



# THE LEAST OF THESE MINISTRIES

MATTHEW 25:40

*February 2019*

## ENCOURAGING FATHERS

**IT WAS A WARM, EARLY JANUARY MORNING IN BATEY 2.** A group of local men had gathered with their young children at the elementary school, and checked in while our bus driver picked up another group from Batey Isabela. Women from Pastor Estela's church were already busy mixing juice for a snack and making preparations for lunch. Soon, everyone was checked in and seated in the schoolyard. Soon after a brief welcome and prayer, six volunteers—grown Dominican men—found themselves in front of the entire crowd, blowing up balloons and using them to blow plastic cups off a table. Welcome to DADCAMP!



DADCAMP is a ministry that is “on a mission to build strong fathers who, in turn, build strong families.” It began in 2006 as a father/son event at a local church in Indiana, and has grown into an organization impacting thousands of families in six countries, and now in the Dominican Republic. Jason Braun, Executive Director, contacted us in 2017 about bringing DADCAMP to the DR, after he learned about our ministry while leading a DADCAMP in Honduras.

The DADCAMP program features classroom time for dads, during which they have interactive discussions on the importance of being a strong father, and biblical concepts for living out that role. Both the dads and kids separately do an activity to help them focus on one another's positive traits. Later, they have an opportunity to meet together and share gifts made during the activity. This proved to be a powerful moment for several of the dads attending.

The DADCAMP team celebrated the DR's favorite sport by giving the week a baseball theme. DADCAMPs were held for three days, according to kids' age groups. After each day's camp, a short baseball clinic was held at the ball field. The team returned on the fourth day to lead a full day of baseball games, *[CONTINUED INSIDE]*



## January Team Revisits an Early Project



**ONE OF THE FIRST PROJECTS** that brought Steve Hull to the Dominican Republic over 20 years ago was the construction of a mountainside church in a Barahona community named Alfa. Our January mission team returned to that church for their service project. Last year, Pastor Samuel asked if our ministry could help with construction of a room on the back of the church to be used as a children's Bible School room, and other purposes. At that time, the space was more of a patio, secured with iron bars around the perimeter, and covered with a tin roof, which was starting to fall down.

The church Board had a vision of closing the space in with block walls and a concrete roof, with the hope of building an office above the space in the future. Working with a local construction crew and some helpers from the church, our team of 13 (seven from Georgia and six from Maryland), completed the majority of the work during the week. Ricardo worked with a crew to finish the roof after the team left.

During the week, the team also led two days of Bible School in the church, as well as two days of Bible School for the kids in the neighborhood of the mission house! The events in both locations were well attended, and the team had a fun time working with the kids!



Support structure for the existing roof was failing.



Even Pastor Samuel (green shirt) joined in the fun!



Team members work together to lay block for one of the walls.

The Least of These Ministries has a special connection to this church and its members, especially with its link to the formation of the ministry. Many teams have worshipped at the church, and many friendships have been formed there. With several new team members on this team, new friendships are being made. It is a privilege to serve Pastors and churches to support the important ministry work they are doing each day.

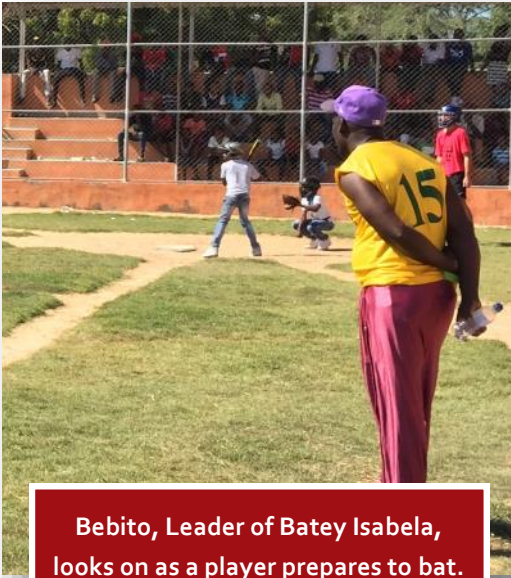
*More photos from this mission team are on our website, [www.leastofthesemin.org](http://www.leastofthesemin.org).*



Pastor Bill explains the process for completing the roof.



including one between the oldest boys and the American DADCAMP team. The Dominican team really worked the American team hard!



**Bebito, Leader of Batey Isabela, looks on as a player prepares to bat.**

In a recent follow-up meeting with Pastor Estela and “Bebito,” the leader of Batey Isabela, both spoke highly of the DADCAMP program.

Bebito met with several of the dads who participated, and many of them told him the classes were very impactful. Families in the bateys have a high incidence of disengaged fathers, so the long-term community impact of a ministry like DADCAMP has the potential to be tremendous.

Discussions have begun to plan for a second DADCAMP team for these bateys. The intent is to teach local church members to eventually conduct the events, using materials and concepts provided by DADCAMP. Following that model, we have a long-term vision of introducing DADCAMPs to the other 11 bateys we serve.

*For more photos from January’s DADCAMP in Batey 2, visit our website, [www.leastofthesemin.org](http://www.leastofthesemin.org).*

*For more information on the DADCAMP organization, visit [www.dadcamp.info](http://www.dadcamp.info).*



## **Wilton Hired to Lead Outreach Initiative!**

In the December newsletter, we announced our plan to hire a new team member in Barahona, Wilton Gomez, to lead a new initiative to support batey Pastors and churches in their ministry work. Wilton officially joined our staff on February 1, and has already begun meeting Pastors and Batey Leaders.

Please pray for Wilton and our entire ministry team as we embark on this new journey!

## **Annual Banquet — April 7**

Make plans to attend our 2019 Annual Banquet on Sunday, April 7, 2:00 PM, at Martin’s in Westminster.

The Board of Directors will provide updates on current projects and plans for the future. Wilton Gomez will be attending to share more about our new outreach initiative in the bateys (please pray he is approved for a visitor visa!).

Watch your mailbox and email inbox for details on registration!

# Tributes

## Gifts given in Memory of:

**Barry W. Dahl** *by* William Dahl

**L. Earl Griswold** *by* Lura Griswold

**Woody Hancock** *by* Cheryl Hancock

**Fay Henderson**

*by* Lynn Fraley and Angela Procario

**Gerry Jones** *by* Ray & Janet Barnes

**Thomas L. Munch**

*by* Jennifer Munch, Larry & Ronnie Bohn,  
and Richard Clise

**Jean Myers**

*by* Robert Dubel and David & Debbie Sawtelle

## Gifts given in Honor of:

**Nancy Bellick** *by* Jim & Michelle Boesler

**Arthur Boesler** *by* Jim & Michelle Boesler

**Courtney Eckard** *by* Patrick Conrad

**Dave & Conni Highfield** *by* Lisa Highfield

**Steve & Ann Hull**

*by* Daniel & Carol LaFon, Jason & Donna Myers,  
Alice Philp, and Arlene Turner

**Ned Landis & Nancy McKinzie** *by* Roy & Louise Miller

**Jenny Lytle** *by* Kurt Miller

**Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Lytle & Family** *by* Kurt Miller

**Jennifer C. Munch**

*by* J. Christopher Clise & Richard Clise

**Helen Matthews** *by* Arthur & Nancy Matthews

*If you would like to pay tribute to a friend or loved one through a donation to The Least of These Ministries,  
simply provide the information on the enclosed form, or send a note with your gift!*

## Upcoming Events!

March 9-16

Mission Team to  
Barahona

April 7

Annual Banquet

June 15-22

Mission Team to  
Barahona

September 27

7th Annual Golf  
Tournament



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