



August 2022

Encouraging GOD CENTERED Marriages

WILTON GOMEZ and his wife, Deyanira, lead a family ministry at their home church, Alfarero Church in Barahona. They feel God’s call on their lives to share their knowledge and experience of living out a Godly marriage. Wilton, who serves as our Director of Evangelism and Social Action, believes that “in these times, marriages are being attacked in many different ways. It is up to us Christians to be God’s instrument to help others in their marriages.”



Wilton addresses a couple during an activity.



Deyanira leads prayer during the meeting.

Recently, the couple began an outreach in Batey Mena

Abajo aimed at encouraging married couples to live out a God-centered marriage. In the first meeting, both Wilton and Deyanira gave scripture-based teachings on marriage, followed by a time of prayer and praise. Attendees were given “homework” and will be asked to report the outcomes at the next meeting. Response to the event was positive, with some attendees expressing that the conversation was very valuable.

Wilton and Deyanira will return for one or more additional meetings at Batey Mena. Pastor Eduard, the hosting Pastor, will continue to

follow-up with the couples who are participating in the meetings. In the future, Wilton and his wife plan to take this program to churches in other communities served by The Least of These Ministries.



“Haven’t you read,” [Jesus] replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

—Matthew 19:4-6 NIV

Profile: Pastor Leonardo, Batey Santa Maria

AT ONLY 31 YEARS OLD, Leonardo is one of the youngest pastors in the area. He is the Pastor of El Eden Church in the Santa Maria community, where he and his leadership team represent our Food Distribution program.

Leonardo is a student at the public university, majoring in Physical Education. He chose this degree because he is a sports fan. His favorite sport is basketball. Leonardo and his wife, Rafaela, have two children: Yonailing, 4 years old, and Roniel, 1 year old.

“My family and the community are very grateful for the food program and the pastoral help. I know many people whose only food to eat is from the food program. This program has been a blessing for our community and we know for others, also. We will continue praying that God continues to bless the communities through this ministry.”



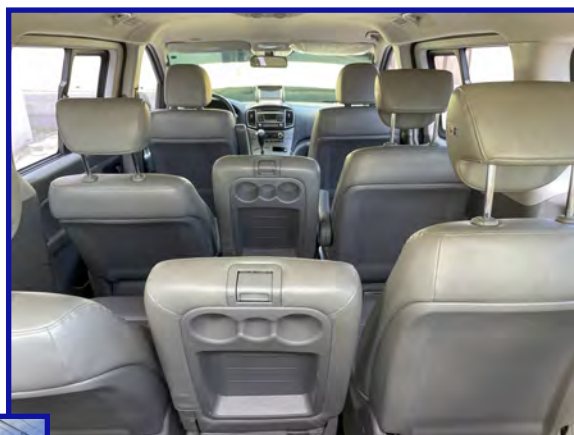
Leonardo with his family.

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

The Blessing of a New Van!

IN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER, we let you know that our new van would soon be purchased. We're happy to report that in July we were able to purchase a 2017 Hyundai Grand Starex with the funds generously provided by our supporters! The van will seat up to 10 passengers comfortably, and is in great condition. We plan to add a trailer hitch (and possibly a luggage rack) in the future, to carry mission team supplies and luggage, as well as other materials.

Thank you so much for your support, which allowed us to make this investment with no financial impact to our ongoing ministry!



**Thank
You!**

Food Distribution Program

IN EACH OF THE 14 COMMUNITIES we serve, our staff works alongside Pastors and community leaders to identify residents who are in need of supplemental food assistance. New participants are added to the program, based on their need.

Alberto and his family were recently added to the program in Batey Cuchilla. Alberto, who is 70 years old, used to plant vegetables and make and sell charcoal to support his family. Now, he no longer has the strength to do such heavy work. He says that there are two primary sources of employment in his community. First is the sugar company, which he says pays very little. He is not qualified to work there due to his age. The other employment opportunity is construction, but he has neither the experience nor the strength to do that work.

“I am very tired,” Alberto said. “Every day I get up and pray to God to help me get food for my family.”

Alberto lives with his wife, Luche, and their two grandchildren—Isaura, a 2-year old girl, and José, a 1-year old boy. He explained that their grandchildren live with them because their parents moved to another area where they could find work to help support the family.

It is through your prayers and financial support that this ministry is able to respond to the basic needs of families like Alberto's. Please continue to pray for the families who have limited resources in these communities, who have the desire to work, but are unable to because of their age or economic situations.



Alberto (L) with Isaura, Luche, & José.

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

—Proverbs 22:9 (NIV)

Sharing Hope through Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Neil Gillespie *by* Jim & Shelby Wilhelm

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Steve Hull *by* John Taylor,
an Anonymous Donor, and A Friend of Mr. & Mrs. Hull

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Anne Pritts *by* Ann Hull

George B. Reimer *by* Barbara Nye

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Gifts given in Honor of:

Pastor Greg Louque *by* Ann Hull

The Upcoming Wedding of
Ben Wolff & Missouri Lytle

by
Mountain Rest Baptist Church,
Charles & Kay Moxley,
Robin Moxley, and Angela Sullivan

Ron Lytle

by
Lyn & Susan Dotson and Dave Fogarty

Rev. Matthew Sichel *by* Ann Hull

VYN 2018 Mission Trip Team
by Mia Lynn

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 Having a Visitor!

OUR MANAGER, RICARDO, will be visiting the U.S. in late September!

Ricardo will be on hand for this year's Golf Tournament, ready to meet and visit with golfers and sponsors at the event. He will also be making appearances at a church or two during his visit, and will be spending some time with the Board of Directors to provide updates and have planning discussions.

We'd like to extend a special invitation to our supporters who live in or near the Carroll County, Maryland area to come and visit with Ricardo at the Westminster FallFest on September 24-25! The Ministry will have a booth at the park, and Ricardo will be with us throughout the event. We'll be at FallFest from 10:00 AM–6:00 PM on Saturday and Noon–6:00 PM on Sunday. We hope to see many of you that weekend!

Visit www.westminsterfallfest.com for information on the event.

Join us this October for an opportunity to see & experience the work being done in the Dominican Republic!

- ◆ Meet our DR staff, and work alongside them in the Food Distribution.
- ◆ Meet and visit with Pastors and families in the communities we serve.
- ◆ Learn the history of this ministry and our vision for the future.

Details and Registration available on our website!

Sharing HOPE VISION TRIP

October 18-22, 2022

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.

10th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Friday, September 23, 2022

PRESENTED BY



Sponsorships Still Available!

Golfer Registration open through September 13!

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*
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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.