

# Beth-El

## *Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*

### *Defining Welcome*

**Akeyi! Dobro pozhalovat'! Bienvenidos!**

Just how exactly do you define *welcome*?

Every day at Beth-El there is a bee hive of activity and languages within our doors. Tuesday's food pantry is by far the busiest day of the week with lines frequently stretched out to the farthest reaches of the parking lot. There are Haitians, African Americans, Latinos, Anglos, even several Russians who partake of the services provided by the mission.

The pace to serve everyone is frenetic. Yet, in the midst of all this activity, the day begins with staff and volunteers in a moment of prayer and fellowship with the reminder to treat everyone who

enters our doors with respect and dignity. This is not always easy, especially for someone like me who is used to doing everything decent and in order. Some days frustration abounds. Who among us would long to spend hours in line for meager rations? It's hot; sometimes we have very little to give, and sometimes we run out of resources before the day is over. There is the lunchtime rush as workers from the local packing houses dash in on their break, or the elderly who line up outside our door at the crack of dawn.

Whether it is your first visit or the 100th time through our doors. Whether you are grateful or a real grouch, we try to treat each person with dignity and respect, but first we begin by paying our respect to our Creator who made this mission possible. Each one of us has traveled here



by different means. Many of the stories we hear share common themes, but the cast of characters are as beautifully individual as the God who created them. It reminds me of the psalmist who reminds us that each of us is wonderfully made, knitted together by the hands of God.



Since the beginning of 2018, over 20,000 families have been served through the mission's hunger relief efforts. Nine students are attending college on Beth-El scholarships, 600 students began the school year with a new backpack and school supplies, 30+ kids grew in their faith at Cedarkirk, and countless others have benefited from the mission's community assistance program.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> the mission's free dental clinic will open to those without the resources to seek care on their own, and plans continue to develop to add medical and other services to our Health & Wellness campus.

I asked Rosalva how she would define, "*bienvenidos*" or *welcome*. She thought for a moment then said, "Well, at a business it might mean: 'Welcome. How can I help you?' But when someone comes to your home it's different. It is like, 'Welcome, I'm glad to see you!'"

I can't imagine all of the struggles many in our community face on a daily basis, but I do hope that when they come to Beth-El it is like coming home.

Whether you lift up your prayers for Beth-El in church, at home, or in a circle here on a Tuesday morning before our food pantry--your support matters.

Thank you for being a part of the journey.

**Dios le bendiga!**

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





## ***Making Promises***

Greetings!

Baptisms are always a special time in the life of the church. At every baptism, faith is professed and promises are made. Baptism reminds us of God's covenantal love for God's children and God's action of calling us into a community of faith. In 10 months at Nuevo Camino at Beth-El, I have been blessed to celebrate the sacrament of baptism with 4 children in our community.

Recently, we rejoiced as a young lady in fifth grade stood before the congregation to profess her personal faith in Jesus Christ and her desire to become his disciple.



Last Sunday two sisters aged 5 and 1 gathered with their parents and sponsors. Prior to the baptisms their parents professed faith in Jesus Christ. Sponsors and the congregation made promises to support the children in their faith journey that they might grow to become disciples of Christ.



Let us all remember our own baptisms, whether they took place when we were infants, children, youth or adults. Please continue to hold Nuevo Camino in your thoughts and prayers as we recruit teachers and leaders to nurture our children and youth in faith during the upcoming program year.

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. [Matt. 28:18–20]*

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tamara Lara".

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

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## Dental Clinic Dedication and Open House

Saturday, November 3rd from 11am to 2pm

Please join us for a special ribbon cutting and dedication service as the mission begins this

new ministry. Light refreshments and tours of the mission campus and community will also be available.



*"It's like Christmas!"* So says dental professionals Angela Zane and Carmen Felts. Also helping us get ready are Teresa Posada-Wilcher and Dr. Dan Branca (not shown).

Many thanks to Beth-El Board member, Randy Talaski and his friends Bob O'Neil and Dick Bouty who helped install the dental equipment.

Thanks also to Michael Frandsen, INTERSTRUCT and countless volunteers that have helped make this dental clinic a reality.



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# Help Us Reach Our Goal!



*Help keep our mission and ministries moving forward in support of farmworkers and our neighbors in need.*

**Beth-EI Farmworker Ministry needs to raise \$374,000 by December 31st to meet our 2018 budget.**

***Won't you help?***

I would like to become more involved at Beth-EI 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
-

# *Volunteerism at Beth-El: Why me? Why not me?*



As one examines the volunteer program at Beth-El, it is important to understand the challenges the workers face. Migrant workers are way down the pay scale of all workers. They work in unbelievable climate conditions, primarily, the Florida sun. Most of the farmworkers served by Beth-El came from Mexico and other Central and South American countries. There are more workers than available jobs and housing is so scarce that it often consumes half of a family's income.

In 1976 a group of Cumberland Presbyterian Ministers rented a home in Ruskin, Florida, to serve the needs of the farmworker. This was the beginning of Beth-El.

Beth-El is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and like all of these kinds of organizations, they are dependent on volunteers, individuals like you and me who are willing to give their time clearing brush from fence lines, paint, organize items that are donated to the Thrift Shop, the Food Pantry, packaging beans and rice, and assisting in the distribution of food every Tuesday. Volunteers come from churches in the surrounding communities as well as from youth groups throughout the USA.

Siesta Key Chapel in Sarasota, Florida, became involved at Beth-El in 2005 when there was a need to help out at the annual Housing Fair. Soon, members from our church began volunteering one Friday each month. Currently we come every other Monday to package beans and rice and every Tuesday to distribute food bags, produce, paper towels and any other products that can be of use to the farmworker.



Why do we volunteer? There are many reasons that could be offered; however, one stands out above all others. After volunteer time at Beth-El is complete, we leave with an overwhelming feeling that YES! through our efforts, on this day, we did make a difference in the lives of the farmworkers. Yes, there are many other positives: The appreciation shown by the farmworkers, the fun working alongside

volunteers like ourselves, and the continuing thanks given to us by the Beth-EI staff.

**Bob Million**

**Volunteer/Former Board Member**

## ***Blessing of the Backpacks***



Thanks to your donations more than 600 hundred children from our summer programs and the community have received a backpack filled with school supplies to start the school year. We continue to provide additional backpacks to migrant families returning to Wimauma.

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## ***Immediate Needs***

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

- **Deodorant**
- **Bar Soap**



- Washcloths
- Shampoo
- Hats
- Men's socks
- Non Perishable Food
- Diapers
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Shoes (Men's size 6-10)
- Men's work pants (size 28-36)



## Beth-El Dental Clinic



The dental clinic will see its first patients on October 6th. We continue to seek volunteers to help with this ministry. If you are a dental professional, or if you would just like to help out, please call Kathy at: 813-633-1548 ext. 223.

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.

## Tune to 96.3 FM Radio

September 13th at 11:30am to hear the latest events  
happening at Beth-El





*Many thanks to all our supporters!*



# SEPTEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FR	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
02 Worship Service 11 am	03 * <b>Health Update!</b>	04 Food Pantry Distribution Day	05 * <b>Sorting Clothing</b>	06 Groceries packing day	07 * <b>Mobile Food Pantry</b>	08
09 Worship Service 11 am	10 * <b>Sorting Clothing</b>	11 Food Pantry Distribution Day	12 Groceries packing day	13 * <b>Sorting &amp; Packing for Farm Deliveries</b>	14 * <b>Sorting Clothing</b>	15
16 Worship Service 11 am	17 * <b>Rice &amp; Beans packing day!</b>	18 Food Pantry Distribution Day	19 * <b>Sorting Clothing</b>	20 Groceries packing day	21 * <b>Sorting &amp; Packing for Farm Deliveries</b>	22
23 Worship Service 11 am	24 * <b>Sorting &amp; Packing for Farm Deliveries</b>	25 Food Pantry Distribution Day	26 Groceries packing day	27 * <b>Sorting &amp; Packing for Farm Deliveries</b>	28 * <b>Sorting Clothing</b>	29 * <b>HEALTH</b> Dental Clinic Training & Dry Run
30 Worship Service 11 am	01	02	03	04	05	06

For farm deliveries or such of the farms times, please contact Jennifer at [Jennifer@beth-el.org](mailto:Jennifer@beth-el.org) (813) 631-1548 ext. 209 for more details. \*Subject to change.

## 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)**

**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

**Our mailing address is:**

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PO Box 860  
Wimauma, FL 33598-0860  
Phone: 813-633-1548  
**Email:** [info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org)  
**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**

Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain, Executive Director	ext. 223	email: <a href="mailto:kathy@beth-el.org">kathy@beth-el.org</a>
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## ***Extraordinary Support Staff:***

Maria Galarza  
Jesus Gallardo



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