



“Never lose sight of the mission. The main reason and goal is and will always be to make disciples for the kingdom”

Wilkyns Chal

I found that quote of Wilkyns in one of his many messages on Facebook. If you know Wilkyns, you know that is not just a pithy statement, but the foundational core of who he is and what drives him every day to do what he does. It is such a good reminder to us all—to never lose sight of the mission! Not during COVID... not during hurricanes... not during droughts... not during (you fill in the blank), etc... Jesus commanded us in Matthew 28 to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Never lose sight of the mission that Jesus has set before us!

We are so blessed to be able to partner with this ministry! Some of us have been lucky enough to visit the Batey and play baseball, to sit down and play a game of Dominos with Wilkyns, to worship in church together, and to ride in the back of the pickup filthy after a long day and know that you have never been cleaner. Trust me when I say this... It is worth the trip! This year has been a challenging one for sure and we have missed having the opportunity to visit Wilkyns and the kids, but just because we couldn't go, does not mean that the ministry stood still. Absolutely not! In fact, exciting things have been happening and once again you get to be part of it.

Alexandra (top picture) is one of the teachers at the school. She visited the Dominican Republic a few times with groups before deferring enrollment to college and moving to the DR to teach English. During the COVID modified schedule, she taught 5th & 6th grades twice a week, and all the other grades once a week. Right now, all of the children are working on words about their “morning routines”. The littlest kids love to say, “I brush my teeth”. They play lots of games with the “English ball” for vocabulary reinforcement. They sing a “Good Morning” song and most of the kids know “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”. While learning English, Alex shared that there is lots of laughter and they have loads of fun!

There are 193 students enrolled in school! That's amazing! But that also means the needs are ever growing... There are still 78 students that are not sponsored. We lost sponsors this year due to the long reaching effects that COVID had on people's finances. Wilkyns does not turn the students away, but instead stretches the other donations even further. If my math skills are correct that means that only 60% is covering 100%! That's a lot of stretching!!! Not only does the school give them an education, but the children receive a meal. I know with our fast food places on every corner it is hard to imagine how precious that one meal is every day, but in most cases it is essential to their survival.





“So thankful that the Lord uses my life to make a difference in lives of the children, teens, and young people I work with” Wilkyns Chal

Even with all of the set backs this year, building progress has still continued on. The floors are expected to be laid this week. There is some painting that needs to be completed, but the 5th and 6th grades are currently using two of the new classrooms! It is so cool to know that many of us had a hand in making that happen. It will be good to go back and see it all put together—God’s blessings just continue to pour out!

In our last newsletter, we announced the Victory Scholarship. The Victory Scholarship seeks to aid young women in their valiant pursuit of a different life through a college education. As of this date, four young women’s college education has been fully sponsored through the Victory Scholarship. If you would like to donate, you may do so through Children of Hope’s donations page. Just click on “Victory Scholarship” in the drop down box after the dollar amount. Each semester costs \$120, or you may donate \$960 to supply a full scholarship.

Recently, Wilkyns shared that there was a real need to purchase a “new” vehicle. The truck that they had been using was in constant need of repairs and it was getting costly keeping it going. Many of us have had the blessing of riding through the streets of the Batey in the back of that old pickup, but it has served it’s purpose. It became apparent that there was a real need for a new one. His wish was a 12 passenger van! The US cost would be about \$14,000 - \$16,000 and at first it seemed like it was a huge wish and it is! **BUT OUR GOD IS BIGGER!!!** Children of Hope has already received about \$9,500 towards the purchase of a new vehicle. It’s crazy the generosity of your hearts! If you also want to help donate for the “new” wheels, please select “new vehicle” in the drop down box on the donations page of Children of Hope.

As you can see from what you have read, there is A LOT going on and that is due in a huge part to you. God did not design all of us to be missionaries, but he did design us to have a role in his plan. His plan from the very beginning has been to be in relationship with us and that is why Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples—so that everyone could know him! Know of his love—know of his forgiveness—know of redemption. Know him. In this ministry, you have a huge part to play. You are part of the family that surrounds this ministry in prayer and in support. Maybe you are one of the tireless volunteers at Mt. Vernon church that serves this ministry so well. Maybe you spearhead the mission trips to the Batey. Maybe you attend the mission trips. Maybe you financially support the children, the ministry faithfully. Maybe you haven’t figured out your role yet, but you are always willing. Whatever it is—you are needed—so don’t lose sight—that we are in this to make disciples and Batey Central is our mission field!

We have celebrated Easter—the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! He came to set us free, because he loves us. He came to set everyone free, because he loves—Because HE Loves!!!! This gift is to be shared, so share His love—share His blessings—lavishly and abundantly— and above all— please keep Wilkyns, the school, the church, the children and their families in your prayers!

To Donate or To Become More Involved:

Find us on Facebook! : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cohmtvchurch>. Tammie Chrisman Harakas keeps us in touch with candid photos and brief updates.

Link to Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-3391159>.

Have questions about sponsorships? Contact Sandy Robinson at : childrenofhope.dr@gmail.com

Link to website and to donate: sponsorchildrenofhope.com

To donate: Log on to the website. Click on [donate](#) through the drop down box. It will automatically link to the Easy Tithe App. Follow the instructions and you are now helping a child overcome the obstacles in their lives!

Thank you for your continued support of these vulnerable children—

You are Amazing!!