



***Feeding the Mind, Spirit, and Body of Farmworkers and our Neighbors in Need.***

***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

Perhaps, one of the most frustrating parts of my work at Beth-El revolves around language, or, I should say, my inability to speak the indigenous language adequately enough to communicate with my brothers and sisters of the mission.



There is something very concrete about language. Words, themselves, help to shape our perspective on the world around us. The entire meaning of our feelings can be shaped by a phrase or misconstrued by an out of place adverb. Two adverbs I've come to appreciate a great deal as I've grown older are "now" and "therefore". They are small words, but loaded with implications. We frequently find these little words in scripture when referring to God:

"now God has done. . . , therefore you should. . ." It is good for us to remember all the many ways God intersects our lives. Still, the challenge for people of faith is what follows the "therefore..." God's actions call for our response.

Sue Rice, a member of the Beth-El board of directors, has been involved in the mission since she was a teenager. In times when the mission's resources are low, or the challenges facing the farmworking community appear insurmountable, it is Sue that will remind me that God loves Beth-El. She is right of course. God has abundantly blessed this ministry for over 40 years. How else could the mission continue to support the ministries of mind, spirit, and body?



This year the mission will distribute over 350 tons of food and other resources to farm workers and our neighbors in need. We will continue to provide scholarships to the children of farm working families seeking an opportunity to further their education, and the opportunities for health and wellness will continue to grow as our campus partners join the mission's dental clinic. We do all this in the name of Christ, whom we worship here in our congregation *Nuevo Camino*, but most importantly collectively in all our hearts. I am truly grateful that despite my ignorance of Spanish, I have made wonderful friendships with this community through the common bond of faith.

The author of Hebrews reminds us of the faithfulness of God; therefore we dare to continue to dream in the name of Christ even when the way forward may not be assured. [Hebrews 11:1 NRSV] Much of what the mission undertakes is done with the hope that the resources will be there to continue this ministry, even when the resources are slim and the future not promising. I agree with Sue, God loves Beth-El. We are called to remain faithful.

There is something very concrete about language. It can call us together, or tear us apart. It can be the call to take action, or sit back and wait. Mission can be shaped by these two little words: *Now God.... Therefore ....*

How will we fill in the blank?

**Dios le bendiga!**

*Kathy*

**Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain**  
**Executive Director**



Cooler temperatures mark the return of many of our migrant farmworkers. It is also the time of year when the mission begins its service direct to farmworkers in the field. Last month members of Trinity Lutheran Church of Bradenton provided a hot meal to farmworkers working in Wimauma. The little boy pictured was waiting with his family during the Tuesday food distribution. The mission is planning a special Thanksgiving meal to farmworkers on November 17th. If you would like to participate, please call Javier at 813-633-1548 ext. 228.



## ***Pastor's Pen***

Though Advent does not begin until December 2, the cooler air and the “to-do” list set priorities centered around preparations for Christmas! But first--let me make time for a word of thanks! I do not want for the Thanksgiving Holiday to be overlooked in our rush toward Christmas.

Here at the Nuevo Camino worshipping community the faithful make time every week to give thanks to God for our many blessings. Members of all ages begin our mid-week worship service and time of prayer (petition) and testimony (thanksgiving to God for the blessings we have received) by saying something similar to; “First, I give thanks because God permitted me to wake up to a new day and I am able to get out of bed.” I hear countless examples of expressions of thanks for the ordinary and the extraordinary.

This year we have also made time for the corporate confession of sin as an element of our worship service. We confess our own limitations and challenges even as we admit our dependence upon God in Christ for hope and help. We make time for individual silent prayer followed by the “assurance of pardon,” when we give thanks for the forgiveness of sin through Christ.



Many of you make time during Thanksgiving to express gratitude to God for God’s many blessings in your lives and you adopt one of our Nuevo Camino families for Christmas. This year we have registered 35 families to participate in the Adopt a Family Program. We have just begun the process of matching Congregations to members of our community. Our families struggle year-round to put food on the table and pay for other basic needs. Many families are not in a financial position to purchase gifts for Christmas. When we gather on the afternoon of December 23 to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, we also remember we are not alone. We experience God’s love and care through your generosity. Join us for this special service if you are able!

Happy Thanksgiving! If you would like to talk with me about adopting a family or a child here at the Nuevo Camino worshipping community, please contact me at [pastor@beth-el.org](mailto:pastor@beth-el.org).

**Peace and Blessings,**



**Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara**  
**Pastor, Nuevo Camino at Beth-EI**  
813-633-1548 [Pastor@beth-el.org](mailto:Pastor@beth-el.org)



Gulfcoast Legal Services is excited to announce that we will soon be providing legal services at the Beth-EI Farmworker Ministry campus. Gulfcoast Legal Services is a non profit, legal aid agency providing free legal assistance to the community. Our services will focus on obtaining legal status for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and other serious crime, as well as assistance with family law matters, for low income, qualifying clients. Two GLS attorneys and a paralegal will be serving clients at Beth-EI. We also look forward to increased partnership with the domestic violence shelter providers who visit Beth-EL, who will also be able to refer victims of domestic violence for free legal services. We have enjoyed a long standing partnership with Beth-EI Farmworker Ministry and we are grateful to be a part of the wonderful work being done there. GLS was recently recognized by Tampa Hispanic Heritage with its Orgullo Award, for outstanding services to the Hispanic community, and inducted into its 2018 Leadership Class. We are eager to bring high quality legal services to those in need at the Beth-EI Farmworker Ministry.

---

## ***How to Give to Charity (Beth-EI)***

### ***and Save on Your Income Taxes!***



Are you over 59 ½ and wish to give to Beth-EI but concerned that you can't deduct your contributions to charities from your income taxes? Well here is a strategy that will enable you to make a contribution from your IRA, 401k or other tax sheltered vehicle and save on your income taxes.

The new tax law referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) increases the personal exemption to \$12,000 (\$24,000 for a couple filing jointly). Some filers may not be able to deduct their contributions to charities such as Beth-EI since with the new higher limits their deductions for all deductible expenses do not equal or exceed \$12,000 (\$24,000 for a couple).

But if you are over 59 ½ and have an IRA, 401k or other tax sheltered fund you can instruct the fund's Custodian to send your contribution directly from your fund to the charities of your choice (Beth-EI). The Custodian sends the money directly to the charity. It doesn't come to you and therefore isn't income to you for tax reporting purposes.

If you are 70 ½ or older than you are required by law to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year. You can advise the Custodian of your IRA, 401k or other tax sheltered fund to send money directly to the charities you designate (Beth EI). Since you are required to take the distribution any money you receive directly from your fund becomes taxable to you in that year. By having the Custodian send the funds directly to your chosen charities, thus bypassing you, there is no income tax on the amount transferred to the charities. A win/win situation – reduce taxes and benefiting charities you wish to help.

**Dave Young**  
**Board Member**

---



There is much to celebrate at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry! Friends of the mission gathered together on November 3rd to pray and bless the new dental clinic to the glory of God. Our sincere thanks to all who made this clinic possible.





## ***Volunteer Opportunities***



Many thanks to the volunteers from Rosa Memorial Church, Anna Maria

Beth-El has a number of opportunities for volunteers who would like to share their professional skills to help improve the quality of life of our farm working families, including:

- **Mentors** - For career coaching and job interview training.
- **Teachers** - Bi-lingual who can help with basic skills (ESOL, GED).
- **Dentists/Hygenists** - to add to our volunteers for our clinic.



Island, who have committed to volunteering one Monday a month. If you'd like to learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please email us at [info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org), and remember to wear your closed toe shoes!

- **Translators - to work with professional dental teams.**
- **Counselors - (bi-lingual) to help with needs assessments.**

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

- Lunch at the Farm (Sept-May)
- 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

## ***Immediate Needs***

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

- **Bath Towels**
- **Deodorant**
- **Baby Formula (Emfamil)**
- **Socks**
- **Shoes**
- **Hats (baseball style)**
- **Canned goods**





Beth-El Farmworker Ministry was the site for this year's Dia de los Muertos, hosted by honorary Sun City Center Mayoral candidate, Joe Zuniga.

**A Printable Copy of this Newsletter is Available on our**

***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.***



**Beth-El**  
*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*

**Fueled by Volunteers and Your Faithful Prayers and Support**

**Our mailing address is:**

18240 Highway 301 South

PO Box 860

Wimauma, FL 33598-0860

Phone: 813-633-1548

Email: [info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org)

Web: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)



Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is open Monday through Thursday from 8a.m. to 5p.m., Friday 8a.m. to 2p.m. Other times by appointment.

**Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Staff**

Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain, Executive Director	ext. 223	email: <a href="mailto:kathy@beth-el.org">kathy@beth-el.org</a>
Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara, Pastor	ext. 222	email: <a href="mailto:tamara@beth-el.org">tamara@beth-el.org</a>
Roberto Villadoniga, Property Administrator	ext. 224	email: <a href="mailto:roberto@beth-el.org">roberto@beth-el.org</a>
Javier Izaguirre, Community Outreach Mgr.	ext. 228	email: <a href="mailto:javier@beth-el.org">javier@beth-el.org</a>
Rosalva Serrano, Exec. Admin. Assistant	ext. 231	email: <a href="mailto:rosalva@beth-el.org">rosalva@beth-el.org</a>
Sheila Villamar, Operations Assistant	ext. 227	email: <a href="mailto:sheila@beth-el.org">sheila@beth-el.org</a>

***Extraordinary Support Staff:***

[Maria Galarza](#)  
[Jesus Gallardo](#)

