



# THE LEAST OF THESE MINISTRIES

MATTHEW 25:40

August 2019

## Rescuing Family

**IT WAS A WARM SUMMER AFTERNOON IN BATEY 2.** The air was still, making the heat and humidity a bit more intense. The typical sounds could be heard around the community: motorbikes whizzing by, roosters crowing, donkeys braying, dogs barking, large trucks in the distance, neighbors in conversation. Late in the afternoon, a crowd of about 75 children and adults broke through the noisy stillness to call attention to a special event taking place at “the play”—the locals’ name for the ballpark. The crowd—led by Pastor Esthela of Casa de Gracia Iglesia Cristiana (House of Grace Christian Church) and our Wilton Gomez—marched from the church to the ballpark, singing songs and carrying signs with Christian messages.



The event, the theme of which was “Rescuing the Value of the Family,” was held to highlight the importance of the family unit. The organizers created the event in hopes of remedying problems facing the community, including alcoholism, drug addiction, and sexual promiscuity, among other issues. The message of the day was that a strong family unit—with God at the center—is the first line of defense against the evil that is present in our world and their community.

A worship team from Wilton’s church in Barahona led the attendees with praise music interspersed with times of prayer for the community. Pastor Esthela and Wilton both spoke on the value of family and the importance of an individual and family relationship with Jesus. Members of a local church performed an interpretative dance to the song “No Hay Lugar Más Alto” (“There is No Higher Place”). The song tells of how there is no place higher or bigger than to be at the feet of Jesus—a place of deliverance and safety.



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Wilton reports that he has heard positive feedback on the event from community members. He plans to have follow-up conversations with families during future visits to Batey 2.

The event was organized and conducted by Pastor Esthela and Wilton, along with two pastors from other churches in Batey 2, one pastor from Batey 3, and a representative of the Community Foundation of Batey 2. It is our desire to see local Christian churches work together to spread the gospel and to solve community issues. We will continue to seek opportunities to support the local churches' efforts in these areas as well as in discipleship.

Approximately 150-200 community members came out for the early evening gathering.



Miguelina, a local church member and secretary of the Community Foundation, prays for the families and community of Batey 2.



Young adults from the community sang with the worship band.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

—Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NIV)



## We Need Your Help for the Ministry Hub Project!

**WE ARE GETTING CLOSER EACH WEEK!** The Board of Directors has been busy continuing the planning for the Barahona Ministry Hub project. We expect to deliver final drawings to our engineer in Barahona in mid-August. He will then work with other engineers and the governmental agencies to proceed through the plan review and approval process, with the intent of beginning construction during our October mission team.

We can really use your help in three important ways as we move this project forward. First, **we covet your prayers** for a smooth plan review process, and a speedy approval. Send us a note via mail, email, or a Facebook post to let us know you're praying for the project!

Second, **we need financial support** to cover costs in these early stages. Some of the engineering work in Barahona will be done on a volunteer basis, but some will also be billed to us. In addition, there will be governmental fees and taxes associated with the review and approval process. If you are able to help in this way, please designate your gift for the Ministry Hub Project.

Finally, we are looking for **enthusiastic team members** for our upcoming teams! Our next two team

opportunities are October 12-19 and February 15-22. Experienced and first-time team members are needed, and there is work that just about anyone can do. Invite people and groups from your church to serve with you! It is a great chance to spark an interest in missions, and a wonderful way to share your passion for this ministry with others you know. Information and the application is on our website, and we're always happy to answer your questions when you call or email!



## Tributes

### Gift given in Memory of:

Our Cousin, **Ralph Dillon** *by* Will & Lori Schuessler

### Gifts given in Honor of:

**Mel Arbaugh's 75th Birthday & Retirement**

*by*

Dave & Tiffany Cox, Marty & Lisa Hogan, Sheila Law, Patricia Wolf

**Melvin & Carol Arbaugh** *by* Elizabeth Kalbacher

**Steve & Ann Hull** *by* Daniel & Carol LaFon, Lynda Lockard

**John D. Myers** *by* Mel & Carol Arbaugh

*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!*

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- 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 the Dominican Republic! 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 the people we serve.

Apply now to join our October or February team!

Call or visit our website for all the details.

**Upcoming  
Events!**

September 27

7th Annual Golf Tournament

October 12-19

Mission Team to Barahona

February 15-22, 2020

Mission Team to Barahona

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*Life preserver image designed by macrovector / Freepik.*

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