



Weighing the Cost

What is the price of a child's smile, or the cost of a friendly greeting?

Here at Beth-El we work every day to be messengers of hope. It can be challenging some days for our little staff of eight when there is so much we want to do and so few resources available.

Already this year, Beth-El has distributed over 200,000 pounds of food to over 7000 farmworking families. Sometimes the lines for our Tuesday pantry extend to the far reaches of our parking lot. Still another 3,000 farmworkers, unable to make the trip to the mission, have received resources directly at their place of employment. How do you



place a value on something like that?



Every day is a little bit different at the mission. These last few weeks we have been blessed with nurses pursuing their bachelor's degree through the State College of Florida. A visit to Beth-El has become a regular part of their curriculum--one that can open the eyes of even the most hardened first responder.

Summer will be here before you know it. Soon our hallways will be filled with the sounds of children enjoying vacation bible school or traveling to Cedarkirk for a week of summer camp. Before summer's end the dental clinic will open, providing the only free dental service for those in our community without any insurance.

Even now, Beth-El has provided six scholarships for students to attend college later this year. They are the first in their families to ever pursue an advanced education, and their interests are as varied as the stories they share. One student will be pursuing a degree in astrobiology in hopes of working for NASA someday. Her parents, who have worked in the fields their whole lives, stressed the value of an education, "because they knew the hardships of not having one."

When our staff feels strained and volunteers are few, it is easy to get discouraged by all the many things we face every day. A frequent question is, "will we need to cut back on our services?" Yet, how can you put a price tag on a child's smile? What is the cost of those fleeting moments sharing a tear with one whose labor is hard and burdens many? When we measure the cost in those terms we know that what we are trying to do here at Beth-El holds immeasurable value.



Summer will be here soon. Will we have the financial means to continue sending our kids to camp? Will we have enough people to fill all our volunteer led services? All of these are questions only you can help answer. What are the ways you can invest in the future of this

ministry? Rest assured, it will be one of the best investments you ever make.

Dios le bendiga

Kathy

Rev. Kathleen Dain
Executive Director



On March 21, Beth-El Volunteers served a lunch to 180 farmworkers from Astin Farms in Wimauma. If you are interested in volunteering for a future luncheon, please contact Javier at 813-633-1548 ext. 228.

Summer is Coming!

Kids will be out of school before we know it. Some will be traveling with their parents to follow the crops and others will be coming to Beth-El for Vacation Bible School.

I remember as a child I had to work in the field picking whatever crop was in season to help my parents make ends meet. I did not have the privilege of going to camp or vacationing during the summer, or any other time of the



year.

I enjoy seeing the kids come to Beth-El and learn about the word of God. Another part of VBS that stays with me is the smile on their faces when I go with them shoe shopping at the end of the program and on pool day. Oh how they love pool day!



Rosalva Serrano
Executive Administrative Assistant



Spending a week at summer camp can be a life changing experience for the child of a farmworker. Every year the mission sends 40 to 50 children and teens to Cedarkirk, but we need your support. The average cost per child is \$400.

Won't you help sponsor a child to Cedarkirk this summer?



Easter at Nuevo Camino

Here at Nuevo Camino we have much to celebrate as we observe the Season of Easter!

I am reminded of part of my message on Easter morning--God's Easter promise to us is the Good news



of the Gospel. God raised Jesus from the dead. We can trust God's power and grace in Christ which offers us new life and transformation. Because Christ lives, we are free to celebrate our faith and to focus on the peace and well-being of every member of this community even as we seek to reach out beyond ourselves.



I would like to share a few things for which I am especially grateful this Easter Season:

Late in March, we gathered in worship to bless and to receive a new Spanish language translation of the Gospel of John based on the Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel's English translation. This wonderful pocket-sized Gospel has been shared with farmworkers and members of our worshipping community. We also formally thanked the Rev. Julio Travieso for his ministry here as interim pastor to the community.

The community recently gathered to celebrate the sacrament of baptism for one of our youngest community members, Audelina. Her parents reaffirmed their faith and the community joyfully made promises for her spiritual nurture.

Our youth group is growing and continues to meet regularly as we study God's word, form community and pray for one another. Two youth chose to spend their Spring Break serving others here at the mission. Both youth are honors students and hope to earn over 100 hours of community service.



Members of the community enjoyed a full day of celebration on Easter Sunday--a sunrise service, breakfast, an Easter play, games, lunch and Easter Baskets. I am thankful to a handful of members who worked exceptionally hard, dedicating countless hours so we could gather to celebrate and to the congregations that donated the wonderful Easter baskets for our families to enjoy!

We all appreciate your care, prayers and support as we move forward into the future God has for us.

Peace,



Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara
Pastor, Nuevo Camino at Beth-El



**You are cordially invited to
the commissioning of the Rev.
Tamara Leonard-Lara as the
pastor of Nuevo Camino at
Beth-El.**

**April 22th, 2018
3 P.M.**

**18240 U.S. HWY 301 S.
Wimauma, FL 33598**



The worshipping community of Nuevo Camino at Beth-El welcomed the Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel of Bible Mission USA on Sunday, March 11th. The congregation received copies of a new translation of the Gospel of John translated and edited by native born Latinos and Spanish speaking missionaries. Already the pocket sized editions are making their ways into the fields and homes of our community. Dr. Eckel writes: "These pocket-sized *Gospels* are ideal for workers-on-the-move and are provided at no cost to Farmworker Ministries. This is an outreach of Bible Mission USA. Pray for and support these ministries. And remember, farmworkers can now have the story of Jesus' Life, Death and Resurrection as close as their own pockets!"

Many thanks to the volunteers from South Bay Hospital, Sun City Center for their day of service at the mission.

Sponsor a Child to Cedarkirk

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Accept my Donation to send a child to camp. \$ _____

Please use my donation where most needed. \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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

Smile!

While the mission's dental clinic is still under construction, mission partner, MISSION SMILES, will be bringing their mobile clinic to the mission on Saturday, May 12th. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to learn more about the Beth-El Dental Clinic, please call Kathy at 813-633-1548 ext 223.



Beth-El Dental Clinic

Beth-El has a number of opportunities for volunteers who would like to share their professional skills to help improve



Before long, Beth-El will open a free dental clinic for adults in our community without insurance. In preparation, we are collecting hygiene kits to offer our patients after their treatment. We are looking for packaged toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss. To learn more how you can help, please call us at 813-633-1548.

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

Immediate Needs

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

- Shampoo
- Bar of soap
- Wash clothes
- Insect repellent
- Sun skin protection
- Deodorant
- Tooth paste/tooth brush
- Towels
- Water shoes



I would like to become more involved at

I would like to donate \$_____

Beth-El Mission as a Volunteer:

- Community Dinner
- Food Pantry
- Lead VBS
- Organize a Workgroup
- Organize a Food Drive
- Organize a Clothing Drive
- Summer Camp Scholarships
- Back to School Program
- VBS Supplies
- College Scholarships
- Music Lessons for Youth
- Food Pantry
- Mission's Greatest Need



APRIL 2018						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
01 Worship Service 11 am	02 Rice & Beans packing day!	03 Blood Drive	04 Groceries packing day	05 Groceries packing day	06 Mobile Food Pantry	07
08 Worship Service 11 am	09 Produce packing day!	10 Food Pantry	11 Groceries packing day	12 Groceries packing day	13 Produce packing day!	14
15 Worship Service 11 am	16 Rice & Beans packing day!	17 Food Pantry	18 Groceries packing day	19 Groceries packing day	20 Spring & Packing for Farm Deliveries	21
22 Pastor Terrence Commissioning Service 3 pm	23 Produce packing day!	24 Food Pantry	25 Groceries packing day	26 Groceries packing day	27 Produce packing day!	28
29 Worship Service 11 am	30 Rice & Beans packing day!	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12



Many thanks to all our supporters!

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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