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## *Plenty to Smile About*

This month's news is filled with plenty of things to smile about. From a recap of our summer activities for children and youth to news from Nuevo Camino-great things are happening at Beth-El! Next month the first phase of our Health & Wellness Campus will open with the mission's dental clinic.

If you would like to learn more about the mission, and how you can become involved, please give us a call at 813-633-1548.



Dios le bendiga!



**Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain**  
**Executive Director**



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## **Really?**

When you were young and in school, did you realize that getting your education was going to set you free? Studying history can set you free from making mistakes that have been made in the past; studying mathematics can set you free from not knowing how to understand budgeting your money, or building something; and studying English can set you free to understand our language, to write it and to read it. Having this basic knowledge is just the beginning of the many adventures that an education can give you.



At the last Beth-El Board meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, the Scholarship Committee announced that nine applicants were being granted scholarships – some for just one term, because the recipient might have to move with their family to follow the crops and some scholarships were for the full year. Of these nine applicants, some are

just beginning their higher education and some are continuing their classes. One student is continuing his education to become an Aero-space Engineer, another is continuing her studies in Astrobiology – aspiring to work with NASA or Space X. There are future educators, dental hygienists, medical doctors and health care professionals who received scholarships.

Our applicants are held responsible for filling out an application, submitting a well-written 2-3 page typed paper telling of their life as a child of farm workers, their family relationships, the challenges they have faced in their life and their hopes and dreams for the future. They are also expected to provide an update of grades and activities if they are reapplying.

These recipients are working to set themselves free – free to be what they want to be! You are invited to help them and others who will pursue higher education by donating to Beth-El and marking your donation for Scholarships.

Yes, education can REALLY set you free to have a life of success and a life that can enable you to give back to others.

**Penny Knight, Chairman  
Scholarship Committee**

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## ***Greetings from Nuevo Camino, Beth-El's Worshiping Community!***



Here at Nuevo Camino, we strive to live as Christ's faithful disciples through life's ups and downs. We consider how God is with us even during difficult days. As a community we've been studying Mark 4:35-41; I highlighted how the disciples had chosen to follow Jesus into the boat-crossing the sea at night, and at least 4 of them were fishermen and knew storms could arise without

warning. As the storm arises, the disciples allow their anxiety to take control, full of fear, the disciples wake Jesus and accuse him of having no regard for them and their

lives. The disciples experience Christ's absence though he's there in the boat with them all along! We focused on three points:

**Jesus' Presence:** He never left the disciples and though he is asleep, Jesus continues to be present with his friends. We trust God in Christ is always present with us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus' Peace:** Jesus brings peace, easing the disciples fear when he calms the storm. We trust that we have peace with God through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection.

**Jesus' Prompting:** Jesus first calms the storm, then Jesus questions the disciples' faith. Yet, he does not abandon them, instead, he continues to walk with them guiding and teaching them as he carries out his ministry. We can trust that Jesus guides and strengthens us in our faith.



We trust that God has plans for our community. We grow as we seek to balance obedience to God and active waiting, discerning what is for us to do now, what must wait for now and what is beyond our control. We strive to be welcoming to long-time members and new visitors exploring how to use both Spanish and English as we praise, worship and grow in faith.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tamara", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

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## Summer Community Outreach

This summer has been a busy one. Upwards of 75 youth and children from the Beth-El community crowded the hallways during the weeks of July for Vacation Bible School. While here, they ate breakfast and lunch, played games, learned about the word of GOD. VBS is always a great experience for the kids as well as the groups that put it together.



Summer is also a time filled with mission groups visiting from various parts of the country. Thanks to the volunteer groups, we now have two freshly painted classrooms. The rooms look so much brighter and cleaner, and I'm sure the children will enjoy coming to Sunday school even better now. Additionally, thanks to our work groups, the exterior walls of one of the Health and Wellness portables, which exhibited water damage and wood rot, were completely replaced and primer paint was rolled on to protect the new walls. The much needed work performed by the work group to this unit will help extend the life and future use of the refurbished building. These are just a couple examples of projects that were carried out by them.

Even though most farms are idle this time of year, there are still workers in the fields. This is always a memorable moment for our visiting mission teams that puts what we do into perspective.



This summer we reached out to over 500 farmworkers in our area. We provided them with resources and basic needs like toilet paper, bottled water, hats, and personal hygiene items. While there, the volunteer groups also feed the workers a quick hot dog and chips meal, since all this work happens during the workers' lunch break. This ministry is always a

lot of fun for everyone and is greatly appreciated by the farmworkers as well.

These are just a few examples of how volunteers are making a difference in our community. Whether as part of a group, or making an individual volunteer commitment, there are plenty of ways you, too, can become involved at Beth-El.

Hope to see you soon!



**Javier Izaguirre**  
**Community Outreach Manager**

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## ***Being a Youth Leader at***

### ***Beth-El***

Vacation Bible School is always fun for me, and being a leader is great. I see many kids here that I have watched grow up over the years. This year we have about 75-80 kids. There is a lot of work with the kids and the activities with the group and volunteers. It's always fun to see what the leaders have planned. This year we were shipwrecked one week and superheroes the next. It's all great!



***Alexis Pineda***  
**VBS Youth Volunteer**

## ***Vacation Bible School is back!***



Trinity Presbyterian Church from New Port Richey, FL transformed our main building into shipwrecked islands and boats during the first week of Vacation Bible School at Beth-El. This is the fourth consecutive year Trinity volunteers and staff have come to Beth-El and surprise, not just children, but also staff and boards members with their creativity and love for what they do. *Thank you Trinity crew!* See you in Summer 2019.



Fernandina Beach did *AWESOME!* During our second week of Vacation Bible School our rooms and sanctuary were the homes to a bunch of superheroes. We want to thank First Presbyterian Church of Fernandina Beach for all of the effort and happiness they brought to the kids of the community.

## Shoe Shopping & Pool Day





I would like to become more involved at Beth-El Mission as a Volunteer:

- Lunch at the Farm (Sept-May)
- 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

## Immediate Needs

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

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Bar soap
- Razors
- Toothpaste
- Sunscreen
- Hats, shorts
- Underwear & Socks
- Feminine products
- Towels / Wash cloths





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			01 Groceries packing day	02 Sorting Clothing	03 Mobile Food Pantry	04
05 Worship Service 11 am	06 Rice & Beans packing day!	07 Food Pantry Distribution Day	08 Worship Service 7 pm	09 Groceries packing day	10 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	11
12 Worship Service 11 am	13 Sorting Clothing	14 Food Pantry Distribution Day	15 Groceries packing day	16 Groceries packing day	17 Sorting Clothing	18
19 Worship Service 11 am	20 Produce packing day!	21 Food Pantry Distribution Day	22 Worship Service 7 pm	23 Sorting Clothing	24 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	25
26 Worship Service 11 am	27 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	28 Food Pantry Distribution Day	29 Groceries packing day	30 Sorting & Packing for Farm Deliveries	31 Sorting Clothing	

## Beth-El Dental Clinic



The dental clinic will be opening this September. In preparation, we continue to collect 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.

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



*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](http://www.beth-el.org) or by emailing us at:  
[info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org)**

## **Beth-El** *Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*

Fueled by Volunteers and Your Faithful Prayers and Support

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Web: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)



Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is open Monday through Thursday from 8a.m. to 5p.m., Friday 8a.m. to 2p.m. Other times by appointment.

### **Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Staff**

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***Extraordinary Support Staff:***

Maria Galarza

Arcadio Renteria

Jesus Gallardo



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