



# THE LEAST OF THESE MINISTRIES

MATTHEW 25:40

*April 2018 Newsletter*

## *Celebrating 20 Years of Ministry!*

**OVER 100 PEOPLE** attended our banquet last month to help us celebrate 20 years of ministry in the Dominican Republic and to hear plans for our future. The banquet was held at Martin's Westminster. The food was delicious and the fellowship was sweet. Both long-time supporters and new friends were on hand to share in the festivities.

Steve Hull, founder of The Least of These Ministries, provided an historical perspective on the ministry, emphasizing his desire to be obedient to God's leading throughout his development and operation of the ministry. We are so grateful for his Christ-centered leadership and for his and Ann's many years of hard and dedicated work to

ensure the continued operation of the ministry through good times and difficult times. Under their direction, the ministry grew from serving one batey using a borrowed pickup truck to serving 13 bateys from our Barahona warehouse, using vehicles owned by the ministry. All made possible by God!

Special guest for the evening was Ricardo Beltre, our DR-based Ministry Manager. This was Ricardo's first visit to the U.S., and we thank God that he was able to obtain his visa to be with us! Ricardo spoke to us about the importance of the ministry to the residents of the bateys, both in terms of physically feeding impoverished families and spiritually feeding people who are not living in relationship with Jesus. He also shared his testimony of how God led him to take a job with the ministry, which resulted in his eventual promotion to Ministry Manager.

Board member Mel Arbaugh presented plans

to make enhancements to the ministry's warehouse in Barahona, which are intended to help us more fully use the space that God has provided. You can read more about this project inside! Marty Hogan, Executive Director for the ministry, wrapped up the evening with comments centered around the first verse of Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." He said that from the time Steve Hull began developing the ministry, he always allowed God to be 'the builder.' Marty shared that as we look to the future of the ministry, it is the intent of our Board of Directors to continue allowing God to be the builder, as we seek to follow His plans.



Steve Hull introduces Ricardo Beltre, DR Ministry Manager



Over 100 guests celebrated with us !

## Planning Begins for Warehouse Expansion

During 2011 and 2012, using several mission teams and local labor, The Least of These Ministries constructed a 2,500 square foot warehouse in Barahona. Prior to building the warehouse, rice & beans, and tools were stored at the small home of Franklin, the ministry's Manager at that time. As the ministry sought to reach more people in the bateys, the Board of Directors saw that a larger, more secure building was needed to store food, tools, and vehicles.

We continue to give thanks and glory to God for enabling the purchase of the property and construction of the building entirely with the financial backing of our supporters—no loans, no debt!



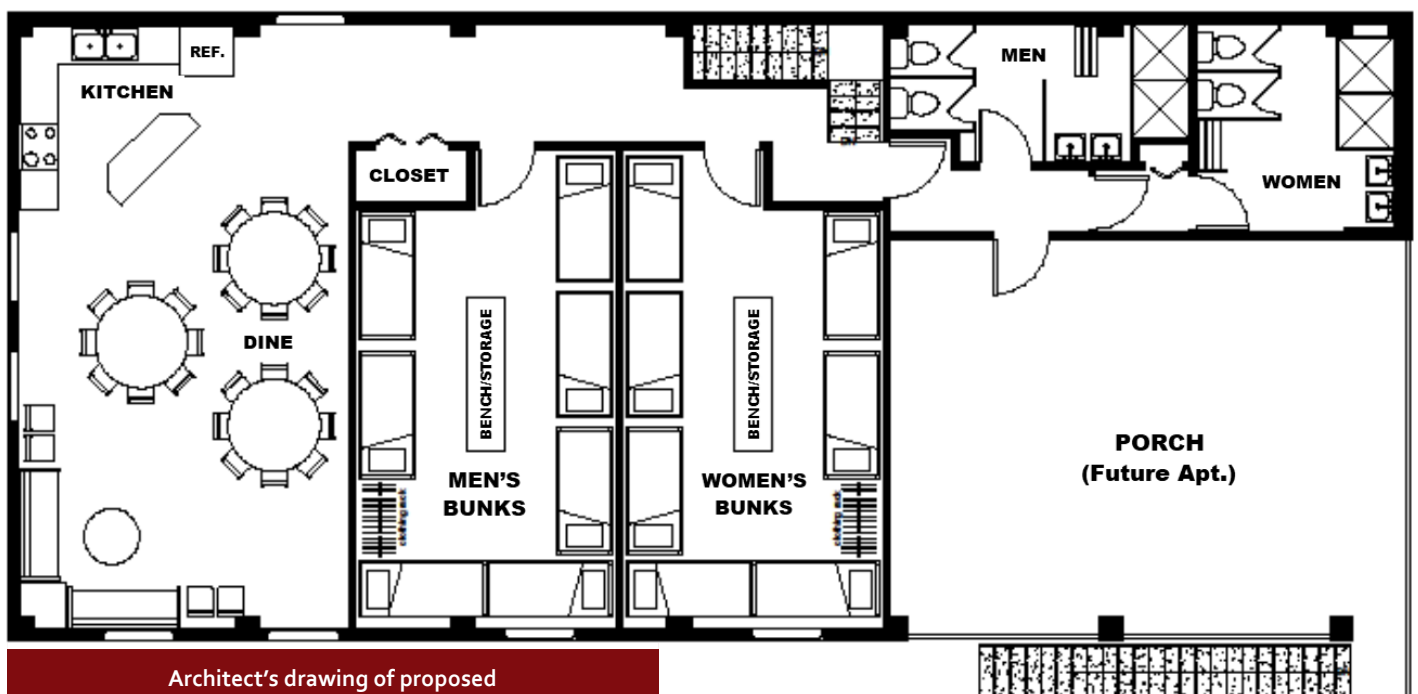
Our current warehouse; re-bar extending above the roof line was left to tie-in to 2nd-level construction.

The warehouse building was designed to allow future expansion. The foundation and roof were built to support a second level, with the intent to one day build a space for mission team lodging in addition to an apartment for a missionary family. In 2017, the Board decided it was time to move forward with the warehouse expansion.

In recent years, the road leading up to our current team lodging space has steadily degraded. Last June, our bus driver was unable to drive the full way up the mountain, and had to pick up and drop off the team well below the church. The warehouse location will provide easier and safer access for our teams.

Housing teams at the warehouse will also reduce travel time to and from the work site by 30 to 40 minutes each day. This will give team members up to three additional hours in the bateys during the week! This time could be used toward the construction project, personal ministry, or Bible School activities.

We are still in the planning & design stage of this next step. The current design, shown below, allows for two 14-person bunkrooms, two restrooms with showers, kitchen with group dining area, and a porch for outdoor seating. The area designated for the porch will be the location of the missionary apartment in the future. Throughout the year, the lodging space will be made available for rent to local churches and businesses for retreats, conferences, and meetings. The Board hopes to schedule mission teams to begin work on this new level either late this year or early 2019. *(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)*



Architect's drawing of proposed second-level team lodging area.

## Batey 2 Bathrooms Completed!

In our last newsletter, we reported that one of the January teams constructed the base building for new bathrooms at a church in Batey 2. We're happy to report that the project has been completed and the new facilities are now in use at the church! Our staff worked with Alonzo (construction foreman) and local community members to finish the project. Each of the two bathrooms has a shower, toilet, and sink. The bathrooms will be available to church attenders, and nearby community residents who don't have access to a bathroom. Running water is supplied through the batey's water tower, and waste is discharged into a nearby septic system.



## Tributes

### *Gifts given in Memory of:*

**Michael Brown** *by* Otho & Dorothy Brown

**Charles "Eddie" Herbert, Sr.**

*by* Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Office of Science,  
U.S. Dept. of Energy

**Jean Myers**

*by* Robert Brenneman,  
Thomas & Yvonne Tumblin, Steve & Ann Hull

### *Gifts given in Honor of:*

**Mel & Carol Arbaugh** *by* Elizabeth Kalbacher

**Steve & Ann Hull**

*by* Arthur & Linda Jenne, Lynda Lockard,  
John T. Taylor, Barbara Warren

**Ronald Lytle** *by* Kurt Miller

**Mary Willis Norman** *by* Steve & Ann Hull

## Warehouse Expansion (CONTINUED)

In the interim, plans are being made for a mission team to build an office in the current warehouse structure, either this summer or fall. Currently, Ricardo does most of his administrative tasks for the ministry from his home, where he faces many distractions, including electrical and internet outages. Likewise, all ministry-related documents are stored in his home. Our plan is to build a simple, modest-sized office that will give him a space to work and have conference calls, and a secure location to store important documents.

This project will take a team effort. Prayer warriors are needed to pray for direction as plans are finalized, and to pray that God will provide all the resources needed to complete the project. Team members are needed to be involved in the construction. And the project needs our financial support for materials, local labor, etc. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to join in this project. It is truly a joy to work together with you to serve our brothers and sisters in these communities!



## Thank You!

We are very grateful for the support and encouragement received at last month's banquet! Thank you for being such an important part of this ministry and the work being done in the Dominican Republic!

We would also like to thank the following businesses for donating goods or services for the banquet and silent auction:

**Baltimore Center Stage**  
*Baltimore, MD*

**Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**  
*Baltimore, MD*

**Carroll County Farm Museum**  
*Westminster, MD*

**The Cutting Garden**  
*Westminster, MD*

**Derrika Layne Photography**  
*Chestertown, MD*

**Gifty Baskets & Flowers**  
*Hanover, PA*



**The Inn at White Oak**  
*Gettysburg, PA*

**Minuteman Press**  
*Hanover, PA*

**Ole Mink Farm Recreation Resort**  
*Thurmont, MD*

**Sight & Sound Theatres**  
*Lancaster, PA*

**Southern Maryland Blue Crabs**  
*Waldorf, MD*

Upcoming  
Events!

July 7-14

Mission Team to Barahona

September 7

6th Annual Golf Tournament

January 12-19, 2019

Mission Team to Barahona

Find us on 

[www.facebook.com/TheLeastOfTheseMinistries](http://www.facebook.com/TheLeastOfTheseMinistries)

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**Board of Directors:** Rev. William Warehime, Jr., *Vice-President*; Dale Howard, *Treasurer*; Dianne Drupp, *Secretary*; Mel Arbaugh; Tom Marenic

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