

Beth-El

Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



Table Talk

There is an annual event carried out by our local PBS station called the “*Longest Table*”. While the station uses this device as a fund-raising tool, I’ve begun to think in broader theological terms. Just imagine what it might be like if we placed a table instead of built a wall? What if instead of a sit-in we sat down and broke bread? Perhaps, that sounds too altruistic, but isn’t that precisely what God in Christ has called us to do?



As the director of a humanitarian organization, I have been moved recently by Godly moments found at the table. It was at the table that I heard stories from staff and farmworkers on their struggles just to stay warm during the winter months. It was at the table that I sat down with other volunteers to share a meal with farmworkers returning from the fields on a cold, rainy, afternoon.

Most families go without heat during our relatively short winter—foregoing a heater and blankets for food and clothing for their children—difficult choices that heretofore slipped beyond my peripheral vision. Just imagine you and your children huddled together in one bed to stay warm on one of those 30-degree nights, or your feet wet and numb from the cold after a day in the fields?



Life at the table offers us the opportunity to fill our souls with those transformational moments to see life around us from an entirely different vantage point, moving us (I pray) into new understanding, compassion, and action. So, won't you join me at the table? This month's newsletter is filled with opportunities to break bread together, beginning with a luncheon on February 15th at one of our local farms. Wouldn't it be wonderful to create the longest table for all God's children to come and dine together? What would that look like in your eyes, and how might that perspective transform your soul?

Dios le bendiga

Rev. Kathleen Dain
Executive Director

A Small Surprise; A Big Smile



Her name is Elizabeth. She is the daughter of one of the many families that come every week to utilize the services offered at Beth-El. Her story came to my attention through the work of one of our partner agencies.

After scoring very low on her fine motor skills testing, Elizabeth's mom was told that therapy would help her daughter, however, the mom was very willing to work with her daughter to get her where she needed to be.

After the case worker from the partner organization visited her home for the first time, she noticed the girl had no toys to play with, so she provided her with some toys

like chalk, coloring books, and other things. She worked with the girl for a couple of months and then re-did the assessment. This time the little girl's score increased significantly.

As the case worker shared the data with me, I noticed that the little girl's gross motor skills score were also very low, probably not as low as the other one, but nevertheless low. After seeing this, I wondered if this little girl had a bicycle, so I asked the case manager and she said, "no". The next day, the mom came to Beth-El with her little girl, sister and nephew. After completing the intake, I decided that the little girl qualified for a bike. I went to our storage and picked one out. When the little girl saw the bicycle her face lit up so bright it was amazing, it was almost like seeing God through her. I saw how joyful and grateful she was for her new bike and the impact of the work we do here.

When I first started working at Beth-El I only had an idea of how great the needs are in our community. It was overwhelming. How could I reach out to all these people in need? Now, I

see what an impact just a small moment of sharing can have.

One of the things that I really appreciate is when we go out to the farms and the people tell you how grateful they are. For example, when we pass out the bags we only have 30 minutes with the farm workers and a couple of seconds of interaction with each one of them, but as quickly as the time passes, there is always time for a “thank you” or “God bless you.” Being able to receive those blessings from each one of them is the most meaningful thing to me and my favorite part of this work.

I hope that you too can share in the joy that was brought to Elizabeth and all of the families we serve. Now I pass those blessings on to you and your loved ones.

God bless you,

Nuri H. Navarro

Nuri H. Navarro
Community Relations Liaison





Every week Beth-El delivers food and other needed supplies directly to farmworkers in the fields. To learn how you can become involved in this ministry, call Nuri at 813-633-1548 ext. 224 or email her at Nuri@beth-el.org



FEBRUARY 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				15 Farm Delivery*	16 Mobile Food Pantry	18
04 Worship Service 11 am	05 Rice & Beans packing day!	06 Food Pantry Distribution Day	07 Farm Delivery*	08 Groceries packing day	09 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	10
11 Worship Service 11 am	12 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	13 Food Pantry Distribution Day	14 Groceries packing day	15 Farm Delivery*	16 Produce packing day!	17
24 Worship Service 11 am	25 Produce packing day!	26 Vet Clinic	27 Farm Delivery*	28 Groceries packing day	29 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	30
31 Worship Service 11 am	01 Rice & Beans packing day!	02 Food Pantry Distribution Day	03 Groceries packing day			05
						07

* Please contact Neil at neil@fcsd.org for time frame.



Preparing for Lent

The Beth-El worshipping community is preparing to enter the Christian season of Lent, making plans and engaging in ministry and mission: including a prayer vigil, more regular youth ministry and volunteering to serve a meal at a local farm. We welcome your presence and your prayers.

As I continue to get to know church members through singing together, praying together, and studying God's word together, I am very aware that presence is a powerful thing. Every time we gather for worship or ministry we remember and celebrate God's presence with us and we celebrate the ways we are present to and for each other during times of joy and times of difficulty. I am reminded especially of our Tuesday worship services where our community gathers to pray to God about what we are concerned about and what we hope for, and to share testimony about how God is working in our lives. On Sunday morning, we worship and praise God, remembering the Good News recognizing the life events of birthdays, wedding anniversaries and new visitors. Please pray for us as we continue the search for a bilingual music director.





During Lent we take time to focus on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and his call to faithfulness and discipleship. Worshipping community leaders work through the Beth-El Advisory Committee to continue to train leaders who will serve on the Christian education committee, the worship committee and an upcoming congregational care committee. The Youth group is now meeting regularly and will focus on Bible Study, discipleship, fellowship and service. Currently we are making plans for fundraisers to empower youth ministry.

Our English-speaking youth look forward to joint events with other local youth groups and we are always looking for new partners. We have a new dedicated youth space and will happily receive donations to make our space more comfortable and welcoming.

We have music rehearsal every Friday and a couple of weeks ago a member of the group suggested we sing a hymn “Cuando el Pobre” which in English is “When a Poor One” or alternately, “When the Poor Ones.” I was very happy to learn the community knew this hymn as it has been one of my favorites for decades, since my times of mission service. I felt the Holy Spirit moving among us as we practiced the hymn and then the whole community sang it in worship. As I end this message to you all, I share the words of the hymn in both Spanish and English as we consider Jesus life and his ministry and his call to discipleship.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara
Pastor Nuevo Camino
pastor@beth-el.org

“Cuando el Pobre” “When The Poor Ones”

Spanish original:

Translation

1. *Cuando el pobre nada tiene y aun reparte, cuando el hombre pasa sed y agua nos da, cuando el débil a su hermano fortalece, [Estribillo] va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar, va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar.*
2. *Cuando sufre un hombre y logra su consuelo, cuando espera y no se cansa de esperar, cuando amamos, aunque el odio nos rodee, [Estribillo] va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar, va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar.*
3. *Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda, cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad, cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos, [Estribillo] va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar, va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar.*
4. *Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares, cuando un hombre donde hay guerra pone paz, cuando “hermano” le llamamos al extraño, [Estribillo] va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar, va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar.*
- Miguel Manzano, J.A. Olivar

1. When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers, when the thirsty water give unto us all, when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.
2. When at last all those who suffer find their comfort, when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness, when we love though hate at times seems all around us, [Refrain]
3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true, when we know that love for simple things is better, [Refrain]
4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance, when we learn how to peace instead of war, when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.
–Translated by George Lockwood



Immediate Needs

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

- **Dry goods**
- **Long sleeve T-shirts**
- **New or Gently used blankets**
- **Caps (baseball cap style)**
- **Socks: Adult and children**
- **Detergent**
- **Toothpaste, floss, toothbrushes**
- **Towels**

STAMPEDE OF SERVICE (SOS) 2018

Many thanks to the amazing group of volunteers that came over the MLK holiday from University of South Florida. *Go Bulls!*



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/Hygienists** - to add to our volunteers for the clinic.
- **Translators** - to work with professional dental teams.
- **Counselors** - (bi-lingual) to help with needs assessments.



If you have bilingual skills and are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Kathy at Kathy@beth-el.org or (813) 633 1548 ext. 223 to sign up for training on March 10th, 2018 from 10-12pm.

This training is required for non-dental professionals volunteering at the clinic.

How Do We Do It?



Here is How You Can Get Involved!!

Activity	Days	Time
Preparing for distribution	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.	Mornings
Food Pantry	Tuesday.	8:30-2pm
Outreach to Farms	Wednesday, Thursday. (Seasonal)	11-2pm

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:

18240 Highway 301 South

PO Box 860

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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Forward