



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ September 27, 2018

GROWING PAINS

Pastor Miguel Estrada
Misión Peniel

Yes, this was the name of an old television show with a comical approach to the different challenges a family faces when moving to a new place and growing up together both physically and emotionally. But at the same time, it was very successful in pointing out different ways to face and solve those challenges. It ultimately led to positive development in the lives of the members of that family. The creators were very successful in pointing out that although growing up can be a painful process in many aspects, at the end that "pain" is an integral part of family development.

Well, that is exactly how we have felt at Misión Peniel during these past few months. We have experienced several changes in a short period of time, and that has meant having to readjust our work rhythm, as well as rethinking our mission objectives. We can say that we are experiencing our own "pain when having to grow". But this is nothing negative, on the contrary, it has been a break in our routine and an opening of our eyes to a broader field of mission that the Lord presents before us. Some examples of these reasons for "pain of growth" that we are going through include:



- Now we no longer only dream of a Community Garden but, in partnership with Cultivate Abundance, we have one in development!

- We no longer only talk about ideas of bringing together the women of the community, but we have become the space where they feel welcomed and empowered to address different issues that affect them!



- Today, we are not only excited about the possibility of improving the service provided by our pantry. But through a new partnership with the Midwest Florida Food Bank, we hope to increase the amount of provisions available. And with the support of Church of the Palms, we are in the process of installing our new walk-in cooler / freezer. Both circumstances give us the real possibility of expanding the coverage and quality of the food that we will be able to share with the farmworker community in Immokalee.

- The mission's Coordinating Team requested that starting January 2019, I return to work full time with the mission after six years of dividing my time between Misión Peniel and the Hispanic New Church Development at Cypress Lake PC in Fort Myers.

Everything has come as grace from the Lord upon us, but not without some extra challenges, some more complicated than others. We had to adjust and increase our budget. We have had to fight to understand and resolve processes such as permitting within Collier County and all the bureaucracy that this represents. We have been informed at the last minute that the company with which we work and plan a project, at the end does not serve the Immokalee area.



And so, the list could continue, but these examples serve.

I want to extend my sincerest appreciation to all the churches and individuals who have supported us and made it possible for us to live into these "growing pains", because they remind us that we are walking in the right direction; growing the vision and expanding the mission among the community of migrant farm workers in Immokalee.

But the road is just beginning. Your financial support will be decisive for the year 2019, since in it we hope that the programs and ministries that are being considered will be developed to their full potential and together we will open the possibility of growing with Christ's compassion even further! Thank you for including this mission and its growing outreach in your budgets for the new year. Please come and see what God is growing through Misión Peniel.

Update from the General Presbyter Nominating Committee:

We were grateful for the draft of the Ministry Information Form that was provided to us, carefully considered the feedback the Presbytery provided when the full body had the opportunity to comment on the draft, strengthened the narrative answers and submitted the revisions to Steering Committee for approval. We appreciate their approval on September 20. As you read this it will have already been posted on the Church Leadership Connection and the match will be in process.

Linda Getzen and Sung Lee, co-moderators.

Serving on the team are Carson Brown, Gene George, Charmaine Ponkratz, Terri Jo Crego, Jeff DeYoe, Kelly Fitzgerald and Doug Pratt.

Please keep praying as we enter this next phase of the process. Respectfully submitted, Charmaine Ponkratz, scribe.

**PCUSA MISSION CO-WORKERS &
COVENANT PARTNERS OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY:**

Daniell & Elizabeth Turk

Serving the people of Madagascar

Read their latest [newsletter](#).

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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*Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years.
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For additional information, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit www.cedarkirk.org.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[September Newsletter](#)

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworker Community in Immokalee

208 Boston Ave., PO Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34143

www.misionpeniel.com

Facebook: "Mision Peniel"

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: miguestrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com

Contributions to Mision Peniel (checks or online):

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Mision Peniel.
- Please note *Mision Peniel* in the memo section.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Mision Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Cuba Partnership Team (27 members from several churches) – in Cuba 9/27-10/2
- Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass – recover from a badly broken leg
- Jim and Becky Beckwith - health
- Rev. Miguel Estrada's Father-In-Law, Mr. Castillo Fernandez - health
- The Rev. Daniel Herlein - health
- Robert Dennis (son of Rev. India Dennis) – mental health issues
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (in Wimauma)
- Misión Peniel Farmworker Ministry (in Immokalee)
- 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

PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: SEPTEMBER 2018

September 2	<u>PRP Seminary Students (Candidates and Inquirers)</u>
September 9	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Stewart Email: sunburn1320@mac.com
September 16	<u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Transitional Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller Email: thecelticmonk@att.net
September 23	<u>Mision Peniel – A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery</u> Presbytery Evangelist: Rev. Miguel Estrada Email: miguestrada@hotmail.com
September 30	<u>Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Wally Johnson Email: revwallyjohnson@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Peace Presbyterian Church Dedication Service

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers/Estero
[Church Administrative Assistant / Office Administrator](#)

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Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton  
[Part Time Accompanist](#)

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Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
[Part Time Administrative Assistant](#)

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St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port  
[Music Director for the Traditional Service](#)

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 2018**

*You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)*

*Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)*

*All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.*

**Wednesday, September 26-Tuesday, October 2**

Cuba Partnership Trip

**Monday, October 1**

Planning Team (12:30 p.m.)

**Tuesday, October 2**

General Presbyter Nominating Committee (1:00 p.m.)

**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Records Review Workshop (9:00 a.m. - Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota)

**Tuesday, October 9**

Committee on Ministry (9:30 a.m.)

**Wednesday, October 10**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

**Thursday, October 11**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)

**Monday, October 15**

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.)

**Thursday, October 18**

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.m.)

**Wednesday, October 24**

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 a.m. in Immokalee)

**CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

Please visit our web site, [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches)

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.



