, saying, "Come here." He certainly did not want to comply, but with continued urging from Papa Ray, he went.

It was during that encounter that Papa Ray took a guitar off the wall and sang a Gospel song he and his wife had written, sharing the love of Jesus with a deeply moved J.W. That began J.W.'s relationship with Jesus and with Papa Ray who lovingly disciplined him.

As J.W. spoke fondly of Papa Ray (who is now in Heaven), he reminisced that Papa Ray often said that he was too blessed to be distressed, and too anointed to be disappointed.

When I asked J.W. about his family life, he sadly told me he and his wife were divorced. I told him I would pray for her and he was very thankful. He vowed to renew his prayers in her behalf as well. Please join me in praying for them both.

### **Family Success**

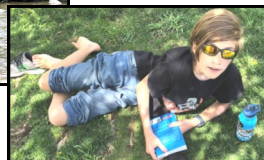
Please permit me to brag a bit on my youngest daughter's husband, Zach Varnell. This summer he completed and successfully defended his dissertation for his PhD and celebrated by riding in a 100-mile bicycle race through the rugged but beautiful Colorado mountains God created.

His wife, Joann, and their children were there to send him off and to welcome him back to the finish line. Start to finish took around nine hours, during which time the children played and relaxed near (and in) a river.



I am so very impressed by both of these accomplishments.

Congratulations, Zach! You have earned some much-needed rest.



### **Eggs-tra Good News**

Those cute baby chicks I ran a photo of last Spring are all grown up and are now producing eggs for our eating enjoyment. We have even been sharing with the Lufkin mission. (We generally collect between one and two dozen per day. So far, our greatest number of eggs produced in one day was 30.)

As the chickens grew, we discovered that we had four roosters and decided to get rid of three of them, keeping one rooster to protect the hens from snakes, etc. The men Martin sent down from Lufkin had a rather difficult, if not comical, time collecting the other three. I wish we had a picture of them chasing the roosters across the pasture when two of them managed to get free.

### **So, Are You Ready?**

Ready or not, Jesus is coming. Those of you who have been reading our newsletter for several years will remember that I believe Jesus will return some year during the Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah. I cannot predict the day or hour as it is a two-day celebration with lots of blowing of trumpets, any blast of which could be the "last trumpet" sound. I also am not predicting that this is the year Jesus will return for His own, but it well could be. So many of the Biblical prophecies have been fulfilled and the signs of the times say, "time is running out," that I will be surprised if we

## GODTEL Ministries, Inc.

*Sharing Practical Christianity Since 1975*

### Nacogdoches Stats — July, 2023

July Residents:	114
Nights' Lodging Provided:	1,781
Meals Served:	5,432
Christian Help Ctr. Clients:	473

### Livingston Stats — July, 2023

July Residents:	25
Nights' Lodging Provided:	377
Meals Served:	1,145
Christian Help Ctr. Clients:	366

### Lufkin Stats — July, 2023

July Residents:	57
Nights' Lodging Provided:	696
Meals Served:	2,257



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)

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Christians are still here after September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Feast begins at 6:00 p.m. on September 15<sup>th</sup> and ends 48 hours later.

This month's insert is about the Feast of Trumpets. Though I ran it previously, I think it is a good reminder for us to get ready for Christ's return and help others get ready. *(If you do read the insert, the dates of this year's feast reported there are one day off. The paragraph above has the correct dates.)*

### More Tree Troubles—Livingston

The last Sunday afternoon of August, there was a loud crash as yet another large portion of a tree fell to the ground, taking part of a fence with it. As this was the second time, we decided to have the whole tree cut down lest another branch fall on the house it has been shading. We will miss the shade and the tree but are thank-

ful that no one was injured.



Until next month, may the Lord bless you and keep 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 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 July, 4 more  
of GODTEL's residents  
made a profession of  
faith in Jesus Christ.

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