



THE LEAST OF THESE  
MINISTRIES  
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**  
amidst poverty.

March 2021



## “I’m Your Right Hand.”

**AS A YOUNGER MAN**, José was a charcoal-maker and a fisherman. He and his wife, Olga, worked together to support their family of five children: Miguelito, Salvador, Franklin, Negrin, and Mery. Olga would sell the charcoal José made and the fish that he caught. They lived in an old house in Batey Mena Abajo. Olga jokes that when it rained, it rained inside the house first, then outside.

When José, now 67, was in his 30s, an accident during charcoal production left him blind in both eyes. That led Olga, now 73, to begin looking to neighbors for help. It was a difficult time, during which there were many days they did not have sufficient food for the family. It was during this time also that one of her sons heard about Jesus and began a relationship with Him. Soon after, Olga also trusted her life to Jesus. She says that Jesus told her, “I’m your right hand.” From that point, her Pastor and church members helped the family with food and other needs.

Some time ago, Olga’s family was added to our food distribution in her community. She is very thankful to God for the food they receive through the ministry. “My husband is blind and I don’t work. With this food, our family can eat for a few days.”

Many of the participants in our Food Distribution Program are elderly, with no means to provide for themselves. Some have family to support them, others are cared for by their local church, and some may receive assistance from government programs. The food we provide helps to fill in the gap for these men and women.

During our mission team in January, team members visited homes in several of the bateys. On at least two occasions, residents told the visitors that they had run out of food that day, yet they were thankful to God because the blue truck showed up, bringing the blessing of food.

Please consider sending a gift to help us continue to support these men and women with nutritious food and encouragement from God’s word.

Olga prays that God continues blessing the ministry, as the ministry is a blessing to many in the community. “God bless you!”

## Mission Team—*Pandemic Style*

**WHEN WE BEGAN PLANNING FOR** this January's Mission Team, we assumed it would be smaller than usual. Six veteran team members—three from Georgia, and three from Maryland—ventured down in mid-January on our first mission trip since February, 2020. Travel-wise, it was mostly what you would expect: masks in the airports and on the airplanes and smaller crowds at the airports. Arrival at Las Americas airport in Santo Domingo was the most organized it has been.

The decision had been made to forgo any construction-type work project, due to the small team size and Covid-19 restrictions. The purpose of this team would be to bring encouragement to our staff and the families they serve, showing them we are still partners with them in service.

With no separate work project, every team member participated in each day's food distribution. While some helped serve the food to the residents who assembled at the respective churches, the others had the opportunity to



visit families in the community. It was a joy to be able to meet new people and even visit with some friends met during a previous visit. It was a privilege to pray with and for those families, as well.

On two afternoons during the week, we showed the movie, "The Star," to kids in the neighborhood surrounding the mission house. The animated movie tells the story of Jesus' birth, from the perspective of animals. The kids really seemed to enjoy the movie (and the popcorn)!

Team members also visited families in two neighborhoods near the mission house, taking more opportunity to hear people's stories and pray for them. And it is always a blessing to spend time with the ministry's staff: Ricardo, Wilton, Ariel, Miguel, and Pastor Ramón.

There was a curfew in effect every evening beginning at 5 PM (Noon on Saturday & Sunday!), so we couldn't have our traditional evening downtown for dinner & ice cream. The team did, however, share a lunch on the afternoon they visited the beach, and managed to fit in an ice cream visit one afternoon!



It was a different kind of mission team week, but God blessed our time together. And God reminded us that no matter how different things may look, or what things we have to do differently, He continues to be present and accomplish His work in us, through us, and around us!



## Remembering Tom Marenic

**GEORGE THOMAS MARENIC**, Board Member with The Least of These Ministries, was called home on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. Tom and his wife, Linda, participated in a mission team to the Dominican Republic with The Least of These Ministries in June 2017. Serving alongside nine other team members, they provided concrete floors to families who were living in homes with dirt floors; they loved on and played with many kids living in the community they were serving; they helped conduct a Bible School for those kids; and they helped distribute food to families in other impoverished communities served by our Food Distribution Program. All the while, they modeled and shared the love of Jesus.

Having been positively impacted by his experience on that team, Tom accepted an invitation to join our Board of Directors in November of 2017. Since then, Tom faithfully supported the ministry and provided Godly direction in his capacity on the Board. We will miss his soft-spoken voice of reason, insight, and experience. More importantly, we will miss him as a friend and brother.

Please remember Linda and their family in your prayers.



## Sharing HOPE

### Annual Banquet

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021**

2:00–5:00 PM

**MARTIN'S WESTMINSTER**

#### *One More Time...*

We have decided to change the date of our Banquet again, to ensure the safety of those who will be attending. If you registered for the 2020 Banquet, you do not need to take any action to sign up for the new date.

If you have not registered and would like to join us, registration info is on our website, or you may contact us directly at the number below. Enjoy music and a delicious meal, participate in an exciting silent auction, and share fellowship as we provide updates on the ministry.

*Call 443-918-7105 for information or to register!*

Coming soon: Details on how you can participate in the banquet online!

*“Be joyful in hope....”*

— Romans 12:12

# Tributes

## Gifts given in Memory of:

**Fred Fink** *by* Barry Arter

**Steve Hull**

*by* Peter & Sandra Dibbern, Ned Hiller, Cindy Fuqua,  
Jason & Donna Myers, Gaetan & Mary Carrier,  
Greg & Della Dell, Carolene Will

**George Thomas (Tom) Marenic**

*by* Barbara & Jack Brown, Debra Daily,  
Kenneth Gadbow Children,  
Linda Abbot Palmerton & Ashleigh Hage,  
Michele Kline, Lee Laque, Dennis Leech, Pat Page,  
Lou Ellen Peek, Salem United Methodist Church, Amy Smith,  
Mike & Marlene Young, Fred & Karen Younkins

**Marie Masaberg** *by* Mark & Roxanne Wood

**Gary Miller** *by* Mark & Roxanne Wood

**Thomas L. Munch** *by* Jennifer Munch

**Jean Myers** *by* Robert Dubel

**Shirley Walker** *by* Dianne & Bob Drupp

**Robert & Dorcas White** *by* William White

**Willie White** *by* William White

**JoAnn Williams** *by* Dwight Williams

## Gifts given in Honor of:

**Mel & Carol Arbaugh** *by* Curtis Arbaugh

**The Cahan Family** *by* Paul & Kathy Jenkins

**Elaine Daniels** *by* Bob & Debbie Stewart

**Abby Frey** *by* Jim Frey

**Emma Frey** *by* Jim Frey

**Mr. & Mrs. Lee Hartwig** *by* Bob & Debbie Stewart

**Ann Hull**

*by* Jason & Donna Myers, Katie Springer,  
John & Jean Norman, Sarah Marks

**The Lytle Family** *by* Kurt Miller

Grandchildren: **Abigail, Adam, Alyssa, Bailee, Ben, Erin,  
Emily, Matthew, Meghan, and Shannon**  
*by* Ann Hull

**Mr. & Mrs. John Milne** *by* Bob & Debbie Stewart

**Jennifer Munch**

*by* Larry & Ronnie Bohn and J. Christopher Clise

**Eva Belle Noble** *by* James Noble

**Debbie Stewart** *by* Linda Woolf

**Bill Warehime** *by* Pamela Maclean, Linda Warehime,  
Michael Warehime, & Sarah Warehime Lantzy

**Extended Family** *by* Don & Jon Winter

*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!*

## We're Almost There!

We only need about \$4,000 to meet our goal to raise \$20,000 to purchase a vehicle to replace our small white truck! Our plan is to buy a multi-passenger van that will provide safe transportation for people serving with the Food Distribution team throughout the year, transportation during mission teams, and will support our outreach efforts in the bateys.



If you would like to help us meet our goal, you may send a gift today using the enclosed envelope & gift form.

You may also donate at our website by clicking the link for "Vehicle Purchase."

*Thank You!*

## SAVE THE DATE!

### 9th Annual Golf Tournament

**Friday, September 24**



We need sponsors & players for this important event!

Details coming soon!

The Least of These Ministries, Inc.  
PO Box 2824, Westminster MD 21158

443-918-7105 (voice or text)

info@leastofthesemin.org

Founded by Steve and Ann Hull  
www.leastofthesemin.org

Marty Hogan, *Executive Director / Board President*, marty@leastofthesemin.org

**Board of Directors:** Rev. Bill Warehime, Jr., *Vice-President* • Ted Forman, *Treasurer*  
Jacki Stranathan, *Secretary* • Mel Arbaugh • Dale Howard • Debbie Stewart

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.