



THE LEAST OF THESE MINISTRIES

MATTHEW 25:40

*Feliz
Navidad!*

December 2019

*“God has not
forsaken us.”*

WITH THREE CHILDREN, the small home of Robert and Marilyn is always full of life. Their two toddlers, Royber (age 4) and Yey (2), keep Robert and Marilyn busy, while their daughter, Marielina (15) is occupied with high school work and teenage girl life. They are participants in our food distribution ministry in their home community of Batey Los Robles.



Robert (center) with
Marielina and Yey

Three years ago, Robert (32) incurred an injury to his back, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. “I never thought that my life and the life of my family would change overnight. I am not able to work even if I want to work,” due to his disability, Robert says. With the high unemployment rate, people with disabilities typically have no chance to earn a living for themselves. His wife, Marilyn (30), does not have a job and employment opportunities are very limited in the area.



Marilyn, Royber,
Robert, and Yey

“God has not forsaken us. Thank God for using The Least of These Ministries as a channel of blessing, which blesses us with food and prayers through Pastor Ramón. Me and my family pray for that organization and for those who contribute to help those who have less. Really, thank you very much! That meal is a blessing to my family. Thanks to that help we live with less concern about what we are going to eat.”

We are able to assist families like Robert’s through the gifts received from our supporters. Please consider making a donation today to ensure we continue making a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic. “God bless you all and I ask you to pray for my health and for my family.”

A Reflection on Our Founder



Steve Hull

Founder of The Least of These Ministries
October 1, 1943 – November 18, 2019

On Monday, November 18, 2019, Steve Hull was ushered into the presence of Jesus. Following God's call to "Feed his babies in the Dominican Republic," Steve—along with his wife, Ann—devoted over 20 years of his life to founding, developing, and operating The Least of These Ministries. We'll be looking back on the story of how God called Steve to this ministry and how He has used Steve to touch many lives. Below, close friend and former Board President, Andy Hood, shares a reflection of how God impacted his life through Steve.

I first met Steve when I was helping to wire his Quality Glass Building in Westminster. I had no idea at that time how he would impact my life. It wasn't until several years later that I found myself sitting in a pew at church listening to Steve talk about his ministry in the D.R. Once his talk was over, I looked at my wife and said "I'm going on one of his mission trips" and for the next sixteen or so years, that is just what I did.

There was something that stood out with Steve that was captivating. The way he would play with the children after a long hot day; the way he would talk and laugh with the ladies in the kitchen when half the time, no one knew what the other was saying; the way he led the teams and made sure that everybody got to go on the rice & beans truck; the way he conducted the circle time and devotions in the evenings; the stories that he would share with all of us. But most importantly, the way he loved and served his Lord, Jesus Christ.



I will never forget all of the long talks we shared about the many projects such as the church in Los Robles, the children, the warehouse, the concrete floors, the Sunday School rooms, the wells and fresh drinking water and the fact that the children no longer have pot bellies and snotty noses but can now live to grow up to be whatever God's vision for them is. I was able to witness firsthand how Steve obeyed God's voice to "Feed His People."

Well done good and faithful servant. It has been an honor to know Steve and to work with him in the ministry for so many years. I will never forget that smile and those great big hugs. Thank you for loving me and showing me God's love. I will miss you dearly.

—Andy Hood

Batey San Rafael Added to Food Distribution

Our staff in Barahona recently became aware of an urgent need in a community that neighbors Batey Isabela, one of the communities we serve. The community, Batey San Rafael, is located past Isabela (which is one of our farthest communities), and is about a 15-minute drive on a dirt road off the main road. Ricardo, our Manager, reports that the conditions in San Rafael are more impoverished than any of the communities we are already serving. At present, there are 27 families living in the community, accounting for over 130 people.

Since learning of their need several months ago, we have been providing fortified rice meals (Manna Packs) from Feed My Starving Children. Pastor Eddy, who lives in Barahona, serves the community and has been distributing the food to the families. Recently, we began providing eggs once a month along with the Manna Packs. We hope to be able to provide beans to the residents in the future, however we cannot support that expense with our current budget.



A Row of Homes in Batey San Rafael

We are also in discussions with another organization to learn how we might be able to assist in their effort to provide a supply of clean, fresh water to the community. Please be in prayer for this need.

If you can help us reach our goal of providing beans to the families of San Rafael, please designate your donation to the Rice & Beans fund.

Upcoming Mission Teams

Our next team to the Dominican Republic is taking place right after Christmas:
December 28–January 4

In addition to doing a service project and kids' bible school in one of the bateys and serving on the food distribution, team members will experience ringing in the New Year in a special church service on the mountain near the mission house!

Following that, we'll have a team February 15-22.

*Both the Year-End team and the February team are confirmed and still have availability.
Apply now to join us!*

Call, text, or visit our website for all the details.



Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Merle & Margaret Gladhill *by* Paul & Kathy Jenkins
 Fay A. Henderson *by* Angela Procario
 Thomas Lee Munch *by* Richard Clise
 Arnold Vandervalk *by* Kristen Vandervalk

Gifts given in Honor of:

All those who minister *by* Sherry Crowl
 Steve & Ann Hull
by Dan & Carol LaFon and Lynda Lockard
 Karen Malehorn *by* Sally Stair

If you would like to honor or remember 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!



Central Park in Downtown Barahona

Merry Christmas!

The Board of Directors of
 The Least of These Ministries
 wishes each of you a
 Happy and Blessed Christmas Season.
 We pray that it is filled with the peace that
 only Jesus Christ can bring!

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

—Luke 2:14 (NIV)

Upcoming Events!

December 28–January 4

Mission Team to Barahona

February 15-22, 2020

Mission Team to Barahona

March 29, 2020

Annual Banquet

The Least of These Ministries, Inc.
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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.