



The Waiting Game

I have to admit it; I am not the most patient person when it comes to waiting. I hate being put on hold for indefinite lengths of time, or waiting in line at the grocery store when clearly the customer in front of me has *far more* than the allotted amount for the express lane. Waiting is just no fun at all! However, at the moment I am part of a waiting project that is bringing me a great deal of personal joy. It is the opportunity to work with the youth and young adults of Beth-El while the mission seeks a permanent mission evangelist to lead this ministry.

I love these young people. They are rowdy and sometimes out of control, but they are also thoughtful and possess a great yearning to grow in their faith. They have endured more challenges than most of us will face in a lifetime. Yet, their modest upbringing has not left them poor at heart, but rather resilient in Spirit. There is a great deal of love in this space that resides in the palpable presence of God.



Every week we gather in a circle; a large piece of poster board rests on the floor between us with the words: "God is..." along with markers to fill in the blank. At first the responding words to that question were the buzzwords of our faith: "*Savior, Lord...*", but now I am seeing more

personal responses. Recently someone wrote, "*family*". God is family.

Wimauma is unusual for most towns in Florida. Nearly 70 percent of the population is Latino with half the population under the age of 30. The mission believes the time is ripe to add to our existing worship services through the development of a new worshipping community that will equip teens and young adults through opportunities of cross cultural engagement involving mission and worship. Led by a mission evangelist, this new community will provide a cultural bridge in which young people can express and grow in their faith as some follow their parents to the fields while others dare to dream beyond the farmlands to the fertile grounds of university.

As we wait for the person called to this task, it is exciting to imagine how God will be at work within our community and the lives of these young people, but then I remember God is already here--fast at work, and I for one, am enjoying the wait.

¡Feliz Navidad!

Kathy

Rev. Kathleen Dain
Executive Director



Cena Comunitaria

In the last year Beth-El volunteers have served thousands of meals to farm workers and families of our community. The dinner is held from 5:30pm to 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. It takes about 5 to 6 volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal. If your church or group would like to volunteer, please call Sheila at 813-633-1548 ext. 227. ¡Gracias!



Take a Swing to Help Send Kids to Cedarkirk Summer Camp in 2017

Every year Beth-El Farmworker Ministry provides scholarships to send 40 to 50 children to Cedarkirk Christian Camp. Your foursome will cover the cost to allow one child to participate in this week long adventure.

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Legacy Golf Course, Lakewood Ranch FL

8:00am Shotgun Start

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

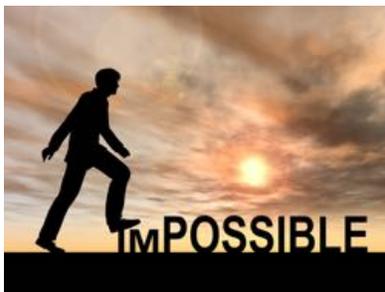
Name of Foursome:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| _____ # of Players (\$100 per person) | \$ _____ |
| _____ Unable to Play, Accept my Donation | \$ _____ |
| | TOTAL \$ _____ |

Please make checks payable to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Golf Tournament - PO Box 860
Wimauma FL 33598.

Deadline to Register is March 1, 2017

Step Up For Success



Step Up For Success is a mentorship program designed to help those in our community living in poverty seeking to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Many of the program participants don't have access to the appropriate attire when it's time to attend a job interview. We are accepting items for men and women such as: slacks, dress shirts, belts, shoes, ties, and dresses. Also, the Step Up For Success program is seeking volunteers who have skills and proficiency in areas such as: financial management, budgeting, human resources, public speaking, resume building, and computer skills. If you would like to make a donation, or volunteer, please contact: Veronica at (813) 633-1548 Ext 224 or veronica@beth-el.org

Teamwork makes the dream work!

Immediate Needs

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

- **Toys**
- **Light winter clothes**
- **Canned food**
- **Shoes (children)**
- **Underwear**
- **Socks**
- **Warm pants**
- **Flannel long sleeves shirts**



We are in special need for volunteers for December 27th, 28th and 29th. Tuesday Dec 27th is our Food Distribution day and that is when we most need your help. On Wednesday and Thursday we are open for business, but the workload will be lighter. The times are from 9am to 2pm each day. Please contact Javier at 813-633-1548 for specific details.

Thank You!

Many thanks to all who have helped the mission's food pantry meet the demands of this busy season. Thanks to your help, we are able to serve between 400 to 700 families every week through this vital ministry.

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

Support Beth-El Mission with your online contribution today.



Useful Links:

[Beth-El in the News](#)

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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