



THE LEAST OF THESE MINISTRIES

MATTHEW 25:40

May 2019

Unexpected *Blessings*



IN EARLY MARCH, a small team traveled to Barahona to complete a specific work project. Ron Lytle, a construction professional and long-time ministry supporter from Morgantown, WV, joined Board member Tom Marenic and Executive Director Marty Hogan for the week of service. Their project: Construct a concrete stairway to the existing roof of our warehouse, as the first stage of our second-floor construction project. Seemed simple enough, at least for the two-thirds of the team who knew what they were doing.

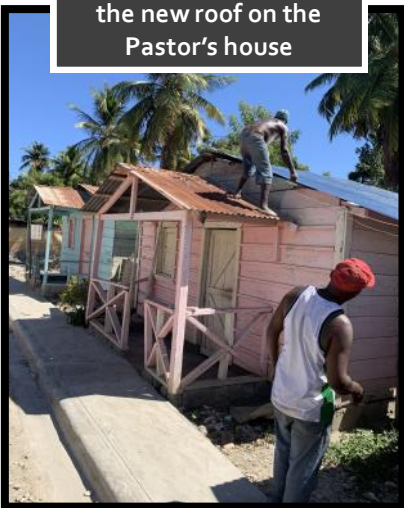
Things weren't so simple, after all. After two days' work to prep and pour the footer for the stairs, the city government decided to reverse their approval to build the stairs in that location. We now have a strong foundation for a future sidewalk!

Not wanting to waste an opportunity to serve some folks in the bateys, the team worked with Ricardo, and set out to bless some residents of Batey Altagracia with concrete floors. Working with our Maestro, Alonzo, and other local helpers, the team was able to pour concrete

floors in six homes that previously had dirt floors.



Neighbors installed the new roof on the Pastor's house



One of the homes was in particularly bad condition. After the team poured the new floor, the resident rebuilt the exterior walls using materials he had acquired over time, and assistance from other batey residents. A friend of one of the team members had provided a cash donation "to do some good." These funds were used to purchase roofing materials for this house and the home of Pastor Marineida. The work to replace the roofs was also done by batey residents.

The last house the team worked on was the home of a young couple.

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Unexpected Blessings

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Jeison and Tisse have five children, ranging in age from three months to nine years. They are not Christian, but listened intently as team members and the Pastor talked with them about Jesus and His love for them. The Pastor invited them to the church, and the team prayed for the family.

Part of doing any type of ministry work is being attentive to God's work around you. The easy response to the setback in the warehouse project would have been discouragement. We may not know for some time—indeed, we may never know—the spiritual impact on these families. Our trust is in God and His ability to use the service and witness of His children to lead others to Him. That's the type of building project we can all get behind!



Wilton lends a hand on one of the concrete floor installations

Ariel with one of the kids!



Barahona Warehouse to Become 'Ministry Hub'

At our Annual Banquet in April, former Board member, Andy Hood, provided an update on the progress of the ministry's warehouse expansion project. Andy reported that with the addition of a second floor, the warehouse will become a 'hub' for all of the ministry's activities. The facility will be a home base for mission teams, and could be used for events like training retreats for batey Pastors. The space will also be made available to mission teams with other organizations, as well as groups from local churches.

Following a minor setback in March, the Board is modifying plans in preparation for plan review submission in Barahona. That plan review and approval process is expected to take four to six months. It is now our hope to begin construction with a mission team this October. Will you consider joining the team?



Supporters Gather for 2019 Banquet

NEARLY 100 FRIENDS OF THE MINISTRY gathered on the afternoon of Sunday, April 7, to share in fellowship and hear about our activities during the last year and plans for the future. Steve Hull, founder of The Least of These Ministries, spoke to attendees about DadCamp, a father's ministry brought to two bateys by one of our January teams. Steve shared that he was moved by the DadCamp ministry because he knows that Godly, dedicated fathers are needed in the bateys.

Ricardo Beltre, our Barahona Ministry Manager, was able to attend again this year. He and Marty Hogan, Executive Director, presented an update on the ministry's new outreach initiative. Wilton Gomez, who was hired earlier this year, is actively engaging with the Pastors in the bateys, and he already has plans for helping to support their evangelism and discipleship efforts.

Andy Hood, former Board member and long-time supporter, provided an update on our warehouse project (*See 'Ministry Hub' on page 2*). Dale Howard, Board Treasurer, closed out the afternoon with an update on how supporters can best help the ministry achieve our goals.

Thank you to all who attended, and all who supported the event in some way!

Thank You!

We are very grateful to the businesses and individuals listed below who helped to make the banquet a success!

The Cutting Garden, Westminster, MD; www.cuttinggarden.net; *Flowers for the Tables*

The Inn at White Oak, Gettysburg, PA; www.innatwhiteoak.com; *\$300 Gift Certificate*

Minuteman Press, Hanover, PA; www.hanover.minutemanpress.com; *Banquet Programs*

Ole Mink Farm Recreation Resort, Thurmont, MD; www.oleminkfarm.com; *Two-Night Stay in a Deluxe Cabin*

Sight & Sound Theatres, Lancaster, PA; www.sight-sound.com; *Two tickets to their production of "Jesus"*

Debbie Ellis, *Silent Auction*

Dale & Margie Howard, *Silent Auction*

Tom & Linda Marenic, *Silent Auction*

Brittany Stranathan Rachin, *Silent Auction*

Nanabeth Sanders, *Silent Auction*

Dinah Smelser, *Silent Auction*

Tom & Sandy Stackhouse, *Silent Auction*

Malcolm & Jacki Stranathan, *Silent Auction*

7th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, September 27, 2019

THE LINKS AT GETTYSBURG

**Sponsors & Golfers needed for
our Annual Golf Tournament!**

**New for 2019—
Golfer discount for early registration!**

See the enclosed brochure or check
our website for all the details!

leastofthesemin.org/golf-tournament

Tributes

Gifts given in Honor of:

Ricardo Beltre *by* Steve & Ann Hull

Conni Highfield's Birthday *by* Dave & Conni Highfield

Steve & Ann Hull *by* Dee & David Roush

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!

June 15–22

Mission Team to Barahona

September 27

7th Annual Golf Tournament

October 12–19

Mission Team to Barahona



- Do you want to learn more about the work we're doing in the Dominican Republic?
- Would you like to meet the people we serve, and share your faith with them?
- Is it time to take that step of faith to experience an unfamiliar culture?

We're looking for new and experienced mission team members for our upcoming trips to Barahona! Team members have the opportunity to participate in a service project, children's ministry, our food distribution project, and get to know our staff and those we serve.

There's still room on our June team, or make plans now to join us for the October team!

Call or visit our website for all the details!

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Board of Directors: Rev. Bill Warehime, Jr., *Vice-President* • Dale Howard, *Treasurer*
Jacki Stranathan, *Secretary* • Mel Arbaugh • Tom Marenic

The Least of These Ministries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Maryland; FEIN 52-2220216. A copy of our current financial statement is available by writing us at the above address. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, 410-974-5534.