

Bro. June is survived by his wife of 48 years, Nancy; his children: Michael Silva, Greta Nimitz, Joann Varnell, Jeremiah Gentry, Josiah Gentry, and Joshua Gentry; his father Eligio T. Silva and step-mother Ramona; siblings, Pegi, Eli, Michelle, John, Kenny, James, and Richard; 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, whom he all called George.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to GODTEL Ministries or The Gideons International <https://www.sendtheword.org/>

Bro. June's memorial was held on the lawn at GODTEL's Mission-on-the-Hill on Sept 26, 2021 in Livingston, TX. For those of you who were unable to join us, the service can be viewed on YouTube under GODTEL or June Gentry Memorial. It can also be accessed on GODTEL's new Facebook page: *God's Open Door To Eternal Life*.

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Still singing praises to Jesus!



Nancy and June Gentry

God's Open Door To Eternal Life, Inc. d.b.a. GODTEL Ministries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization based in East Texas, operates three homeless shelters, or missions, (in Nacogdoches, Lufkin, and Livingston, Texas) which share "Practical Christianity" by meeting physical needs (food, clothing, and temporary shelter) while proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The founder and Executive Director of GODTEL for 45 years, Bro. June Gentry, was a lifetime member of the Creation Research Society and for 25 years the June Gentry Family Evangelistic Ministry was affiliated with the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists and the Conference of Texas Baptist Evangelists.

GODTEL also operates The Christian Help Center, which provides clothing assistance to Nacogdoches and Polk County residents.

This article is a tribute to Bro. June. 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.

We are on the web at www.godtel.org.

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Bro. June Gentry

08-08-1947 — 09-17-2021

(He lived and served in the dash.)

And it shall come to pass . . . that the LORD shall give you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear, and from the hard bondage wherein you were made to serve. Isaiah 14:3

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

The two verses above are all the Scripture Bro. June knew in 1971 when he was at a point of desperation in his life. He was not convinced that God cared — or even existed for that matter. As he lay on his bunk in an Orange County California jail cell, trying to sleep, the verse he had memorized at a Quaker Vacation Bible School at the age of seven (John 3:16) repeated and repeated in his head. To get his mind off of that he picked up a paperback book that sounded like blood and guts, "The

Cross and the Switchblade." The author, David Wilkerson, spoke of drug addicts, prostitutes, and alcoholics whose lives had been radically changed through something called "salvation" which was accomplished by making the choice to believe and act on the words in the Bible. June was at the end of himself and knew he needed HELP. He had used up the help of his family and he had nowhere else to turn.

There was a Gideon Bible on the lone metal shelf in the cell. June pulled it down and let it fall open on his bunk. Isaiah 14:3 was the verse that caught his eye. He thought, "That's what I need — out of here." That night he prayed out of a sincere and seeking heart, "God, if You are really there, please change me — or kill me." And God did.

Not long after that, June was released from jail. It took him a little while before he realized that the bondage God had released him from was to sin and self, not to the prison bars.

June soon left California, spent time with an uncle in Las Cruces, NM, and then headed to Texas where the Christian community accepted, loved and nurtured him. He had a desire to make his Christianity practical and as God led and provided, he and Christian friends in Nacogdoches began to share the Gospel of (good news about) Jesus in various ways:

street evangelism, holding vacation Bible schools in parks in poor communities, and, beginning in 1974, following God's leading to open a shelter for the homeless which received its non-profit charter in 1975.

Bro. June greatly appreciated the ministry of the Gideons International and shared his testimony at Gideon meetings on many different occasions. Out of his gratitude, he sent monthly contributions to their ministry throughout his life. (June led me to the

In 1977 he and his wife Nancy, along with support from others, purchased the Old Redland Hotel in downtown Nacogdoches and GODTEL's homeless shelter opened. It is now located on Douglass Road. Later, GODTEL added locations in Lufkin and Livingston Texas. In addition to serving God through ministry to the homeless, Bro. June preached throughout Texas and neighboring states. He wrote music and performed his songs with his family at churches, nursing homes, the Nacogdoches Blueberry Festival, the Pineywoods Fair, schools, and anywhere possible to spread the gospel and provide awareness and opportunity for others to help the homeless.

Bro. June had many talents. A gifted musician, speaker, mechanic, builder, general fixer of things, and science fiction aficionado, he hated small talk but would talk about Jesus all day. He could be charming, difficult, tender, stubborn, witty, and caring. No matter if you had an easy or fraught relationship with him, it was clear that Bro. June lived according to his convictions and his devout belief in the inerrancy of the Bible. He worked tirelessly to care for the poor and reach people for Christ.

He died at home from Covid pneumonia after six days in the ICU at Baylor St Luke's in Houston. His family is grateful for the care he received in the ER at St Luke's hospital in Livingston before being transferred to Baylor. His nurses and doctors at Baylor were compassionate and provided excellent care which was a comfort during such a difficult time.



Lord in 1973 so I will continue regular giving to honor his memory.) My profuse thanks to the Gideons for that Bible.

The following is Bro. June's obituary, composed by our daughter, Joann, who lives in Washington State:

Bro. June Gentry passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus on September 17, 2021.

Born Frank Gustav Silva August 8, 1947 in Wiesbaden, Germany, he grew up in Los Angeles, CA. After landing in jail in his twenties, and through reading the Gideon Bible there, he surrendered his life completely to God. He moved to East TX in the early 1970's and lived in North Redlands and began his ministry. In 1975 he founded God's Open Door to Eternal Life, known as GODTEL Ministries.