



# THE LEAST OF THESE MINISTRIES

MATTHEW 25:40

*December 2018 Newsletter*



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Christmas Comes Early for Pastor in Batey Mena!

The Least of These Ministries partners with local churches in each of the 13 bateys in which we serve. It is through those churches that we distribute food to those with the greatest need. The church we partner with in Batey Mena Los Block—one of the smaller bateys we serve—is led by Pastor Apolonio. In many ways, Apolonio is similar to pastors of the other churches with which we partner: He is a humble, older gentleman, who has a heart for preaching the gospel, and a passion for studying the bible.

But, Apolonio is different in one significant way—he is blind. Despite what many people would view as a handicap or challenge, Apolonio leads his congregation in a way that has earned their respect. Watching people speak with him, their love for him is evident. Likewise, he preaches and teaches with passion and authority.

During our visit in June, Apolonio—who had previously never asked for anything from the ministry—asked if we could buy a replacement for his audio bible (which contained only the gospels and Psalms) because it had stopped working, and offered to reimburse us for the purchase.

In October, we were able to purchase a complete audio bible at a discounted price through Aurora Ministries. Ricardo recently presented the bible to Apolonio when he was in the batey for the food distribution. The bible operates from a rechargeable battery or a built-in solar panel. He is very grateful for the gift.

We are excited to know that Apolonio now has better access to the complete bible for his study and devotion time. We thank God for the ability to serve Apolonio—and indirectly, the people in that batey—through providing access to His Word!



**Ricardo recently presented Pastor Apolonio a new audio Bible.**

**“...go and make disciples....” —Matthew 28:19**

## **New Project in the Works for Outreach to Batey Communities**

Families in the 13 bateys we serve have come to trust The Least of These Ministries to provide needed food to close the gaps that may exist in their monthly budget. Many residents are enjoying an improved quality of life, having a concrete floor in their house. And people are encouraged by God’s word as our staff visits them regularly.

Biblical teaching on the gospel of Jesus has always been a cornerstone of the food distribution ministry. In recent years, our Board of Directors has been specifically seeking God’s will for the role this ministry should take in expanding the reach of the gospel in these communities. As a result, we desire to build our partnership with the local pastors and churches in the bateys we serve. Our vision is to support the churches and pastors in their ministry, so they can build discipleship within their existing membership, and increase the effectiveness of outreach to their non-Christian neighbors.

As a way to better foster the relationships with these pastors and churches, our Board of Directors has decided to hire a local man, Wilton Gomez, to lead the effort. Wilton will have the responsibility of regularly meeting with batey pastors and local residents to identify ways that our organization may support the ministry of the batey churches. Once needs are identified, Wilton will work with Pastors, local church members, and volunteers to plan and implement outreach activities in the bateys.

Our Board members believe there is significant opportunity to increase the reach and acceptance of the gospel in these bateys, and we believe the best way for it to happen is through the local churches that are already established in the communities. We feel strongly that Wilton is the right person to lead this effort.

Wilton has been working with our ministry for the last four years, providing mechanical services for our vehicles, and serving as a translator for several mission teams. Wilton is a leader in his church in Barahona, is married, and has two teenage sons. He exemplifies putting God first in his life and is a devoted spiritual leader in his family.

We already have pledges committing to a portion of his salary for the next two years. However, we still need about \$7,000 in order to ensure the food distribution program is not impacted by the added expense. Will you please consider making a pledge or donation to support this important effort? Any amount you are able to pledge—whether monthly, quarterly, or annually—will help.

We are trusting that God, who has revealed this need to us, will provide what is needed for our ministry to these communities—just as He has done for the last 20 years!



**Wilton Gomez**



**Wilton leading Bible School  
in Batey Mena**

# 2018 Golf Tournament

God blessed us with beautiful weather for our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament held at The Links at Gettysburg on Friday, September 7, 2018! Like many days this year, rain was in the forecast, and had us just a bit concerned. Thankfully, the rain held off until later in the day, and the cloud cover made for good golfing weather.

84 Golfers came out to enjoy a morning on the course, raising awareness of the needs of those we serve in the Dominican Republic and financially supporting our food distribution ministry. Many of the teams had played in previous tournaments, and several new players joined us this year.

We are very grateful for the support of all the sponsors for the event, including this year's Presenting Sponsor, Tevis Energy! Please join us in showing appreciation to the businesses below through your patronage.

## Thank You, 2018 Sponsors!

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**Plan to play in next  
year's Tournament:**

**Friday, September 27, 2019**





As you plan your Christmas & year-end charitable giving, please consider sending a gift in support of one of these current needs:

Rice & Beans Fund

Wilton Gomez Salary Support

Warehouse Project

## Tributes

### Gifts given in Memory of:

**Sarah Bursey** *by* Mark & Roxanne Wood

**Merle & Margaret Gladhill**  
*by* Paul & Kathy (Gladhill) Jenkins

**Jean Myers,** *by* Clay & Nancy Matthews

### Gifts given in Honor of:

**Steve & Ann Hull** *by* Katie Springer

**The Lytle Family** *by* Lyn & Susan Dotson

*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!

January 12–19, 2019

Mission Team to Barahona

April 7, 2019

Annual Banquet

September 27, 2019

7th Annual Golf Tournament

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

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