



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER - APRIL 22, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

An invitation to make a difference for one family as well as all our Covenant Partners

The special need - If Mision Peniel, our Presbytery's mission and ministry in Immokalee, had members, Leonel would be one. According to Pastor Miguel, Leonel has been a part of the life of this worshipping, serving, praying, serving community called Mision Peniel for several years. Mision Peniel is not set up to be a social service agency, but Pastor Miguel leads worship and Bible studies, delivers food and clothes, has a mid-week call in radio ministry, makes pastoral visits, and hospital calls, all, on our behalf. Pastor Miguel currently serves as Peace River Presbytery's Pastor/Evangelist in Immokalee. So if you were a pastor and one of your members was facing necessary, life-saving surgery, but did not have insurance, what would you do? For the rest of the story, see below, but first...

The Bigger Picture - Mision Peniel is part of us as Peace River Presbytery. We do not have funding sources beyond us. However, before making an appeal for special funding for this particular need, I want to remind us all **that we have four other, valued, covenant partners who also need our support, and who are making a difference in what they do in some amazing ways. Beth El, Cedarkirk, and our Mission Co-workers in Madagascar (the Turks) and Bangladesh (the Morgans) all need our prayers and support.** The churches and many individuals in Peace River have been generous in enabling us to support all of our mission partners through their giving to the "Presbytery Mission Stream" of Peace River's budget. Remember – we have "three funding streams," and all gifts and pledges to the "Mission Stream" are reserved and designated for only our covenant partners, whom we support through monies given to the Mission Stream. (Attached is a brochure that explains the three streams of Peace River Presbytery and how we value and use your support).



Opportunity for you to give – So far in 2015, the needs of our covenant partners are not fully subscribed. If you would like to send your financial support so we can fulfill their request for 2015 support, please do so. The amount budgeted by

Peace River Presbytery for 2015 to each of the Covenant Partners and the 2015 annual pledges of the churches is indicated below. Your gifts can be designated, or given for all the covenant partners to be divided between them. I want to say thank you on their behalf.

-Beth El Farm Worker Ministry:

PRP Budget = \$37,000 / Pledges = \$8,663

-Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center:

PRP Budget = \$37,000 / Pledges = \$16,513

-Mision Peniel:

PRP Budget = \$130,000 / Pledges = \$32,144

-Drs. Les and Cindy Morgan (Medical Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh):

PRP Budget = \$5,000 / Pledges = \$1,062

-Daniell and Elizabeth Turk (Agricultural Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar):

PRP Budget = \$5,000 / Pledges = \$615

Over the past years, many individuals, as well as churches, have offered their support to our covenant partners, for which we are grateful. If you want to send your support - please send it to Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287... and clearly marked as to its designation.

Mision Peniel



Photo by Patricia Downey

The special need that is now... Since the Mission Stream is not yet fully funded for 2015, and Mision Peniel, which is solely the responsibility of the churches of Peace River Presbytery, still has a very minimal and bare bones budget for 2015, that budget did not include anything that might be called an emergency need fund. So the story below is of a special need, and an over and above request.

I am forwarding Miguel's letter to you because Miguel is on the staff of Peace River Presbytery as our Presbytery's Evangelist to Immokalee. I plan to give what I can toward this need, and tomorrow, the Mision Peniel Task Force will determine how it can be supportive also. Some folks connected with Mision Peniel have already said they too would give.

Note - If we receive more than is needed, we will put the funds into an account that the Mision Peniel Task force, in conjunction with Pastor Miguel, would be able to have for future pastoral needs, as do many pastors in Peace River. If you can give, please send support to Peace River Presbytery, designated to *Mision Peniel – Emergency/Discretionary Fund*. If you want to let me know that you will be sending something, please e-mail me ([click here](#)). I will then inform the members of the Task Force at tomorrow's meeting so they will know if we have enough support to get a check written to the hospital so this emergency surgery can go forward.

Miguel's Letter – and Leonel's Story

I am sending to you, and copying to the Mision Peniel Task Force, the information about Leonel, the farmworker in need of surgery to correct the problem that jeopardizes his life. So far, by sharing it with some of our regular supporters we got some donations. I am sending those checks to the Presbytery office to keep record of them. But, there is still need for more support. I know our budget doesn't include this type of need, but this is a real need and he had been related with us for many years. If possible, we need an answer before the April 23 because doctor and hospital are asking for payment in advance.

Here you have details of Leonel's condition,

I write today with a request for financial support to undergo life-saving surgery for Leonel. He has recently been diagnosed with the medical condition of esophageal varices, which requires urgent attention. Two years ago, He developed liver disease after over fifteen years of working in the agricultural fields, when exposure to strong chemicals collided with prescribed antitoxins. He spent three weeks in the hospital and many months thereafter recuperating, at the end of which it was recommended that he undergo a preventative surgery to guard against complications with his esophagus. Unfortunately, he was without the financial means to do so.

Three weeks ago, he was readmitted to the hospital through the emergency room for an advanced case of esophageal varices. But doctors were able to work just half of the problem. He has scheduled surgery of the esophagus for Thursday, April 23 and have warned him that inability to undergo the operation would risk his life. As such, we are looking for the requisite funds, in the amount of approximately \$6,000, money that covers doctors' and hospital bills for this procedure. His account for the services he got before are another problem.

I write to you with the deepest hopes that it would be possible to financially support him and thus help him continue his life. He is blessed with a loving family, who also depend on his support: his wife, Lupe, and his two children, Jorge and Leonel, aged 14 and 11.

All of our covenant partners need your prayers and support, and in a special way... our ministry through Mision Peniel needs special support so we can be that community of faith, hope and love for Leonel and his family.

So ... pray ... let's talk ... and continue to figure out how to honor and support these special needs as we continue to support our long-term and valued covenant partners which over the years have held a special place in our hearts.

Grateful that God is still the rudder to guide us in the way and the wind to fill our sails!

Graham

Graham Hart

graham@peaceriverpresbytery.org

The following articles may be of interest:

[Does Christianity have a future?\(link is external\)](#)

The Daily Beast: A new study shows Christianity on the decline in the wealthy West, with Islam surging. What Would Jesus Say? It's not what you think.

[No doubt about it, believers and secularists are fated to live together \(link is external\)](#)

Crux: Both sides were right all along -- secularization is clearly a growing social force, but religious belief is also remarkably tenacious.

[What everyone gets wrong about the persecution of Christians in Iraq \(link is external\)](#)

The Week: The situation in Iraq is more complicated than many American commentators realize. And the hand-wringing headlines may actually make things worse for those who live there.

[Proclaiming jubilee, Francis envisions non-judging, non-condemning church \(link is external\)](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Officially proclaiming the upcoming jubilee year of mercy, Pope Francis has called on the entire Catholic church to refashion itself as a place not of judgment or condemnation but of pardon and merciful love.

[The problem with creating 'Christian' versions of things \(link is external\)](#)

Religion News Service: While it might seem tempting for Christians to lock themselves away in anti-secular bubbles, the ramifications of doing so are polarizing at best, and deeply destructive at worst.



CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

(click on church name to link to its web site)

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto - kcooper@ppcfl.org
Christ Church of Longboat Key Longboat Key	Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch
Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota
Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota
Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice	Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice
Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood	First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte devon.ducheneau@gmail.com	First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, North Fort Myers	
Faith Presbyterian Church Cape Coral	First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres
Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers	First Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
Hope United Church (PCUSA), Fort Myers	Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach
First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs	
First Presbyterian Church, Naples	Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples
Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples	Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

The Mision Peniel Task Force continues to meet and build the support and structure for continuing this vital ministry. If you want to make a donation to support this recovery effort you may send the check (marked Mision Peniel) to Peace River Presbytery | 5600 Peace River Rd. | North Port, FL. 34287.

- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
 - Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

[Position Opening: Executive Director](#)

[Winter 2015 Newsletter](#)

[Fall 2014 Newsletter](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Part-Time Choir Director](#) – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Interim Choir Director](#) – Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice

[Organist / Pianist / Accompanist](#) – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

PRAISE REPORT:

- Rev. Rob Swinsburg and Family, on the birth of his first grandchild, Jane Evelyn Eccles, on April 6. Baby and all are well.

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please pray for:

- Rev. Norman Hutchinson – recovery from quadruple bypass surgery; also has congestive heart failure. If you'd like to send notes or cards, his address is: 822 South Pelham Road | Welland, ON L3C3E1

Please continue to pray for:

- Anita Adkison, mother of Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison, Pastor of Chapel By The Sea – recovery from breast cancer surgery and treatment to follow. Lives in Arkansas.
- Rev. Susan Rice, Associate Pastor of Faith, Cape Coral – health
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – kidney failure – is undergoing dialysis and is on a kidney transplant list. Greg is also diabetic and underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery in June 2013.
- Glenn Beisser (father of Rev. Devon Beisser Ducheneau, Stated Supply Pastor for Wintergarden P.C.) – lung cancer and heart issues
- Hmingi Browne's (A.P. of Church of the Palms) sister, Nutei – health
- Grandson of Tim and Martha Halverson - suffering from a rare autoimmune disease.
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Misión Peniel
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
- Dan and Elizabeth Turk, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar

- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh
- Pastors and Educators in transition
- Nations in crisis

CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE: APRIL 2015:

April 5	First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin email: dino@firstpresbradenton.com
April 12	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee email: hope@kpcbbradenton.org
April 19	Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton Pastor: Rev. India Dennis email: pastorindy@gmail.com
April 26	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton Pastor: Rev. Rob Swinsburg email: pastorrobwpc@verizon.net

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2015

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peacriverpresbytery.org

April 23

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers

April 26

Installation Service for Rev. Dino Rustin @ First, Bradenton

April 29

Committee On Preparation For Ministry (#2)