



June 2022

Partners from the Start

BATEY ALGODON is located several miles outside the city of Barahona, just off the main highway that leads to Santo Domingo. Home to an estimated 150-175 families, it is one of the smaller communities served by The Least of These Ministries.

When Steve Hull began the program in 1997 to provide rice & beans to families in the bateys outside of Barahona, Batey Algodon was one of the first communities included. The church with which



Pastor Jack shares his testimony with a translator and team members during a January 2018 Mission team.

we have partnered in Algodon is led by Pastor Jack, whom Steve met during one of his early visits to the area.

Jack, now age 58, has led the church since being called to become a Pastor 38 years ago. “In the year 1984, during my work cutting sugar cane, God made a revelation to me that I should go to Batey Algodon and raise a church. At that moment I obeyed God and raised the first church in this community.” Jack recalls that the call was very challenging for him because he had little knowledge of the bible, and could neither read nor write, “but I had confidence that God had a plan for my life and this community.”

“This ministry has been helping my community for many years, distributing food, evangelizing, and now helping us grow as pastors.”

He goes on to say that he miraculously learned how to read and write: “I can say with pride that God taught me to read and write!” He thanks God that he is able to read the bible today and share the gospel message and biblical truths with many in his community. “By listening to the voice of God, today I can see the result of everything. We have more than 200 active members in our church, glory to God!”

[Continued inside]



Pastor Jack often helps to unload the truck in preparation for a food distribution at his church. He’s seen here carrying a 125-lb sack of rice.

Sharing God's Love & Hope in the Dominican Republic

SOMETHING INTERESTING that you may not know is that The Least of These Ministries conducts our ministry work in the Dominican Republic as a DR-registered non-profit organization. Wanting to operate under a name in the local language of Spanish, our leadership in the DR suggested “Ministerio Para Los Más Pobres” when the organization was registered there many years ago. The name translates to “Ministry for the poorest.”

That name certainly captures the essence of our mission in the Dominican Republic: to serve the “least of these,” the poorest of the poor. In recent years, however, we’ve come to realize the name is not very dignifying to the people we serve. Imagine being reminded week after week, when the truck rolls into the community to deliver food, that you are considered “the poorest.” In that light, our team in the Dominican Republic led by Ricardo, in conjunction with our Board of Directors, has changed the legal name under which we will operate in the DR.

In the very near future, our ministry in the DR will operate under the name of “Ministerio Cristiano Amor Y Esperanza”—in English, “Love & Hope Christian Ministry.” We believe this name conveys our mission to share the love of God through fellowship and the distribution of nutritious food in His name, and the hope of the gospel message with individuals and families in the communities we serve.

It is customary in the country for organizations and agencies to be known by an acronym. Ours will be known as “MICAÉ.”

This change will only be effective in the Dominican Republic. Our U.S. organization will continue to operate as The Least of These Ministries. Likewise, the change will not impact the focus or day-to-day service of our ministry to the many families in the 14 bateys in which our team serves. The new name will simply be more representative of the ministry we are already performing.

Please pray for the DR staff as they transition to the new name, and pray that God will use the new name as one more way to reach people in these communities with His message of hope and salvation. If you have any questions or feedback on this change, please reach out to us.



Fun
Fact!

In many of the communities we serve, our ministry is known as “La Librita.” This translates to “The Little Pound,” referring to the food provided to the families.

Vehicle Purchase Update

LATE IN 2020, we asked our supporters for help to purchase a new vehicle for our ministry work in the Dominican Republic. Our plan is to purchase a multi-passenger van that can be used to transport the staff and volunteers to food distributions, community members, pastors, and church leaders to ministry events, and mission team members to team activities. To date, we have raised \$19,225 toward our \$20,000 goal!

Soon after we made this appeal, we began the process to change the name of the ministry in the DR (see above). Wanting to avoid the added expense of transferring the vehicle to the newly-named organization, we placed the purchase on hold. We anticipated the name-change process to take about two months. Eighteen months later, the change has been approved and we are finally ready to move forward with the purchase.

We’re so grateful for how our supporters always come through to provide for the needs of the ministry, and we thank God for your generosity. Please pray that God will lead us to the perfect vehicle at a fair price, and watch for an update in the near future with photos of the new ride!

Jack is married to Soila, and together they have three grown children: Brudilio, age 44; Keila, age 38; and Cristal, age 30. "I am very grateful to God for everything he has given me."

"I can also thank God because I was present with Steve Hull when God called him to create the food program for the poorest. This ministry has been helping my community for many years, distributing food, evangelizing, and now helping us grow as pastors." Jack is one of the core group of pastors who regularly attend the training meetings provided to church leaders in the 14 communities served by the ministry.

Please pray for Pastor Jack, his ministry in Batey Algodon, and his family.



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

Sharing HOPE VISION TRIP

ARE YOU INTERESTED in seeing & experiencing our ministry in person, but haven't felt the call to serve on a traditional mission team? Would you like to learn more about our work in the DR and meet our staff and others connected to our ministry? A Sharing Hope Vision Trip may be just what you are looking for!

We are planning our first Vision Trip for October 18-22, 2022. Participants will meet with our local leadership team, learning about the important elements of our ongoing ministries and our vision for serving communities in the future. You will visit our Ministry Hub and hear about the plans for its improvements. You'll also work alongside our staff in food distributions, share in a local worship service, and maybe even have a little fun!

If this sounds like an opportunity for you, contact us at info@leastofthesemin.org or 443-918-7105 for more details.

Sharing Hope through Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Barry W. Dahl *by* Michelle Dahl

Tom Marenic *by* Sara Weitzel

Brother Wayne Gadow *by* Jim & Kim McGlaughlin

Jean Myers *by* Howard Myers

Steve Hull *by* Cynthia Stewart

JoAnn Williams *by* Dwight Williams

Gifts given in Honor of:

Dale Howard *by* Ted Strahan

Ann Hull *by* Peter & Sandy Dibbern

Ron Lytle *by* D. Lyn & Susan Dotson

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!

THE LEAST OF THESE MINISTRIES

10th Annual

Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Friday, September 23, 2022

PRESENTED BY



We Need Sponsors & Golfers!

*Details available in the enclosed
brochure and on our website*

January 2023

Mission Team!

A team is now forming for our Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic on January 7-14, 2023. The team will likely be doing work on our Ministry Hub, as well as conducting a kids' bible school and serving with the Food Distribution.

Teams are open to anyone 16 and older (13-15 with parent/guardian), and no experience or specific skills are needed!

For information and an application, visit our website, send us an email or text, or call us.

Pastor's Training Conference



Participants of the April 2022 conference.

Front row (L-R): Wilton, Director of Evangelism & Social Action;
Marineida, Batey Altagracia; Edward, Batey Mena.

Back row (L-R): Esthela, Batey 2; Maria, Batey Mena Los Block;
Wilson, Batey 7; Jack, Batey Algodon; Ramón, Batey Los Robles;
Samuel, conference instructor.

WE CONTINUE TO OFFER training opportunities to the pastors and leaders of the churches in the 14 communities where we serve. Training is led by Pastor Samuel of Barahona, who was recently certified by a local university as a teacher in Theology.

Various topics are covered to provide practical tools for the church leaders to be more effective in their ministries. The topics for April's conference were the importance of Christian education and how to be a teacher like Jesus.

Participants spent time in prayer as part of the conference.



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