

Beth-El

Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



And so this is Christmas

I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels that Christmas just feels different in Florida. We trade in our boots for flip flops, and our sleds for paddle boards. While our northern friends enjoy a winter wonderland, huddled by the hearth, we grill on our lanai or enjoy a walk along the beach. We live in paradise, and yet...

On a rare cold and rainy Florida morning, volunteers from various churches joined the staff of Beth-El to share a holiday luncheon at a local farm. There was turkey and tortillas--a divergence of flavors illuminating our cultural backgrounds. The meal was served in an open air barn -- barely enough shelter to keep the rain away.

And yet...

Hearts were warmed that cold drizzly day -- smiles shared in abundance. As the meal drew to a close, several farmworkers brought out dozens of cabbages, freshly picked that morning to give as a gift to the servers. All our hearts were filled once more.

While we returned to our warm cars, they returned to the fields.
How grateful we are to those whose labor provides the produce for
our tables.



It's a familiar story we hear quite often this time of year about a baby born in a manger because there was no room at the Inn.

And yet...

Isn't Christmas the Season we are called to *make room* -- to make room in our hearts and our lives. God offers us the the invitation through Christ to *make room* -- to love one another as the one whose name is love has loved us.





All of us at Beth-El want to thank-you for *making room* in your hearts for our farmworking community. Throughout the year we have journeyed together. It has not been the easiest of years, and yet...

This Christmas many homes will be brightened because of your generosity. So, on behalf of Pastor Tamara, Rosalva, Jesus, Maria, Arcadio, Sheila, Nuri, Javier and myself:

Gracias por bendecir nuestro Ministerio y misión en Beth-El.

Katny





A Christmas Prayer

*Good and Gracious, Mighty and Merciful God, we thank you that you are Immanuel, "God with us". As we continue marking the days until Christmas, remind us, O Immanuel, that you are with us and for us and you walk with your children. Grant us a sense of your peace as we pray for those in special need. We pray for all involved with the growing season here in South Florida, lifting up those who work in field and farm, those who earn their livelihood by providing us with nourishment. May they eat at least as well as we do. We pray for good working conditions, we pray for good relations with the surrounding community and we pray especially for farm workers and their families. Be with us all for we seek after your will and your way.
In Christ, **Amen.***



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Fueled by Volunteers and Your Faithful Prayers and Support

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The Mission is now closed for the Christmas holiday.

Christmas Eve worship will be held at 6pm on December 24th.

The mission will reopen for limited hours Christmas week:
Tuesday through Thursday from 9am to 2pm.
The Tuesday Food Pantry operate according to its regular schedule.

Support Beth-El Mission with your online contribution today.

