



THE LEAST OF THESE MINISTRIES

MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

February 2023

"Blessed to Provide Food for My Family"

FATIMA IS ONE OF THE MANY WIDOWS in our Food Distribution program. She is 80 years old and lives with her son, goddaughter, and grandchildren in the community of Batey 9.

During a recent visit from our ministry team, Fatima recalled the day she was welcomed in to the program:

"I live with my son, his wife, and my grandchildren. My son is the only one who works. He works in construction, but he only works when there is some construction, almost never. One afternoon I felt helpless, because despite my age I want to provide for my family. One day in my prayer I told God my needs, I told God that we don't have enough to eat. After the prayer I felt that something spoke to my heart and he told me go to the distribution and today they will give you your ticket. Well, I wasted no time and went. There I found Ricardo; I approached him and greeted him. He answered me: 'God bless you, mom. How can we help you?' I expressed my needs, he called Pastor Alexandra, and that same day I went out with my ticket and was blessed to provide food for my family! That's why I say, God is faithful, we just have to believe him."



Fatima said, "Every time I hear the truck arrive I feel happy, to be able to receive the food and listen to the preaching of Pastor Ramón. Even though we are poor, we are blessed by that. In our community we feel a silence, a lack of sharing; but when the ministry staff arrives with food, the whole community jumps with joy, they run to look for their tickets and bowls to receive their food, it is a blessing."



Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

—James 1:27 NIV

The Least of These Ministries operates a year-round Food Distribution program in the southwest region of the Dominican Republic. Uncooked rice, beans, and eggs are provided each week to residents of 14 communities outside of Barahona. Food is provided through a local church in each community. Recipients include young families, single mothers and their children, elderly couples, widows, and widowers. God makes this important work possible through the generous gifts of individuals, churches, and businesses.

January Mission Team

LAST MONTH, OUR STAFF IN BARAHONA hosted a mission team of 11 members. The team, with members from Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, was our largest since Covid-19 invaded our lives. We were excited to welcome three first-time team members on this trip!

In addition to serving with the Food Distribution each day, the team focused on three main work projects: 1) Waterproofing sealer was applied to the new concrete roof on Pastor Ramón's family's apartment in Los Robles; 2) Exterior lighting was installed at our Ministry Hub; and 3) A concrete walkway was installed around the perimeter of the Ministry Hub.

The team also participated in children's outreach activities in two communities. In Algodón, kids played games while boys received haircuts from local barbers, and girls were pampered by volunteers with a shampoo. In Los Robles, kids filled the church to sing, play games, and hear a bible story led by a member of the team. At the end of each of the activities, kids were treated to delicious ice cream!



Visit our website for more photos!
leastofthesemin.org

Encouraging GOD CENTERED Marriages

A **SECOND MARRIAGE CONFERENCE** was recently held in the community of Mena Abajo. The conference was again led by Wilton Gomez, our Director of Evangelism and Social Action, and his wife, Deyanira. The first conference (featured in our August 2022 newsletter) was attended primarily by women. At the end of that first meeting, Wilton & Deyanira challenged the women to put into practice the things they learned during the meeting.

Wilton believes it is nothing short of a miracle that many husbands attended this second meeting. He said that the men reported that they "...felt the presence of God working in their life and marriage" after their wives attended the first meeting! Wilton and Deyanira prayed for each of the couples present.

Pastor Eduar and his church leaders will continue the conferences and Wilton & Deyanira will start similar conferences in other communities served by the ministry.



Wilton prays for a couple during the recent Marriage Conference in Mena Abajo.

Celebrating Our Staff & Ministry Partners



OUR BARAHONA MINISTRY STAFF gathered in December to celebrate Christmas with their family members and Pastors and leaders from communities served by The Least of These Ministries. A delicious traditional Christmas meal was served, and Ricardo shared a presentation acknowledging the hard work and devotion of each employee and ministry partner. Each was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the ministry.

We have relationships with Pastors and leaders in each of the 14 communities we serve, and these ministry partners are such an important part of the work God is doing. And our small staff is a team of dedicated men with true hearts for God and the people they are serving. Please pray for each of them and their families!

THANK YOU!

With your generous support, we were able to achieve the \$4,000 Giving Tuesday matching gift pledged by a friend of the ministry. A total of \$4,333 was given, making the grand total \$8,333 with the matching funds provided!

Those funds will provide over 66,000 nutritious meals of rice, beans, and eggs!



(L-R) Pastor Ramón, Ariel (his daughter, Arielis, in foreground), Olivia & Maria (Leaders in Mena Los Block), Dao, Miguel, Ricardo, Wilton.

More photos from the celebration are on our website!



The Least of These Ministries *(almost)* Annual Banquet

Make plans now to join us on Sunday afternoon, April 16, 2023,
for a celebration of 25 years of ministry in the Dominican Republic!

More details and registration are coming later this month!

Sharing Hope through Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Chuck Chaney *by* Deborah Chaney

Barry W. Dahl *by* William Dahl
and Chet & Pam Phillips

Elisabeth Elliot *by* Lars Gren

Susan Fancher *by* George & Kaye Jones

Mary "Lynn" Fell
by Denise Lewis, Brook-Owen Real Estate

Wayne Gadow *by* Jim & Kim McGlaughlin

Steve Hull *by* Richard & Candy Cole, Irene Harris,
Carolene Will, Bradford Yates, Jason & Donna Myers,
Dianne & Bob Drupp, and Art & Joyce Smith

Peck Kehler *by* Meg Kehler

Bill & Mildred Leppert *by* Sue Leppert

Tom Marenic *by* Linda Marenic

Thomas Munch *by* Jennifer Munch
and Larry & Ronnie Bohn

Jean Myers *by* Howard Myers
and Robert Brenneman

Robert Sprinkle *by* Robert & Susan Yingling

Murray Edward Valentine *by* Wanda & Dale Valentine

Gifts given in Honor of:

Marty Hogan *by* Dianne & Bob Drupp

Doyle Hostetter *by* Kurt Miller

Ann Hull *by* Lynda Lockard, Peter & Sandra Dibbern,
David & Debbie Sawtelle, and an anonymous donor

Regina Leppo's 90th Birthday *by* Jason & Donna Myers

Etla Simmons *by* Idalia Craig

Cameron White *by* Bill White

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!



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