



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

March 2024



Wilton leads a time of prayer during a recent visit to the Barahona jail.

"I was in prison and you visited me"

IN DOWNTOWN BARAHONA, the National Police of the Dominican Republic operates a jail. Like jails in most cities, the facility houses individuals who have been charged with crimes and are awaiting their trial, and those who have been convicted of a crime, awaiting their sentence or transfer to a prison.

Last December, Ricardo, our Manager in the DR, responded to a longtime call from God to visit the jail. Ricardo

coordinated the visit with officials at the jail, who were very welcoming. Wilton, our Director of Evangelism and Social Action, and Pastor Ramón joined Ricardo for the visit. A musician from Wilton's church also participated.

Our team visited the residents in one of two sections of the jail, as directed by officials. During their visit, Wilton & Pastor Ramón shared messages, led a time of praise & worship, and offered prayer for the men.

"Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them...."

-Hebrews 13:3a (CSB)

Very little is provided to men who are incarcerated, and they must provide their own personal hygiene goods as well as cleaning supplies. As part of the visit, Ricardo and the team brought soaps and other personal goods, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies for the men. The men were very appreciative of the visit and gifts, and eagerly participated in the teaching & worship program.

Barahona is the closest city to most of the batey communities served by our ministry, so any men arrested in these communities would likely be brought to the Barahona jail.

The visit took an emotional turn for Pastor Ramón when he saw two young men from his community of Los Robles. He had not seen the young men in the community for some time. When he asked the boys' mother about them, she told him they moved to another city for work. He spoke with the young men during the visit, telling them he has missed them, and will visit them now that he knows they are in the jail. Ramón also plans to follow up with the young men's family to offer any support they may need.

We anticipate future visits to the jail, taking the opportunity to share the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ with those who are eager to receive it!



Pastor Ramón (L) and Wilton (C) lead worship with volunteer during visit.

January Mission Team!



More pics and video at leastofthesemin.org



January Team Begins Next Phase of Ministry Hub Improvements

A TEAM OF 14 FROM MARYLAND AND PENNSYLVANIA visited Barahona from January 13-20, ready to serve wherever and however needed.

The team's primary service project was to begin work on the next phase of improvements to our Ministry Hub. The plan for this phase of the project is to construct a large multi-purpose room on one side of the existing structure. This room will serve as a meeting room for conferences and, eventually, a dining area for mission teams. Working with an engineer and a local construction crew, the team aided in the construction of a concrete block wall that runs from the front of the building to what is currently the tool room.

Team members also led bible school activities in two communities and at the mission house in Casandra. Each day, a group of team members accompanied our staff on the food distribution for that day. As part of the food distribution, team members visited residents of each of the communities.

It was exciting to host eight first-time team members in this group, several of whom are already talking about the next trip!

The Least of These Ministries *Annual Banquet*

Make plans to join us on Sunday afternoon, 4-7 PM,
May 19, 2024, for a celebration of the ministry
taking place in the Dominican Republic!

Watch your mailbox for an invitation
with all the details!!

SAVE
THE
DATE

New Pallet Racks for the Ministry Hub!

LAST NOVEMBER'S GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN sought to raise funds to purchase commercial-grade pallet racks for our Ministry Hub in Barahona. The primary intent of the racks is to more efficiently use the vertical space available in the building to store food for distribution, freeing up floor space for planned modifications. A secondary benefit is the ability to more effectively prevent insects and rodents from accessing the food.

Our goal was to raise \$3,500, which would purchase two sets of racks, with a total capacity of 64 pallets (one shipping container of Manna Pack food contains 35 pallets). Several generous supporters responded, donating a total of over \$3,600!

The first set of racks was purchased and installed in late December, just in time to make room for the work to be accomplished during the January mission team. The second set will be installed in the future, once the construction work on the new wall (that is now in process) is completed.



We are so grateful for the generosity of our supporters that made this improvement possible!

Sharing Hope through Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Betty June Boyle *by* Steven & Audrey Boyle

Joseph Cimino *by* Audrey Cimino

Barry Dahl *by* Pamela & Chester Phillips

Tom Hepler *by* Sally Stair

Steve Hull *by* Jason & Donna Myers,
Sarah & Grover Nevells, David & Debbie Sawtelle,
and Art & Joyce Smith

Arthur Kirk Jenne, Sr. *by* Ann Hull

Jack Lyburn *by* Pat Lyburn

Ian MacLean-Blevins *by* Mark & Kim MacLean-Blevins

Thomas L. Munch *by* Jennifer Munch
and Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bohn

Howard Myers *by* Tom & Pam Brenneman
and Carol Hardy

Paul M. O'Neal *by* Judy O'Neal

Eta Simmons *by* Idalia Craig & Family

Gene Will *by* Carolene Will

Sophia Wivell *by* Neil & Trudy Price

Gifts given in Honor of:

Mel & Carol Arbaugh *by* Curtis Arbaugh

David & Conni Highfield
by Lisa & Jeffrey Highfield and Mark & Rebecca Highfield

Steve & Carol Lengkeek *by* Anita Hill

Doyle Hostetter *by* Kurt Miller

Ann Hull *by* Pete & Sandy Dibbern

The Jacobson Family *by* Paul & Kathy Jenkins

The Least of These Ministries Volunteers
by Myla & Jack Bowman

The McDonnell Family *by* Mark & Roxanne Wood

Warren Miller *by* Steve & Holly Miller

The January 2024 Mission Team
by Beth Stitely

Carolene Will
by Max & Gloria Bair and Michelle Dahl

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!



Save the Date!

12th Annual Golf Tournament Friday, September 27, 2024

thrivent

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