jail before he came to GODTEL Lufkin. A deputy brought him to the mission and began to explain what was going on and how they wanted me to help. The jail was full and they wanted to release this young man at night so he could sleep at the mission and then return to the jail during the day to work. The offense he was in jail for was not murder. He was in jail on drug charges and theft. I checked him in, even though I thought this whole thing seemed backward to me.

Well, the first night he was in the dorm, money was stolen — also the second third, fourth, and fifth nights. Prior to his arrival, there had been no thefts, so I called the jail and told the jailer that their prisoner could no longer stay at GODTEL. That night, no money went missing.

I heard nothing about this guy for a couple of weeks. One day, I opened up the newspaper to read headlines of a murder in Lufkin with a photo of this guy. The story was that he had continued his life of drugs and theft. He went to the Salvation Army's Thrift Store in Lufkin and demanded money. When the woman on duty refused to give him money, he killed her in cold blood for the few dollars in the cash register. Crack cocaine is an evil master that will cause you to do unspeakable things.

The second murderer was a man that showed up at check-in time. He said he was just traveling and he stayed one night. A couple of days later the police showed up and began asking questions about a former GODTEL guest, who was a friend of mine, concerning the murder of a manager of one of the local motel/restaurant/clubs in Lufkin. I was very skeptical that my friend was the murderer and told them so. I supplied all the information they requested and then I asked them why they had come to GODTEL as part of their investigation. Out of a bag, they pulled a blood-soaked towel with "GODTEL" in large letters written in the middle of it. I was pretty sure my friend had not taken one of our towels so I asked them for a description of the man they were seeking. The description did not match my friend, but it did match the guy that had recently checked in for one night, so I gave them all the information I had on him.

"the Scriptures teach us that if we are angry with our fellow humans, and hate our brother in our heart we are guilty of murder."

The next night, some residents came and said someone was hiding in the bushes behind the men's dorm. I went to see and found the "one-nighter" there in the bushes. I got him to come into the office with me and then sent him with my helper to get sheets and towels for him. After he left my office, I called the police. While I was on the phone, my helper came and told me the guy had run away. I am glad to report that the police caught him at the bottom of the hill from GODTEL. He confessed to killing the man in Lufkin as well as his wife and her lover in Colorado.

The third murderer came to the Lufkin mission with his wife. They stayed with us off and on over a couple of years. Sometimes they were together. Sometimes they were separate. They had been here for a couple of weeks when he told the men on the porch of the men's dorm that if they heard that his stepfather was dead, he had killed him. He left the property a few minutes later and a man from the porch came and told me what he had said. Sure enough, that evening the report of murder in Angelina County was on the TV. The murderer fled to Houston, but turned himself in within a few days, confessed his guilt, and went to prison.

The next murderer did not commit his murder with any reference to GODTEL. He had killed his aunt when he was a teenager and had spent many, many years in prison. He came to GODTEL in Lufkin and stayed for a couple of years. He moved out and a couple of years later ended up at GODTEL in Nacogdoches as an employee. He is now living in Lufkin again and has never repeated his offense.

If I had even thought of the fact that I would be dealing and living with murderers, I would have been even more scared in 1989 than I was.

The last murderer had gotten into trouble with the IRS. He had some business reversals and was unable to file his income tax for a couple of years because

he owed his accountant money and he would not release his records until the bill was paid. So, while that problem was being worked out, the business man had reconstructed the records and filed his taxes. When he did that, his tax account was flagged because the IRS said he had not paid his state unemployment tax but that he had deducted the amount he was supposed to pay from his federal unemployment tax, which opened a big can of stink. According to the check stubs, he had paid the state but it was out of control now. One afternoon, while he was on the phone with the IRS Agent in charge of his case, things turned ugly. The Agent said he was going to take his truck if he didn't pay by a certain date. The man said he couldn't pay within the allotted time given and if they took his truck away, it would not help them much because it had a lien on it. The IRS Agent said, "Oh, yeah. You don't think I can hurt you? I will levy your accounts and take every dime you have. I will come to your house and take your car. I will take your wife's silverware out of the drawers. I will take your kids toys out of the toy box. I will show you how I can hurt you!" At that point the conversation ended. The man drove to his house, got his pistol, and headed for the city with the intent to kill the IRS Agent. The murderer came to his senses and did not kill the Agent.

However, the Scriptures teach us that if we are angry with our fellow humans, and hate our brother in our heart we are guilty of murder.

Well, that murderer was me.

Martin Baker was one of the founders of GODTEL Ministries back in 1975 and has been affiliated with the ministry since that time. When Bro. June, our President/Executive Director for 45 years, went to be with the Lord in September of 2021, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted for Martin to take his place.

God's Open Door To Eternal Life, Inc. d.b.a. GODTEL Ministries, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in East Texas. GODTEL operates three homeless shelters, or missions, (in Nacogdoches, Lufkin, and Livingston, Texas) which share "Practical Christianity" by meeting physical needs (temporary shelter, food, and clothing) while proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do not seek nor accept funding from government sources.

GODTEL also operates two Christian Help Centers, which provide clothing and other assistance to Nacogdoches and Polk County residents.

This article is a personal testimony. To obtain additional copies, order by Title. For more information about other literature, preaching tapes by Bro. Gentry, or the ministry in general, write us at one of the addresses below, or give us a call.

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The Murderers

by Martin Baker

In 1989, when I came to take the mission in Lufkin as Director, I was kind of scared. Even though I had lived and and helped at the original mission in Nacogdoches for three years, I was still scared. You may ask, "What were you scared of?"

I was afraid in several different ways. The first was being alone at the mission with about 40 people I did not know. I knew some things about them as a group that frightened me. I knew that some of them were criminals. I knew that some of them were either alcoholics or drug addicts. I knew most of them were bigger than me, that most of them were probably meaner than me, and that there was a lot more of them, because I was alone. I was afraid because there was no money and I had a family to support. I was afraid because the buildings were old with lots of problems and I didn't know how to fix things (plumbing, electrical, etc.). I was fearful because I did not know what to do. I did not know how to be a missionary, minister, or preacher/teacher. I was a welder and a roofer. All these things made me afraid.

One thing I never thought about was that some of the people coming through the mission doors were murderers.

The first murderer was a young man in