



# Beth-El

*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*



**Beth-El News Volume 25, Issue 3**  
**Fall 2014 Wimauma,FL**

## **Adopt a Family for Christmas!**

**We will begin our annual Adopt a Family from the worshipping community soon. Rev. Walter Chuquimia will be coordinating the program this year. Basically the program consists of the following: Each family in the worshipping community is asked to list all immediate family members, their age, sex, pants size, shoe size and shirt or blouse size. Also they list a special item they would like. We will keep the special items under \$50 this year. Call Rev. Chuquimia, 813.633.1548 or email [walter@beth-el.info](mailto:walter@beth-el.info)**

### **Education ...an Important Component of our Ministry**

As many of you know, Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) operates the charter schools on our property. Currently, the total enrollment in their K-8 grade programs is 285 children. They continue this longtime partnership with Beth-El that started in the 2001 school year.

Their Migrant Head Start will be opening once again in mid-November as it is a seasonal operation until early May. Generally there are 55 toddlers to pre-K in this program.

For adults, we offer a full scholarship to all who want to enroll in the ESOL or GED programs in English and Spanish. The adult education programs are staffed by teachers from the Hillsborough County Public School system. At present there are 58 adults enrolled in these three programs.

### **Education.....(con't)**

Since the early days of Beth-El, founded in October 1976, educating those in our community has been a key tenet of our ministry. We are quite blessed to have these two partners to perform these important goals with us!

### **Important Anniversary!**

As just noted, this month we begin our thirty-ninth (39) year of assistance to the Hispanic farm worker. From humble beginning in a rental house in neighboring Ruskin, we evolved in the mid 1980's to our current campus on Hwy 301, south of Tampa and just south of Sun City Center. Come visit and see the changes that have and are taking place!



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### **Cumberland Presbyterian Church News**

In late August, a committee from Grace Presbytery met at Beth-El to more directly become involved with our ministry. As, Beth-El was founded by the CPC, it was with open arms that we had five members of the committee on our campus for a two day meeting. They were able see our busiest day of the week, Tuesdays, when we have our food distribution. While the numbers do vary, a fairly constant number is 375-400 families arrive each week to receive a full grocery bag of food.

Additionally, they were able to converse with our staff and see our partners on campus.

In mid-November, our Board of Directors will have the Annual Consultation with executives from all three Covenant partners. A representative from the Missions Ministry Team in Memphis will join us for this important meeting.

One of the early ministers at Beth-El, Rev. John Lovelace continues to have serious health issues. Rev. Lovelace currently resides in Indiana with his wife. Please keep him in your prayers. He has served the CPC well over sixty (60) years.

We can thank John for initiating the contact with the current PC(USA), prior to reunion in 1983, and bringing them on board as partners in the bi-union ministry.

The annual General Assembly of the CPC will be held in Cali, Columbia next summer, where there are a significant number of CPC churches.

### **EXCITING PROJECT TO ASSIST MISSION TEAMS ON OUR CAMPUS**

Throughout the year, we have mission teams that spend a few days or a week on our campus. We have what we call Sanctuary Sleepovers, as we have no designated sleeping quarters or showers. The groups generally “camp” in the back of the Sanctuary or in an adjacent room.

By the end of this month a group from Tennessee, the Grace Team, will have erected a shower facility for us, with two showers in a women’s room and two for men in an adjacent room.

We are thrilled to have this project completed for us. The addition will make the time spent by future mission teams so much more enjoyable!

### **2015 SUMMER PROJECTS**

It’s never too early to think about next spring or summer mission trips! Spring Break provides a time when meaningful work can be done here on our campus or in the local community. This past summer we had all weeks of the summer, except July 4<sup>th</sup> week, filled with VBS programs and projects, all led by visiting mission teams.

So youth leaders, pastors, and college groups..... PLAN AHEAD and reserve you spot now!

Please contact Javier at 813.633.1548 or through email [javier@beth-el.info](mailto:javier@beth-el.info)

We look forward to your group!



**Mission Fairs, Minute for Mission,  
Wednesday Night Dinners or  
Informative Talks to your Organization**

We would be happy, and blessed, to be able to share all the many wonderful things that are happening at Beth-El with your church or organization. Our schedule will be your schedule!

We have a number of mission fairs already scheduled and would love the opportunity to share our ministry.

If a Wednesday night after dinner program would be more appropriate, that would be fine.

Contact Dave or Rosalva at 813.633.1548 to schedule a time that is convenient for you.

**Financial Status**

This year has been an interesting one from a financial standpoint. We continue to be blessed with many wonderful supporters. The current economic climate has not exactly lent itself to overflowing financial donations.

We would ask you as we approach Thanksgiving, to pray about an opportunity to assist our ministry and the farm workers that toil in the fields to harvest the fruit and fresh produce for all of us.

Through the first three quarters of the year, we are behind our budget for the year. Our Board of Directors at the September meeting, approved the 2015 budget with a slight decrease from this year.

Most of our budget is built on faith, as only a small percentage is from pledges. Please keep Beth-El in your prayers. Gracias!

**Worshipping Community News**

We are excited to share that there are many new children coming to Sunday services. Through a complete revamping of the Sunday school programs and teachers, we are blessed to have an increase in attendees. The classrooms have a new look. The teachers and assistants have been engaged in training and there are more assistants in each grade.

Rev. Chuquimia continues to lead the worshipping community and has seen the impact of many new ideas, a good portion of which have come from the congregation. Open opportunities for worship is a strong statement that was made in the recent new Mission Statement of Beth-El. It has certainly been taken to heart by the worshipping community.

As has been stated in the past, the reference to a worshipping community, as opposed to a church is made intentionally. This is because in the Presbyterian Book of Order, one of the key factors in forming an organized church is that the group must be self-sufficient. Financially, that just would not be possible here. For each of the past few years, the worshipping community continues to increase their portion of commitment and financial support to Beth-El Farm Worker Ministry. Thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow!