



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40



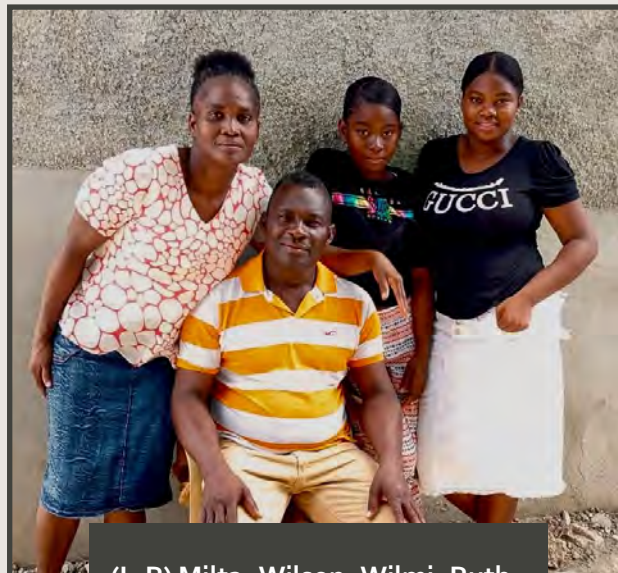
*Merry
Christmas!*

December 2023

Sharing the Light

AN IMPORTANT ASPECT of the Food Distribution Program is the relationships that are built with community members and church leaders. It is through these relationships that we learn of needs in the communities, and have the blessing of both receiving and giving encouragement.

We'd like to introduce you to Milta, one of the church leaders at Casa de Gracia Iglesia Cristiana in Batey 2. As a leader at the church, she has served at the Food Distributions there for more than three years. Milta helps our Dominican staff organize and conduct the distributions so that the entire process is orderly, enabling people to hear God's word preached and receive their food.



(L-R) Milta, Wilson, Wilmi, Ruth

Milta and her husband, Wilson, have been married for 27 years, and have lived their entire lives in Batey 2. Milta and Wilson have four children: Wendy, 26; Ladin, 24; Ruth, 15; and Wilmi, 13. Only Ruth and Wilmi are living at home with them now.

During a recent visit, Milta shared with Ricardo, Pastor Ramón, and Wilton how she came to know Jesus. "It was not easy," Milta told them. "My mind was very far from having a relationship with Jesus. My husband and Pastor Estela always visited me and preached to me and told me you need to have a relationship with Jesus. My answer was always 'not now.' Days, months, and years passed and my response was always 'not now!'"

But one day, my son—he was about 7 years old at the time—went to the church's Bible school and came home very sad. I asked him, 'what's wrong?' He told me, 'Today I received God in my heart and they taught us that the only way to go to heaven is Jesus, so that means that you will not be in heaven with me, because you have not received Jesus in your heart.' In that moment, I collapsed in tears. I felt that God spoke to me through my son. I knelt down, sent for Pastor Estela and told her God spoke strongly to my heart, and I want to receive Jesus in my life. From that day in 2006, until now I serve the Lord."

Milta continued, "If someone asks if being a Christian has been easy, I would say no, but without God right now I would be crazy or dead. God knew that so many difficulties would come to my life and that is why it was necessary for me to have a relationship with him." Milta ended her testimony with the story of her father committing suicide. "When they took him to the hospital, God gave me so much strength that the only thing I could say to him in the time he had left to live was, 'you need to ask for forgiveness, Dad.' He told me 'yes,' I prayed with him and within an hour he died. He left us pain and a bad memory, but Jesus gave us strength as a family to this day and always."

*For you were once darkness, but
now you are light in the Lord.
Walk as children of light.*

—Ephesians 5:8 (CSB)

Will you help us share hope this Christmas season?

In everything we do, our primary goal is to share the hope of Jesus Christ with our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic. We do this through our weekly Food Distribution to families in 14 communities, adult & youth outreaches, and Pastor training.

We rely on your generosity to make all these things possible!

The Least of These Ministries Annual Banquet

Make plans to join us on Sunday afternoon,
May 19, 2024, for a celebration of the ministry
taking place in the Dominican Republic!

More details and registration are coming soon!

SAVE
THE
DATE

Sharing Hope through Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Sarah Bursey *by* The Wood Family

Steve Hull *by* Bradford & Jean Yates

Gifts given in Honor of:

Arlene, Ann, Alice, Amy, Adam, & Abigail—The Six A's *by* Ann Hull

The Suncrest Fellowship Group: Betty, Bertha, Gerry, Florita, Janet *by* Joyce Bower

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!



For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will
be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)



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