

BETH-EL NEWS



Beth-El Farmworker Ministry 18240 Hwy 301 S. Wimauma, FL 33598
Please mail correspondence to: PO Box 860 Wimauma, FL 33598

General News

The freeze in early January certainly made our yards and landscaping look pretty miserable didn't it? Take just a few moments to reflect on how it impacted the lives of farmworkers. In the Immokalee area, over 80 % of the crops were destroyed. The next harvest will be in early April. So the poorest of the poor have had no work since early January, but the rent keeps coming, a need for food and clothes.....yet there is no work to earn money. Basic human needs cannot be met.

We are blessed to be able to help the farmworkers that are in such need. At our extension ministry, Misión Peniel in Immokalee, last year this time we were distributing an average of 350 meals per week during the first quarter of the year. We are now averaging between 1000 and 1100 each Friday and have approached that number on a few Wednesdays when we have been able! The need is great. We have also started distributing during this crisis, a bag of 4 or 5 canned food items for the workers to take home with them. We know it is not enough, but they are very respectful and grateful for this food.

Join us in prayer that the farmworkers in all communities will soon be able to go back to work.

Open House at Mision Peniel
Sunday, April 11th
2:00 pm- 4:30 pm

Updates on all locations,
tours of the community, food,
worship service,
and overall great time!

105 S. 1st St, Ste 2-4 Immokalee 33432

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Board of Directors

Our Board met at Misión Peniel in Immokalee for their March Meeting. It was a great meeting by a very cohesive Board. Directors saw firsthand the large numbers of farmworkers "milling" around the streets as there still is no work.

A group of six left the main campus in Wimauma in our small bus, loaded down with about 2000 pounds of food to be distributed that following Friday. A rolling sub-committee meeting even took place on the trip.

They were greeted at Misión Peniel by a wonderfully prepared meal by Pastor Miguel's wife, Marifrans. Sure beat any take out meal!

After a short tour around Immokalee, the portion of the group that traveled by bus returned after a very productive day.

No amount of donation is too small! If each recipient of this Beth-El News was able to send a check for at least \$20, this would generate \$90,000 for our operating fund. Please prayerfully consider a financial donation.

From Pastor Ramiro's Desk

Every Thursday, one of the Mission's vehicles makes a pilgrimage to Arcadia. A group of members from Beth-El deliver food and clothes using the facilities of the 1st Presbyterian Church in Arcadia. Mr. Santos Vela, a member of the staff at Beth-El and a group of members from the Mission carry on that work of love.

Before every distribution there is a time for worship where everyone participates regardless of their religious affiliation, if any. It is an occasion for joy in the midst of the grave challenges facing everyone present: unemployment, illnesses with no medical insurance to cover for them, immigration issues, inadequate housing, and the list is endless. But for a short time there is a ray of hope and peace.

Last Thursday, however, that peace was severely tested. One of the members of the group died while giving birth. A young mom who leaves four girls behind. As I type this, the members from the Mission are traveling and along with the food and clothes they carry a small hand out that will be used in the memorial service to be held today for that young mom.

They do this because they want to show all of those in attendance that suffering and death do not have the last word. That Jesus conquered death and they through faith in Him are empowered to do it too.

It will be a time of sadness and crying, but a time to declare with Saint Paul:

If we live, we live to the Lord;
and if we die,
we die to the Lord.
So, whether we live or
die, we belong to the Lord.
Romans 14:8

Grace, amazing grace,
Ramiro



A GREAT BIG HELLO FROM BETH-EL!

We recently received some Beth-El Farmworker Ministry t-shirts. The above picture is of staff members, volunteers, and some members of the worshipping community from Beth-El. We rejoice in the many blessings that we are able to pass along to the three communities that we serve.

Our current staff numbers 14, worshipping community in Wimauma average between 140-150 per week, and volunteers at all three locations average 35-40 weekly.

Each of us says thanks for your support!

CURRENT DEBT FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THAT WERE MADE TO FACILITATE THE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH REDLANDS CHRISTIAN MIGRANT ASSOCIATION.

As of March 1, 2010 the outstanding balance is \$322,254

If able, please mark a contribution for the reduction of debt.

Summer Program Support Coupon

I would like to help support the summer Youth Programs by:

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ email_____

Helping to send a child to Cedarkirk for a week, the amount per child is \$325

Enclosed is \$50_____ \$100_____ \$200_____ \$325_____ Other \$_____

Providing funds for Vacation Bible School and School Supplies and new shoes for next school year.

Enclosed is \$50_____ \$100_____ \$200_____ Other \$_____

Undesignated \$_____

Pay down Mortgage \$_____

A receipt will be sent to you for the purposes of filing your 2010 Federal Income Tax.

SUMMER PROGRAMS...

As you will note by the above coupon, we are at the beginning of the fund raising for our Summer Youth Programs. We especially want to highlight the weeklong camp program at Cedarkirk in nearby Lithia, FL.

The average cost per child to attend a weeklong camp is just over \$300. Last year, thanks to the wonderful donations, we were able to fully scholarship every child that wanted to attend, all 38!

Most of the week long programs are shared in the overnight accommodations at Cedarkirk, although there is a popular program where we take young campers each morning and pick them up each late afternoon.

Many lifelong skills are learned while at camp. Most of the youth that request an opportunity to attend have either already attended during the previous year or are recruited by a friend who tells them what a wonderful time they had.

Won't you help, fill in the coupon today and forward it with your donation.

ONLY ONE MORE PRINTED NEWSLETTER TO BE MAILED

Make sure you send us your email address. After the next issue of Beth-El News, we will only be emailing the newsletter or you can read it on our website. The website this year will undergo a complete reworking.

Send an email to:

dave@beth-el.info with Newsletter in the subject line to be added to our growing list of supporters that wants to get Beth-El News electronically. It will save us considerable funds and will be another effort to "go green" and help our planet.

Don't delay, email today!

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Inc.
PO Box 860
Wimauma, FL 33598

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Requested Donations-

Please be aware that we still need men's clothes to distribute to the farmworkers in Immokalee and Arcadia. Long sleeve shirts are preferred in sizes Small, Medium and Large. Also pants up to size 36 waist. With crowds of 1000 folks each week, the need is great!

You can also help by organizing a food drive. Canned items and non-perishables are the best choices. Preference should be given to tomato sauce, fruit, processed meat, corn and pasta of any type.

Deliveries can be made to Misión Peniel in Immokalee or our Wimauma campus.

Grace Presbytery and Cumberland Presbyterian Church News

In early January, some nine churches were visited by Executive Director Moore during a VERY cold period in the Birmingham area. But the cold seemed to blanket most parts of our country during January. Particular thanks to the congregations of Gadsden, Rocky Ridge and their Hispanic NCD and New Hope who provided an opportunity for the Executive Director to share an update of the three ministry locations of Beth-El.

Grace Presbytery will now be conducting an annual Presbytery meeting in the fall. We will be in attendance at that meeting.

We had a wonderful visit by two busloads of youth and chaperones from First Cumberland PC of Dyersburg, TN. They helped us with many projects on campus and with providing a carnival for the youth of the Charter School.

Thanks to a GREAT group!