



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

February 2020



Mella (back, 2nd from left) and her husband with their children and some extended family.

Thankful for God's Blessing

BATEY CUCHILLA is about a mile off the main road, near Bateys 8 and 9. For many years, it was only accessible by a long dirt road between two sugar cane fields. Recently, the dirt road was replaced with a paved blacktop. Cuchilla is one of

the smaller bateys—and one of the most poor—served by The Least of These Ministries, with just over 30 families in our food distribution, representing about 300 people.

Like many bateys, Cuchilla is led by a group of residents who help to keep order and advocate for the community. One of these leaders is Mella, with whom our ministry has worked for several years. Mella, 38, is married to Santiago, who is 40. They have four children: Oscar, 17; Neroidy, 14; Ramón, 10; and Adrian, 7. Oscar has a physical disability that renders him unable to walk. He crawls on his hands and knees to get to most places, although he does use a wheelchair to get around sometimes.

Last year, Mella asked Ricardo, our local Manager, if our ministry could help to repair her house. Much of the wood at the base of the walls had decayed. Many of the metal roof panels had separated from the structure, leaving them little protection from heavy rainfall. And the entire structure was leaning to one side, as seen in the photo below.

After several conversations with Ricardo, we decided to rebuild Mella's house with the help of a mission team. Longtime supporters and frequent team participants Ron & Jenny Lytle brought a small team from Morgantown, West Virginia just after Christmas. Local residents tore down the existing structure, and a local carpenter set the main structural posts in place before the team arrived. The team, working with local helpers, assembled the wood walls, cut out the windows, built and installed the doors, and poured a new concrete floor. The carpenter installed the new metal roof with the help of another batey resident.

[Continued inside]



The original house was in serious disrepair.

Remembering Steve Hull

This is second in a series of reflections on our founder, Steve Hull, who passed away on November 18, 2019.

I don't even know where to start when describing Steve Hull. So many people have called him Papa, Padre, Pops, Dad, Father and so on. There was one time when I described him as "Jesus in the flesh." Six people from the group had gotten into a precarious situation. Steve held his composure and continued with the plan of showing the Jesus film on the side of the bus in a place with no electricity. I thought we would just leave mad but Steve was following the Lord's plan of taking care of others. I've watched Steve complete so many missions. A church in Los Robles, a water treatment plant, concrete floors in homes, and build 25 latrines in different bateys. Steve has been a Christian example for me like no other. His smile and obvious joy, hard labor and love have blessed so many people. I have been equally as blessed as the people in the D.R. —Lynn Fraley



With Lynn, at the iconic photo-spot

**For the LORD takes delight
in his people;
he crowns the humble
with victory.**

—Psalm 149:4



Doing roof work during construction of the school on the mountain



With Ariel, the ministry's Driver



Taking a well-deserved (and probably brief) break from work in a batey

Thankful for God's Blessing

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The house was mostly completed after three days of work! The windows were installed later by local workers. Mella and her family are now comfortably settled into their new space. Mella says she is thankful to God for the blessing of their new home, and is also thankful to everyone who had a part in providing the materials and building the house.



The team prays for Mella and her family before leaving on the last day of work

Mella with Oscar (center), two nieces, and her Godmother



Sharing HOPE

Annual Banquet

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

2:00–5:00 PM

MARTIN'S WESTMINSTER

We hope you can join us for
this year's banquet!

Come and celebrate with us the
ways we are Sharing Hope with
families in the bateys.

Enjoy a delicious meal, participate
in an exciting silent auction, and
share fellowship as we provide
updates on our latest projects.

*Call 443-918-7105 to register
by March 20!*

"Be joyful in hope...."

— Romans 12:12

Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Steven G. (Steve) Hull *by* Ann Hull
and over 100 family members, friends,
ministry supporters, churches, and businesses

Barry W. Dahl *by* William Dahl

Woody Hancock *by* Cheryl Hancock

Anna Mae Miller *by* Holly Miller

Thomas L. Munch
by Jennifer Munch,
Larry & Ronnie Bohn, R. Keith Clise

Jean D. Myers
by Howard Myers,
Robert Brenneman, Robert Dubel

Ernst & Maria Schirmer *by* Scott & Kitty Kurz

Roger & Bessie Smith *by* Janet Yount

JoAnn S. Williams *by* Dwight Williams

Gifts given in Honor of:

Elaine Daniels *by* Deborah Stewart

The Lytle Family
by Forest & Myla Bowman and Kurt Miller

Lee & Janice Hartwig *by* Deborah Stewart

David & Conni Highfield *by* Jeff & Lisa Highfield

Ann Hull
by Ed & Marilyn Copeland,
Bob & Dianne Drupp, Jason & Donna Myers

Natalie & Ben Jacobson *by* Kathy Jenkins

Ned Landis & Nancy McKinzie
by Louise Landis Miller

Family Members *by* Don & Jon Winter

Roy & Louise Miller *by* Ned Landis

Carole Schroeder *by* Deborah Stewart

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!

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

—Isaiah 58:9-10 (NIV)

Upcoming Events!

March 29
September 25

Annual Banquet
Golf Tournament

The Least of These Ministries, Inc.
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