

## *A Bit About Benita*

On December 19, 2004, Benita's son, Mike, ashamedly put her out of his home and dropped her off at GODTEL's Livingston homeless shelter. When she arrived, nervous, fearful, and with a breaking heart, she was given the last bed available in the women's dorm — a top bunk. One of the other women resident saw her tears and gave her a hug and told her it would be okay. Not that Benita believed it then, but those words were true.

It was not just okay for Benita, but for GODTEL as well. From the start, she was an exemplary resident, complying with every rule and helping wherever there was a need. We gradually gave her more and more responsibility until now she wears several "hats" around the Livingston mission.

She may not be perfect yet (As great as he was, was King David perfect?), but she has a heart to be obedient to her Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ. Once she realized her continuing to smoke was being spiritually disobedient, she vowed to quit right then. She will joyfully tell you that God delivered her in such a way that she never even longed for another puff. A bit later, she felt God telling her to give up drinking coffee, so she did. (She won't even taste coffee ice cream!)

She praises God for her grandparents who raised her to be honest and hard-working.

As you can see from what she has written here, she is serious about giving God thanks and praise in every situation. It just comes *supernaturally*.

I know she would appreciate your prayers for her.  
— Nancy Gentry

*Bro. June Gentry was the founder and for 45 years the president of God's Open Door To Eternal Life, Inc. d.b.a. GODTEL Ministries, 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, furniture, household items, and other assistance to Nacogdoches and Polk County residents.*

*Bro. June 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. He went to be with the Lord in 2021.*

To obtain additional copies of this or other tracts, order by Title. For 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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# Sacrifice of Praise

by Benita Woodmansee  
Livingston Mission Manager

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*What does it mean  
to be totally dependent  
upon the Lord?*

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It was a Tuesday afternoon, (02/21/17 to be exact) and I was headed next door to the future women's dorm. Suddenly, I had a very unexpected "trip to the ground." It was so quick, I barely had time to react. I only saw myself coming face to face with concrete. My hands hit the pavement and, just as quickly, I pushed off so my face and new glasses wouldn't get broken.

The next thing I heard was my voice saying, "Thank You, Lord," over and over until the pain subsided.

Hebrews 13:15 says, "By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of

praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."

As I lay there for a few moments, letting my body and mind catch up to what had just happened, I looked up and saw the wondrous creation of the tree God had made, and somehow, not understanding why, I seemed to feel at ease. My friend Catherine came to help me up and then all the places that hit the concrete when I fell came to life! (And, boy, did they ever!)

When I moved any part of my body or tried to walk, I just kept saying, "Thank You,, Lord." By this, I was showing my obedience to the Lord as Ephesians 5:20 says, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I knew I had to depend on the Lord in order for me to keep functioning throughout the rest of the day.

I was told that I needed to just sit down and let others help do my work, but in my heart I knew that was not going to happen. Reason being, sitting down would have meant that I quit and if I quit, that meant that I gave up, and if I gave up, the Lord couldn't (or wouldn't) help me. Believe you me, I needed ALL of His help to get through this. I was very thankful that I was surrounded by friends and co-workers who helped wherever and whenever they could.

When the Lord wants your attention, He often does quite the unexpected to get it. In this case, a small rock juttred up into my pathway, with painful consequences for me. Everything we experience has a God-permitted purpose. He wants us to learn from the experience.

I am still not sure exactly what it is He wanted to show me, but looking back, it may have been to slow me down or to show others that if you put all your cares and burdens on Him, depending totally on Him, He will take care of you, no matter what happens.

***When the Lord wants your attention,  
He often does quite the unexpected  
to get it.***

He says in Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.'" And in Hebrews 13:6, "So that we may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.'"

For the next few days following my "meet the concrete incident," I was totally in His caring hands. He made sure donations of food came in so I wouldn't have to cook, there were only a few loads of clothes to wash, and our Christian Help Center (where we give away clothing to the public three days a week) was not very busy. My body slowly healed as I

rested in Him. He made sure the pain was not so great that I needed any pain-relieving medication. (All I needed was His love.)

I am always saying, "Thank You," for every step I take and for every breath He lets me breathe. When you totally rely on Him for everything, His love for you takes over and fills you with His gentle touch, His grace, and His mercy.

He loves you and me so much that He let His only begotten Son go through much, much more pain than I, or you, could ever experience in our lifetime.

Being obedient, doing what He says in the Book He gave us, we can be confident that He will take care of our every need, no matter what it might be.

He is an awesome God. He can show you how to "hurt" and feel "wonderful" at the same time. The Lord is our best friend when we let Him be.

From now on, I will look down to see where I am walking, and let the Lord show me where I am going. Psalm 16:11 says, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Your very, very humbled servant,  
Benita, 02/23/17

*Benita is not only the Mission Manager. She is GODTEL's cook and manager*