

Beth-El

Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



Do you have a basketball court?

Mind you, I have had a number of questions about the work we do at Beth-El over the years, but this was a first. For most coming to our mission one might miss the two basketball hoops on the outer edge of our parking lot, but for this woman it marked the end of a long awaited quest.



Our visitor was one of over 300 delegates from the Cumberland General Assembly who visited us during their recent gathering in Palm Harbor. Commissioners from as far away as Japan came to learn more about our mission and the work of the farmworkers we serve. Numerous questions arose about the work we do, but this one query stood out.

“Yes,” I said, pointing to the eastern side of our parking lot, “it is right over there.” The woman seemed absolutely jubilant. “Wonderful! I can finally go back home and say I have seen it!” As it turns out, it had been members from her church who had traveled to our mission many years ago to pour the concrete for that basketball court. That inconspicuous piece of concrete and netting linked her to the stories she had heard about our farmworking community and the mission work we do here.



During the month of June dozens of mission teams traveled to Beth-El. Some came to learn more about our mission, while others invested many hours of “sweat equity” to help us better serve our community. One big endeavor we are currently working on is the transformation of several portable classrooms into a health and wellness center.

Through a partnership with Catholic Charities, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry will open a free dental clinic for income qualified adults later this year. This will be the first, and much needed, dental clinic to serve the needs of our community, and collaboration is key.

Over and over again, we at the mission are reminded that we are part of a community much larger than Wimauma—we are part of the body of Christ--all gathered together for the shared purpose of embodying the Gospel. For over 40 years, we have gathered in faith to support migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Through faith, we will continue on for many years to come.

The young people who helped paint our portables in bright shades of blue, green and lavender, may not have thought much about the longevity of their work while sweating in the sun, but years from now I hope they will bring their children and pointing to our clinic say, "See, I helped make that happen."

Many years ago a mission team came to Beth-El to pour a concrete slab so the kids in our neighborhood had a place to play basketball. The nets are worn now, and the concrete weathered, but for the dozens of kids in our neighborhood without access to a playground or community center, this court is paradise.

I have entitled this month’s newsletter, “Legacy” as a reminder that each of us has an opportunity to leave something of value behind for the next generation. Perhaps



it is something tangible like the new lavender paint on our dental clinic, or the bright yellow postcards from Cumberland kids offering their prayers to our congregation. Whatever it is that is offered, it is a reminder that we are meant to be together--in Christ.

Dios le bendiga

Kathy

Kathleen Dain
Executive Director

Thankful for this Ministry

I began to attend the Sunday morning and Tuesday night worship services at Beth-El at the age of seven. I can still remember learning English as my second language. I can also remember how boring the services would be as the pastor preached about things I couldn't quite understand or just simply wasn't interested in.



My mother said she accepted Jesus Christ in her heart and told me this would become our home church. Again, I couldn't quite understand what any of that meant. All I knew was that I was getting older, and I continued to show up for each service.

I hit a certain age when I was required to attend. My parents would say, "You're not going to go out if you don't go to church". At the time, I thought it was completely

unfair. But now that I am much older, I admit my mother did the right thing, and though I initially resisted, I found myself letting Jesus into my life.

Now I am nineteen years old and working in the Beth-El ministry for the summer. I am truly blessed. I have been given the opportunity to be a part of this mission and contribute to all the blessings and miracles this church does for millions of people.

Growing up in this church also helped me attend all the summer programs such as Cedarkirk and Vacation Bible School. But now, I work in the background and lead the programs to make sure every kid has the time of their lives the way that I did. The work is bittersweet. I hope the kids remember me or that I leave a positive impact in their lives the way my leaders did when I was growing up. Maybe, I'll inspire a little boy or girl to continue to come to church and find their way to Jesus the way I did. And maybe, If God calls them to be, they can continue my little tradition and work at Beth-El and help lead from the background someday.

Frida Reyes
Summer Program Coordinator

Back to School Program



Every Summer as many as 600 children from our community receive a back pack filled with school supplies ready to go back to school all because of your donations.

Thank-you!

Immediate Needs

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has an immediate need for the following items:

- **Deodorant: men/women**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Wipes**
- **Shampoo**
- **Bath towels**
- **Bug repellent**
- **Toothpaste and toothbrushes**
- **Women personal care items**
- **Raincoats**
- **Umbrellas**
- **Rainboots**



Back to School Supplies Wish List

- **Back Packs for High School**
- **Set of Four 3 prong folders with pockets (Multicolor)**
- **Three ring binders with pockets**
- **Expo Markers**
- **Highlighters**
- **Dividers**
- **Spiral Notebooks (5,3,1 subject)**
- **Pens (Blue, Black and Red)**
- **Index cards**
- **College ruled paper**
- **Binders (1", 1 1/2", 2")**
- **Sharpener**
- **Composition notebooks**



STEP UP for SUCCESS



Step Up for Success Story

Step Up for Success is a program that was created for our community to provide many great services such as career coaching, networking, mentorship and computer accessibility. We've had many participants successfully complete the program. Zugey is one of our program participants and has shared the following about the program:



“As a first-generation college student and a daughter of immigrants the process of college was something new to me, in a society where you are expected to have everything sorted out and to be well informed of the college process. I was a lost cause. This was until I was introduced to “Step up for success.” Through the Step Up for Success program I was able to become more informed about college and the steps I needed to take and even deciding on a major. This program has been very useful to me and a great stepping stone to help me reach my goals. As well as for reaching my goals through the program I have been able to obtain the ideal job to gain the experience needed in order for me to fulfill my career.”

For additional information contact Veronica Barrios-Monroy, Outreach Resource Coordinator, by phone at (813) 634-1548 ext.224 or by email at veronica@beth-el.com

Beth-EI Dental Clinic

In a few months, Beth-EI will open a free dental clinic for adults in our community without insurance. In preparation, we are collecting hygiene kits to offer our patients after their treatment. We are looking for packaged toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss. To learn more how you can help, please call us at 813-633-1548.



Thanks to your donations over 40 Beth-EI youth are attending Cedarkirk this summer.



Beth-El Moments



Mission teams came from all over Florida including Fernandina Beach, Port Charlotte,

Siesta Key, Tampa, Inverness, and Sarasota to help with our new Health & Wellness Center.

Beth-El welcomed the CPC and CPCA General Assembly to the mission on June 19th. Visitors learned more about our mission to farmworkers while enjoying authentic Hispanic cuisine and entertainment by members of our community.



Peticiones de oración

- Please keep our mission and worshipping community in your prayers during these days of healing.
- For Rosalva's uncle who was critically injured in the TECO explosion.
- For strength and encouragement for all victims of sexual abuse.

- For our migrant farmworkers working in the midwest and northeast this summer.

I would like to become more involved at Beth-El Mission as a Volunteer:

- Community Dinner
- Food Pantry
- Lead VBS
- Organize a Workgroup
- Organize a Food Drive
- Organize a Clothing Drive

I would like to donate \$_____

- Summer Camp Scholarships
- Back to School Program
- VBS Supplies
- College Scholarships
- Music Lessons for Youth
- Food Pantry
- Mission's Greatest Need

Leave a Lasting Legacy



Consider making Beth-El Farmworker Ministry part of your will or living trust. Your gift will help the farm working community for generations to come.

Support Beth-El Mission with your online contribution today.



A Printable Copy of this Newsletter is Available on our Website at: www.beth-el.org or by emailing us at:

info@beth-el.org

Beth-El

Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

Fueled by Volunteers and Your Faithful Prayers and Support

Our mailing address is:

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Wimauma, FL 33598-0860

Phone: 813-633-1548

Email: info@beth-el.org

Web: www.beth-el.org



Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is open Monday through Thursday from
8a.m. to 5p.m., or by special appointment.
We are closed from noon until 1p.m. for lunch.



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