



June 2021

Developing Strong Leaders

SHARING THE GOSPEL has always been a priority for our ministry. From the beginning of the food distribution program, a time of biblical teaching has been a part of the process of delivering the food. Steve Hull, the ministry's founder, always emphasized to the staff that the people receiving the food should know that it came from Jesus.

In recent years, we have been working to develop a more effective approach to evangelism in the communities served by our program. We learned from working in the communities that many residents are not believers, and residents of some communities are involved in pagan religions. As important as our weekly bible teaching is, we believed there was more that could be done for a greater impact.

We knew that the best way to reach the residents of these bateys was through the local Christian churches that already exist. Prayer, planning, and generous financial backing from several supporters led to the hiring of Wilton Gomez, who is charged with helping to develop and carry out plans to work with local churches to evangelize more effectively in these communities.

"Being part of these studies has been a great blessing for our lives as well as for the churches we lead."

—Workshop Participant



Pastor Samuel (L) with participants
of the first workshop.

Since taking his new position, Wilton has spent time with many of the local Pastors in the bateys. In meeting with them on a regular basis, Wilton has learned of challenges the Pastors face in their churches. One difficulty is that many of these Pastors have not had formal training in the bible or church leadership. This prompted our leadership team in the Dominican Republic (DR) to devise a plan for providing some training to the Pastors.

Wilton and Ricardo, our DR Ministry Manager, worked with Pastor Samuel Alexander to develop a training program. Samuel serves at the church on the mountain, near the mission house, and is a member of our DR Board of Directors. [Continued inside]

Profile: Pastor Ramón, Batey Los Robles

This is first in a series of profiles on Pastors and church leaders in the bateys served by The Least of These Ministries.



RAMÓN ANTONIO ORTIZ learned about poverty and difficulty firsthand. His father left his mother when he was a young child. “My mother had to work hard for us; we had a difficult life. We never had Christmas dinner sitting at a table. I didn’t know how to celebrate a happy birthday.”

Born in Barahona in December of 1971, Ramón is one of six brothers. Though his childhood was difficult, he is thankful for God’s presence and grace. “In 1987 I met the gospel of salvation and my life was changed by the mercy of God!”

Ramón met his wife, Sandra, in 1991. After four years, they got engaged, then married in 1999. He and Sandra have three children: Antony, 20; Desiré, 18; and Josias, 15.

Ramón was introduced to Steve Hull in 2008 by a fellow Pastor and friend. Later that year, he joined The Least of These Ministries as one of our paid staff members. He and his family moved from Barahona to Batey Los Robles, where he serves as Pastor of Church of God Maranatha.

In addition to his ministry at the church in Los Robles,

Ramón serves
in our Food

Distribution Program, providing the prayer and bible teaching at each distribution or working with a local Pastor to do so. He also assists with the distribution and meets and prays with community residents.



understand and identify with people who are in need because he grew up in that situation. He is grateful that God called him into ministry. “The glory belongs to God!”

Please pray for Ramón and his family as he ministers to those living in the communities served by The Least of These Ministries.



Pastor Ramón with Josías, Desiré, and Sandra.

About three years ago, Ramón also started serving as Pastor of a church in the community of Batey 3. He continues that today, preaching each week and ministering to the needs of the community throughout the week.

“This ministry has been a way to expand the gospel in each batey we serve.” Ramón believes he can



Easter Gift for Kids in Cuchilla

KIDS IN BATEY CUCHILLA were treated to some pampering just in time to look nice for Easter Sunday. Ministry staff members and volunteers gathered more than 60 boys and girls for the event. The young people were first provided a bible teaching centered around the meaning of Easter. The overall message to the kids was that Jesus is more than a story—He is real, alive, and present in our life!

Following the bible teaching activity, volunteers washed & styled the girls' hair and local barbers provided haircuts to the boys. The barbers were paid for their service, as a way of blessing them. Later, everyone was treated to a delicious spaghetti dinner, prepared by Mella, a community leader.



**I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE
VERY END OF THE AGE.**
-MATTHEW 28:20



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The program kicked off in February with a workshop held in Batey 2. Eight Pastors and church leaders from Bateys 2 and Isabela attended the first workshop, during which Samuel discussed tools for writing sermons and preaching more effectively. The second workshop was held in May, with 19 Pastors and Worship Leaders from Bateys 1, 2, and Isabela in attendance. The topic of this workshop was the importance of conducting an orderly worship service. Samuel taught using concepts presented in Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church.

Feedback from the participants has been positive. Following the second workshop, one Pastor said, "Being part of these studies has been a great blessing for our lives as well as for the churches we lead."

Future workshops will be presented, covering additional subject matter. Gradually, the program will be offered to interested Pastors and church leaders across all the bateys served by the ministry. Please pray for Wilton and Samuel as they prepare for and conduct the workshops, and for the church leaders who are participating.

Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Barry Dahl by Michelle Dahl

John Gibbs by Mark & Roxanne Wood

Dale Grote by Dianne Grote

Steve Hull by Ned Hiller, Lynda Lockard, Pat & Cynthia Stewart, Mark & Roxanne Wood

Kingsley Sherman by Michelle Dahl

Devin Spence by Mark & Roxanne Wood

Murray Valentine by Wanda & Dale Valentine

JoAnn Williams by Dwight Williams

Gifts given in Honor of:

Ann Hull by Karen Malehorn

The Least of These Ministries by Sherry Crowl

Bill Warehime by Katy Warehime

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!

Work Begins on Ministry Hub

After many planning delays and then a year of pandemic pause, work has finally begun to transform our warehouse in Barahona to the Ministry Hub! The two large entry doors on the front side of the building have been modified, and a parge coating has been applied to the exterior walls.

Visit our website to see more photos of the work that has been done, as well as updates on the project.

If you would like to help with the costs of the Ministry Hub project, please send a gift today using the enclosed envelope & gift form.

You may also donate at our website by clicking the link for "Ministry Hub."

Thank You!



9th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, September 24



Check our website or the enclosed brochure for Tournament and Sponsorship details!

Sharing **HOPE** Annual Banquet

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 7, 2021**

2:00–5:00 PM

**MARTIN'S
WESTMINSTER**

"Be joyful in hope...."

We are excited about this year's banquet!

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

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

*Visit our website or call 443-918-7105
for information or to register!*

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