



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

July 2020

Caring for the Most Vulnerable

WHEN TWO LOCAL political leaders living in Batey 9 became seriously ill with Coronavirus, many residents of the community became fearful of the disease. When Ricardo learned of the elevated anxiety, he and his team wanted to do something to help.

As of mid June, the Dominican Republic reported having 24,105 confirmed cases of Covid-19 infection, with a total of 633 deaths attributed to the virus. Infections and deaths have largely been concentrated in Santo Domingo and other large cities. In Barahona, there have been 379 confirmed cases and six deaths. With limited exposure to metropolitan areas, Coronavirus hasn't had a significant impact in the communities where we serve, so the disease has not been in the forefront of the minds and conversations of most batey residents. However, the local illnesses of these prominent leaders literally hit home.

Our staff in Barahona discussed the situation, and planned an outreach activity targeted at two high-risk groups: elderly residents and pregnant women. They purchased masks and bars of soap from a local store to assemble hygiene kits to distribute. Toothbrushes and toothpaste—donated by Stockbridge First UMC in Stockbridge, Georgia during this February's team—were added to the hygiene kits.

On the day of the event, Ricardo and his team first conducted the food distribution outside the church. Everyone present for the food distribution received a mask. Elderly residents and pregnant women had been invited to stay for the activity, which was held inside the church. Over 60 people attended the activity.



Pastor Ramón hands out Manna Packs (fortified rice meals from Feed My Starving Children) to residents of Batey 9 during the recent event.



Two young women assist an elderly woman in putting on her mask.

[Continued inside]

Remembering Steve Hull

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

I MET STEVE HULL January 2012, on a trip with Least of These (LOT) to Batey 9 with my church. Going on this trip was not something I wanted to do, and I went kicking and screaming the entire way. Steve provided the platform and watched and witnessed God do amazing work in my heart and soul that week. Heartbroken and filled with compassion, I cried and prayed most of the bus ride back to the airport. I never wanted to return to the DR but knew deep in my soul God had other plans.



I came home with faces permanently etched in my mind and soul. Ten days later I started to repeatedly see a vision where I was sitting in the back of the LOT truck, teaching the women and children in Batey 9. I knew that God was telling me to go educate the children.

Steve had shared how God had called him while on a plane headed home after a mission trip. So, I went to talk to him and Ann about the vision. They both shared the big step of faith and trust it took to be obedient to the calling placed on them. I knew they had both sacrificed much in their lives. I witnessed the Godly kingdom fruits in the lives of countless people that were touched. Regardless of the challenges and sacrifices they would need to make along

the way, they surrendered their own plans and stepped into God's plan for their life. Steve encouraged me that the blessings of all the children God will touch through me will far exceed the heartbreak and challenges. Today, I steward God's non-profit Borderless Hope (www.borderlesshope.org) which focuses on educating the children in Batey 9. If not for Steve, Borderless Hope would not exist.

I think of the faith it took and the sacrifices Steve and Ann had to make as I observe the amazing fruits of their obedience to God seen all throughout the region. The gospel has been shared through words, actions and churches built. Relationships have been built and families fed. They improved living conditions for many through concrete floors and new roofs. The fruits do not stop with what LOT is accomplishing; it continues in Borderless Hope and all the children who now have HOPE for a future!

Thank you, Steve, for being a beautiful example of obedience and faith, and shining God's love on HIS precious children!! Your legacy continues not only through LOT but also through those you have touched along the way!! You are so loved and dearly missed!!

—Sharon Bailey



Batey Mena Los Block Mourns Loss of Beloved Pastor

We recently learned of the passing of Apolonio, a Pastor in Batey Mena Los Block. He died on June 15, just three days after the death of his mother. His family told Ricardo that Apolonio “died of depression.”

Past mission team members may recall visiting the church and seeing Apolonio—who was blind—lead the food distribution in his church with prayer and teaching. He was well-respected by his congregation and in the community. He loved studying God’s word and was a passionate Bible teacher. Apolonio was featured in the December 2018 newsletter.

Please pray for his family and the community as they grieve the loss of their Pastor and his mother. We rejoice in knowing that they are with their Savior, and that Apolonio’s sight is now fully restored!



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Pastor Ramón provided a teaching on God’s protection and Wilton spoke about the power of prayer. Cards with The Lord’s Prayer and the Apostle’s Creed were handed out along with the hygiene kits. The prayer cards had also been donated by the Stockbridge team. Ricardo taught on the importance

of using a mask and how to properly wear a mask, as well as the benefits of proper handwashing.

At the end of the gathering, two batey residents shared their appreciation. Guillermina, a 69 year-old woman, thanked the team for taking the time to provide the information and the materials to help protect community members from the virus. Guillermina is relatively new to Batey 9, having moved there about two months ago. She was added to the food distribution list on the day of the event.

Elias, a 60 year-old man and long-time resident of Batey 9, was also very grateful for the ministry’s efforts. “Thank you all for everything.

You have shown us this batey is important to you. Not only do you provide the food, but you have also given us education and tools to help protect us from coronavirus. The batey community is very thankful. God bless you.”

See more photos from the event on our website: leastofthesemin.org



Staff member Wilton Gomez (center) talks with Guillermina, a resident of Batey 9, about how to properly wear a mask. Dao (left), a longtime ministry volunteer, was on hand to help at the event.

We are able to provide the food ministry and conduct other outreach activities through the generous giving of our supporters. We thank God for the generosity of His people!

Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Steven G. (Steve) Hull *by* Charlie & Nancy Ashburn,
Otho & Dorothy Brown, Peter & Sandra Dibbern,
Jim & Aimee Harris, David & Conni Highfield,
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JoAnn S. Williams *by* Dwight Williams

Gifts given in Honor of:

Mel Arbaugh *by* Sheila Law

Abby Frey *by* James Frey

Patt Hentz's birthday *by* Larry Hentz

David & Conni Highfield *by* Mark & Rebecca Highfield

Ronald Lytle's birthday
by Kurt Miller, Jerry, Bev, & Lisa Hall

Jennifer C. Munch
by J. Christopher Clise & Family, Richard Clise

Alice Philp *by* Ann Hull

Bertie Pond *by* Sally Stair

Terri Small *by* Steve Small

Arlene Turner *by* Ann Hull

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!

IMPORTANT STUFF!

Opportunities to support or get involved with our work in the Dominican Republic. Be sure to put these dates on your calendar!
Check our website for more information.

September 25 Golf Tournament

November 1 'Sharing Hope'
Annual Banquet

January 16-23, 2021 Mission Team
to Barahona

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

8th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, September 25



Image by macrovector / Freepik

We need sponsors
& players for this
important event!

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

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