



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

November 2024



Home for the Holidays

OUR OCTOBER MISSION TEAM was blessed to be a part of a life-changing gift for a family in the community of Santa Maria.

We reported in our September newsletter of a recent request to help provide a safe & dry home for a mother and her children who were being displaced from their current home—one which was in a severe state of disrepair. The October mission team, a group of three from Maryland, along with several supporters who provided financial backing for the project, helped to fulfill that request.

A local team of builders, led by Francisco, a Pastor in Cuchilla, built the home in about ten days. Mission team members provided support to the construction crew by taking care of tasks such as painting the metal roof panels.

*"Don't worry about anything, but in everything,
through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

Philippians 4:6 (CSB)

The property for the new house was donated by the local church, which also helped with coordination efforts for the project. Much of the local coordination was led by Angela, a leader of the church and in the community.

The new homeowner, Rubelania, was on the work site every day, and recounted to us how she would often have to use a bucket to move water out of her house during overnight rainstorms. She shared with the team that she has prayed for the last three years that God would provide a dry home for her family! Rubelania is excited to now live in a home where all her family's belongings will not get soaked every time it rains.

Rubelania only had room for her youngest child, a 7 year-old son, in her old house. The new home has enough space for her two older children, as well.

We thank God for how He met this need through the gifts and talents of His children. Please join us in continuing to pray for Rubelania and her family as they enjoy their new home!



Rubelania's previous home.

Visit our website for more photos from the Mission Team!
leastofthesemin.org

A JOYOUS TIME OF YEAR!

It is already November, can you believe it? We are heading into the Joy holidays—Thanksgiving and Christmas. On Thanksgiving we give thanks for all that God provides for us. And on Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior who taught us about Love and Hope.

I just returned from an incredible Team experience in the Dominican Republic. A small but mighty team, along with some very gifted local folk, built a home in ten days. We also went on the food distribution. During our time in Barahona, we deepened our relationships with the staff and families of our Dominican organization, MICAIE (Ministerio Cristiano Amor y Esperanza; in English, ‘Christian Ministry of Love & Hope’).

This trip was my last visit before moving to Barahona in January for my one-year mission to serve with The Least of These Ministries. I was able to practice my Spanish while serving on the team, and I found an apartment to be my home next year which is perfect. I do thank Ricardo and Aida (the Construction Engineer with whom we are working on the Ministry Hub project) for thinking of me and finding a place near the Ministry Hub. As I looked around the apartment, Ricardo could tell I was moved, and he said, “We will give you a minute, Jacki.”

As I look down the list of those who have donated and sponsored my calling, I give thanks to God for each of you. I ask you to continue to pray as I and my family head into this new adventure. There is a place on the enclosed donation form if you wish to support my Missionary experience. Again so grateful for all the support for myself and our organizations.

These two pictures taken during my 10-day visit show Joy.

This was taken on the front porch of the home that was built. Rubelania and family will be safe and dry. The fellow in yellow is her son. Can you see his Joy? Rubelania and her three children are pictured with (L-R): Angela, Community Leader; Wilton, TLOTM Director of Evangelism; Jacki, TLOTM Board Member; Destiny, Mission Team Member; Marty, TLOTM Executive Director; and Ricardo, local ministry team Manager.



I wish you a Joy filled season. I always say JOY is Jesus, Others, and Yourself.

God Bless!

—Jacki

Jacki Stranathan is a member of the Board of Directors of The Least of These Ministries. She will be serving as a Missionary with the organization for one year, beginning in January, 2025. Watch our newsletters and Facebook page for updates from Jacki on her ministry in the Dominican Republic.

MANY OF US HAVE THAT ONE SPECIAL PERSON in our life who is our encourager, cheerleader, supporter, a shoulder to cry on, and someone to challenge us to always be better. It may be our spouse, a close friend, child, parent, or sibling. For Pastor Eduar in the community of Mena Abajo, that person is Najairi, his wife.

Eduar is one of the sponsored pastors in our Pastor Sponsorship Program. This outreach was established to help local pastors and their churches have the ability to focus on evangelism and discipleship in their communities. Four pastors and churches are currently supported through the program.

Najairi is very supportive of Eduar and his ministry, encouraging him and helping with the church's services and activities. She has been very helpful when our ministry has led bible school activities at the church. Najairi is also a very gracious host, often offering fresh coffee or a meal to visitors.



The sponsorship has made it possible for Najairi to return to the university to finish her studies over the last couple of years. Earlier this year, she graduated from the public university in Barahona with a degree in Elementary Education. She hopes to soon take a teaching position in the school in her community or one in a nearby community.

Our vision for the program was to have a direct, positive impact on members of the community through a more dedicated focus on evangelism and discipleship. This is one way the program will have an indirect impact on the community, as Najairi will be a positive role model for many young students.

We offer our congratulations to both Najairi and Eduar, and pray for their vocations of influencing men, women, and children of their community for Jesus!

Sharing Hope through Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Fran Crispin *by* Pam & Chet Phillips

Steve Hull *by* Kristen Vandervalk

Brian Lockard *by* Lynda Lockard

Devin Spence *by* Mark & Roxanne Wood

Gifts given in Honor of:

Jim & Michelle Boesler

by Scott & Diana Deitch, Joan Puckett, and Barry Wilson

Debbie Stewart *by* Cindy Fuqua

Ann Hull *by* Peter & Sandy Dibbern and Kristen Vandervalk

Suncrest UMC Thanksgiving Work Team

by Lyn & Susan Dotson

Alice Phelps *by* Robert & Traci Goodfellow

Alice Philp; Beth, Peter, Matthew Gasparovich

by Ann Hull

Linda Wood *by* Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling

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!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MISSION TRIP

January 11-18, 2025

REGISTER NOW!

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



We need your help for the continued work in the Barahona Ministry Hub! Our plan is for the January team to assist with the build-out of the rooms on the ground floor of the Ministry Hub (contingent upon completion of preliminary work by year-end).

Mission Team members will also have opportunities to serve with the daily food distribution ministry,
participate in children's activities, and engage in evangelistic outreach!

Mission Team participation is \$725 *plus* airfare.

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



As you plan your year-end charitable giving, please consider the following needs:

Food Distribution Program

Need in the communities where we serve is still great. Our ministry team regularly receives requests to add residents to the program. Even amid rising and volatile food costs, we continue to provide about eight nutritious meals for only one dollar! Help us to ensure this important outreach continues without interruption.

Barahona Ministry Hub

We continue to make progress on the upgrades to the Ministry Hub that will eventually enable us to host mission teams at the facility. Construction costs to date have been covered by a combination of mission teams and funds previously raised. As we progress, funds will be needed for the next phases, including outfitting the kitchen and the second-level build-out.

Please indicate on the enclosed form how you would like your gift directed. We thank God for your generosity!

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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