



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

September 2024

Sharing Hope AND FUN!

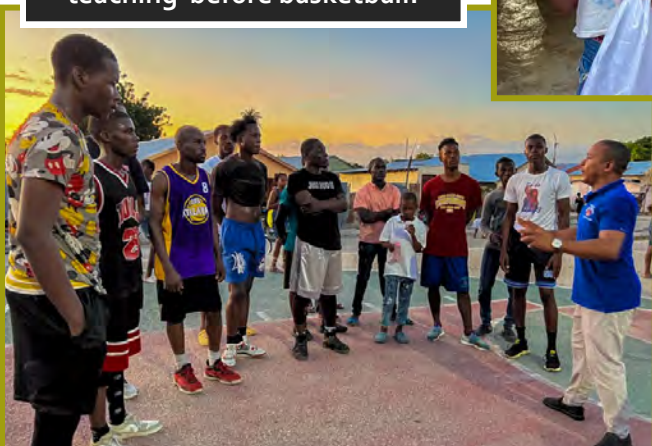
ANYONE WHO HAS WORKED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE knows the importance of incorporating fun into activities in order to hold the kids' attention. Wilton, our Director of Evangelism & Social Action, knows this quite well—he has two young adult sons and has a lot of experience leading youth activities.

He had an opportunity to put that experience to work at a recent outreach in Batey Santa Maria. Wilton and Ricardo led separate activities for younger kids and older teenagers. The activities were intended to help the young people realize the importance of reading the bible and gain a level of comfort in studying God's word.

The younger kids were led in an activity to get them into the bible and then participated in a 'Bible Tournament,' where they could win small prizes for successfully looking up answers to questions.

Wilton and Ricardo led a bible study with the teenagers, followed by a discussion of the value of working together on common issues.

Wilton discusses the Bible
teaching before basketball.



This theme was put into practice when the teens played basketball after the teaching time!

Pastor Leonardo and several volunteers from the church were on hand to help with and participate in the activity.

We want these kids—who are growing up in what seems like a hopeless environment—to know that Jesus offers them hope in their present situation and the hope of eternal life.

Please pray for the young people in the Dominican Republic as many of them begin their school year!

Wilton with the younger kids
after their activity.



Ministry Holds Second Prison Outreach

NEYBA, THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE BAORUCO PROVINCE, is located about 14 miles northwest of Batey 2. That puts the city at well over an hour drive from our Ministry Hub in the city of Barahona. Neyba is located close to Lake Enriquillo, which is the largest lake in the Caribbean, according to Wikipedia.

In June, Pastor Ramón and Wilton visited the municipal jail in Neyba with several volunteers. Ramón and Wilton planned the visit in coordination with Pastors in Neyba who minister at the jail. These Pastors participated in the event, and each was invited to join in our Pastor Training Program as future classes are held. They were very receptive to the invitation!

Wilton and Ramón both gave bible teachings to the group of men and led them in a time of worship and prayer. The men were prayed for and encouraged to attend church services offered in the jail. The ministry team also spent some time playing basketball with the men, taking time to get to know a little about each one.



The ministry van is loaded with donations for the inmates.

Wilton & Ramón with the men after playing basketball.



The visitors brought with them gift bags for each resident of the jail. The bags were packed by volunteers at Pastor Ramón's church in Batey Los Robles, and contained personal hygiene items such as soap, a toothbrush, and toothpaste. Each man also received a copy of the New Testament. The Neyba Pastors who helped to set up the visit each received a new study bible. The gifts were made possible through a generous donation from one of our supporters.

With its close proximity to many of the communities we serve, men who are arrested in these communities would likely be held at the Neyba jail. It is our desire that all the incarcerated men at the jail, regardless of their home community, would hear about and see the hope that Jesus offers, and would come to know Him as their Savior!

Wilton prays for one of the men.



Ramón with several of the men.



Ramón with two of the Neyba Pastors.



Will You Help Us Share Hope through Safe Housing?

OUR MINISTRY HAS RECEIVED two specific requests for help related to housing in recent months. While housing is not a primary outreach for us, we always prayerfully consider requests from those in need.

The first request came from Pastor Leonardo in Santa Maria. Rubelania, a single mother of four, needs a safe, dry home for her family. Currently, only her 7 year-old son lives with her due to her financial and housing situation. The home she currently rents has a very leaky roof, and is generally not a very safe structure.



Rubelania's current home.

Rubelania told Ricardo, "I cry when I have to wake up at 1 AM, 2 AM, at any time when the heavy rain starts. It hurts me when my son asks me, 'Mommy, when are we going to have a house that doesn't get wet when it rains?' I just tell him, 'my son, God, one day will give us a house; let's have faith.'" She continued, "The food program has helped us with food, and in the preaching during the distribution they help me to trust God every day and know that He is the one who provides."

Leonardo and the church have made land available and constructed a frame for a new home for Rubelania and her family, but they lack the resources to complete it. Leonardo asked Ricardo if the ministry would consider helping with the project. In response, we will be

sending a mission team in October to build the home for Rubelania and her family!

We still need team members and financial gifts to make this happen.

If you have the ability to join us for this work, please sign up today! (See back page for information). If not, will you consider sending a gift to help cover the construction costs? This will be a very basic home, similar to other homes in the community.



Rubelania and her son.

The second request is from a member of Ricardo's church on the mountain. Many past team members may have met Sonia and her family while attending service at the church. Sonia's home was built many years ago by another organization. In recent years, parts of the ceiling started cracking and falling off. More recently, large chunks of the concrete roof started falling in (it was determined that insufficient re-bar was used in the construction, and the concrete may not have been mixed properly).

Sonia and her husband want to replace that concrete roof with a corrugated metal roof. Although the metal roof is significantly less costly than a new concrete roof, they still lack sufficient resources to complete the project, and have asked if the ministry can

help. We want to help them as we feel that we are members of their church family. That church community has welcomed our teams and served them for many years!

Sonia (blue cap) with her daughter & grandchildren.



Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

—Romans 12:12-13 (CSB)



Will you help us raise the \$1,500 needed to complete this project?

If you can help financially with either of these needs, please direct your gift to "Housing Projects" on the enclosed form, or when donating online. Thank you for helping us share hope with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

REGISTER NOW!

Scan this code with your phone's camera to access information & registration on our website!



Sharing
HOPE

VISION TRIP

October 15-19, 2024

See & Experience Our Ministry Work In-Person on a Sharing Hope Vision Trip!

\$450
plus airfare

- ◆ Learn more about our work in the Dominican Republic
- ◆ Meet our local leadership & staff
- ◆ Visit our Ministry Hub & Attend Food Distributions
- ◆ Meet Pastors and families in communities we serve

SPECIAL

Fall Mission Team
October 19-26, 2024

We've been asked to help a family that needs a home in one of the bateys. The family is currently being assisted by the local church and church members, but help is needed for a long-term housing solution. This will be the service project for the special Fall Team.

Mission Team
January 11-18, 2025

The focus of this team will likely be finishing work on the ground floor of the Ministry Hub.

Both Mission Teams will also include opportunities to serve with the daily food distribution ministry, children's activities, and evangelistic outreach!
Mission Team participation is \$725 *plus airfare*.

Register online at leastofthesemin.org or call 443-918-7105!

Sharing Hope through Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Catherine Black *by* Kim Peake

Thomas Hepler *by* John T. Taylor

Steve Hull *by* Art & Joyce Smith
and Bradford Yates

Gifts given in Honor of:

Mel & Carol Arbaugh *by* The Kalbacher Family

Ron Lytle *by* D. Lyn & Susan Dotson

Jacki Stranathan *by* Lynda Lockard
and Lexi & David Schafer

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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