



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

August 2021

"God Keeps His Promises"

ON A WARM WEEKDAY AFTERNOON earlier this year, the Casa de Gracia Church in Batey 2 was alive with the sounds of young people singing, playing, and learning biblical truths.



The kids played games that were designed to teach the importance of working together. They also enjoyed a coloring activity, followed by delicious snacks! Gifts were given to the kids at the end of the event. Gifts included dresses donated by various groups (Pleasant Grove UMC, GFWC Woman's Club of Westminster, Princess Pillowcase Project, Let's Dress the Girls, and others), and T-shirts and other clothing donated by Stockbridge First UMC.



Wilton leads a game with the kids during Bible School in Batey 2.

The Least of These Ministries, in partnership with the church, conducted a Bible School for kids in the Batey 2 community. Esthela Santos, the Pastor of Casa de Gracia ("House of Grace"), led a bible teaching for the kids focusing on the theme of God always keeping His promises.



Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

—Proverbs 22:6

Profile: Pastor Edward, *Batey Mena Abajo*

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

A SHORT DISTANCE PAST BATEY LOS ROBLES, about two miles in from the main road, lies Batey Mena Abajo. The community is comprised of approximately 800 people, about half of whom are served by our Food Distribution program.

This is the community to which Jesus called Edward Garcia Jimenez to serve over ten years ago. It was here that he met his wife, Najaris. And it is here that he and Najaris are raising their three children: Edwin, age 12; Maseli, age 8; and Loren, age 6.

Edward, age 46, was born in Neyba. He lived in Batey 6 with his mother and father until they abandoned him at an early age. He was not able to complete his studies due to a vision problem, so he started working as a young teen—cleaning shoes, cutting sugar cane, and other jobs.

At age 15, Jesus called him to minister to people in the bateys. In a few years, he started a youth ministry which he led for several years. He took the opportunity to preach and teach people about God's saving grace whenever and wherever he was able. During this time, he worked as a messenger on a bike, carrying letters to residents in bateys.



"This is a powerful ministry that God sent to help the needs of the community."

Later, Jesus sent him to Mena Abajo to raise a church. Early in his service there, he met Najaris and they eventually married.



Pastor Edward with community residents at a food distribution.

Edward has encountered many difficulties in building the church in the community. He recalls times when they had nothing to eat, and when the situation seemed to get worse instead of better. He invited the members of the church and other community members to pray for God to send help to the community. Some ministries would come to the community to work, but it never seemed to be enough.

"After many prayers," Edward recalls, "God sent 'la librita' (The Least of These Ministries). It was a blessing for me and the community." In addition to the Food Distribution, which serves about 80 families in Mena Abajo, the Ministry has repaired houses, poured concrete floors in houses, and assisted in septic repairs. "This is a powerful ministry that God sent to help the needs of the community."

Edward and members of the church are currently working to establish a new outreach ministry in a nearby community called Tamarindo. Although his church members are materially poor, they are sharing sacrificially with residents in Tamarindo, 'tithing' a small portion of the food they receive from our distribution.

"We pray that God continues to bless The Least of These Ministries, as you are a blessing to so many others."

Please pray for Pastor Edward and his family, as he shares the message of hope in Christ to the residents of Mena Abajo, Tamarindo, and wherever else Jesus leads him.

Calling All Mission Team Members!

THINGS ARE LOOKING A BIT DIFFERENT at our Barahona warehouse these days. You may have read in our last newsletter that the transformation from 'warehouse' to 'Ministry Hub' has begun. Our long-term vision for the facility is to build a second level that will be used for mission teams and possibly even local churches and groups.

Work on the exterior took place earlier this year. The smaller of the two roll-up doors was replaced with a standard entry, which will eventually access the newly located tool room. The opening for the other roll-up door was reduced in size, which allowed us to replace the door itself with a smaller one, powered by a more reliable lift system.



A parge coating was then applied to the exterior walls, and a primer coat of paint applied to seal and protect the finished walls. The next step is to apply the finish coats of paint to the exterior. That's the project planned for our January team! So, if you enjoy painting, or just want to be a part of this transformation, sign up today!

The trip will take place January 15-22. Cost is \$700/person, which covers in-country transportation, lodging, most meals, project materials, and travel medical insurance. You'll need to cover your own airfare.

For information or to register, visit our website, or call, text, or email us. We're looking forward to you serving with us!

Equipping Christian Leaders

In our last newsletter, we reported on a program led by Wilton and Pastor Samuel Alexander to develop the Pastors and leaders of the churches in the communities we serve. One of the participants of the first round of training classes was Leandro Quezada, a 19 year-old leader in El Shaday church in Batey Isabela.

Leandro has an excellent reputation in the community, loves reading the bible, and likes helping others. He has completed high school and plans to attend the university to study mathematics. He works as a "moto concho" (motorcycle taxi).

During the leadership training, Leandro expressed an interest in the book, "Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance." He had heard the book is a useful study tool, and believes it will help him learn more about the bible.

At the recommendation of Ricardo and Wilton, our ministry was able to purchase and donate a Spanish language copy of the book to Leandro. Leandro is grateful for the gift, which he says will be available to the church, and will be used both for his personal study as well as for group bible studies.



Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Carlo Belella *by* Larry & Joyce Belella

Ernst & Maria Schirmer *by* Scott & Kitty Kurz

John Gearhart Sr. *by* The Family of Frances Conaway

Steve Hull *by* Max & Gloria Bair and an Anonymous Donor

Tom Munch *by* Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bohn

Gifts given in Honor of:

Amy Eagle & Craig Stevens *by* Ann Hull

Ann Hull *by* Charles & Nancy Ashburn and an Anonymous Donor

Mary Willis Norman *by* John & Jean Norman

Ned Landis & Nancy McKenzie *by* Roy & Louise Miller

Rosemary White *by* Bill White

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!

9th Annual

Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Friday, September 24, 2021

Visit our website for Tournament
and Sponsorship details!

PRESENTED BY



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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