



Waiting Out the Storm

*The human mind may devise many plans,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.*

[Proverbs 19:21]

Yuri is a bright young 17-year-old who finished high school a year early so she could pursue her studies to become a dental assistant. We first met Yuri's family several years ago when they returned from picking in the northern states only to find that their home in Wimauma had burned to ground after a lightning strike. This year, Yuri's family decided to remain in Wimauma, foregoing travel and their summer



income, so that Yuri could get all her paperwork in order to begin her studies at Manatee Technical Institute. Through scholarships, Yuri is able to attend school without placing a financial burden on her family. Within a year, Yuri will be able to seek a job in her field of study--not only pursuing her dream, but supporting her family as well.

Like most Floridians this past week, I have kept a keen eye on the Atlantic. While still far offshore, forecasters began the call to prepare for Hurricane Dorian. Soon crates of water, canned goods, and bread began disappearing from our grocery shelves. Long lines appeared at gas stations. All Floridians awaited the storm to come. Anyone who has lived in Florida through Charlie, Katrina, Andrew, or Irma understands the significance of being prepared. Storms like Dorian wreak havoc on homes and families—best to be prepared!

I believe that preparation is composed of 1-part planning and 2-parts prayer. I confess that I tend to get those measurements backwards most of the time. All of us would like to have some assurance that we are in control—that if we follow our plan, all will be well. Yet, how many more of us have become disheartened when all of our plans fall apart--when our dream vacation is cancelled; when the diagnosis is not what we had hoped, when a storm appears on the horizon with no certainty on where it will make landfall only the probability of the damage to come. Storms are particularly harmful to the most vulnerable in our community.

These are very challenging times for our farm working community. Many live in fear that they will be separated from loved ones. For some, deportation is a real threat; for others, bullying is a reality. With the suspension of new applications for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), young people who have grown up in our school system no longer have any legal pathway to continue their education or get a job. For those who live, work, and support this community, the storm is nearing landfall. Unlike a meteorological storm of wind and rain, the storm facing farmworkers is far less defined. Much of this storm's outcome will be determined by how we plan to respond.

A photograph showing several farmworkers from behind, loading large plastic buckets onto the back of a dark-colored pickup truck. The workers are wearing casual clothing, including hoodies and jackets. The truck is parked on a paved surface, and a white RV is visible in the background under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

I would like to invite you to join me and other community leaders on October 2nd at 11:30am for a discussion on how the Church can pray and support our farm working

community through these challenging days. A lunch picked and prepared by farmworkers will be served. Please come, "Walk with Us" as we pray and prepare for the impending storm many in our community will face.

Dios le bendiga,



Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain
Executive Director

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? [James 2:5]

Walk With Us

A luncheon in Support of Farmworkers

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 11:30am

Please join us for a delicious and informative lunch at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry as community leaders share the current challenges facing our farm working community and how you can help.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is located 5 miles south of Sun City Center Blvd on Highway 301 in Wimauma, Florida.

RSVP by September 25th to director@beth-el.org



“Feed my lambs.” John 21: 15

If you have spent any time around Beth-El, you readily see that these words Jesus spoke to Peter are carried out daily by our wonderful staff and volunteers. Indeed, we are physically feeding over 600 families on any given Tuesday, but the mind and spirit as our motto states, are equally being fed.

Our Step Up for Success program aims to feed our young adults with hope, purpose and practical knowledge that will help them achieve their goals. Our mentors have taken to heart Jesus' instruction to tend His sheep. We are witnessing tremendous growth not only in our program but also in our participants. Our mentors are key to this success.

A Spotlight on our Marvelous Mentors



Sandy mentors Liz and Yami, two Step Up participants who are at Aveda studying Cosmetology. She has fostered a relationship with the girls by being a source of kindness and wisdom. Sandy has supported and listened to them as they embark on this new chapter of their lives. She went on a field trip to Aveda, had lunch with Yami and Liz, and gave them notebooks to journal their experiences. She will stay connected and be there for them as the everyday challenges of studying away from home come up. Sandy is a source of encouragement to these two amazing ladies.

Dean mentors several young people. Currently, he is working with Angel. The change in Angel is remarkable. Dean patiently has met with him on a weekly basis to outline his goals and help him explore his interests and strengths. Angel just started at Hillsborough Community College and by the grace of God earned a scholarship, work study, and was given a computer. Dean offered to meet Angel on campus to speak with his advisor and walked him through this process. We are excited to see the transformation in Angel and look forward to sharing part of this new journey with him.

There are many more mentors and tutors that have joined the Step Up for Success team. People from all walks of life, sharing their talent and education are signing up to mentor. A big shout out to Annie Garrison from the Coalition Against Human Trafficking for providing a team of mentors. Robbie, from CAHT, is Yuri's mentor. Robbie's love and care for not only Yuri but her family have been instrumental in getting Yuri started at Manatee Tech.



Education coupled with love and support from the community is key to providing hope for our young adults. If you are interested in our Step Up for Success

program, please contact me at outreach@beth-el.org use it to add text to your template.

Bendiciones,

Mary Ellen

MaryEllen Welton Barragan
Community Outreach Manager

Wear your Support

*Proceeds from our Beth-El T-Shirt Sales
will Support The Step Up for Success
Scholarship Fund.*

T-Shirts are \$20 each





Thanks to our faithful and new volunteers

Greetings!

We move forward into mission and ministry. The community recently gathered for a pot-luck lunch following worship to celebrate the beginning of Sunday school and a new program year. I'm happy to share we'll be starting a special Sunday school class for youth to help them prepare to make personal professions of faith in the Spring. We have training planned for leaders on our Beth-El Advisory Committee. Youth group will begin to gather soon. I am currently reaching out to youth group leaders in local congregations to explore joint activities. If your youth group would like to organize a joint program please contact me!



In the month of September The Tampa Oratorio Singers will provide a concert and meal for our worshiping community. We will also begin registering families for the Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information about this program or if you might like to participate. The worshipping community is planning a Garage Sale at the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry to be held on October 19. We will happily accept donations for this sale through October 16. All proceeds will go to support Nuevo Camino.

As always, we thank you for the many ways you bless us through your prayers, your presence, material and financial support!



Peace and Blessings,

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

Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara
Mission Pastor, Nuevo Camino

Blessing of the Backpacks







Volunteer of the Month



Veronica Castro, has volunteered at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry for the past 8 years. She always greets everyone with a smile. Her infectious laughter makes you smile, too. Veronica will accept any job assigned to her at Beth-El graciously and enjoys the people that she works with, also. On any given day, she may be working in the kitchen, in the food pantry, or the dental clinic. What makes Veronica keep coming back to volunteer at Beth-El? She says, "The Lord has been very good to me, and this is the only way I know how to pay back. These are my people, this is my community, and the love I feel for them is immense."

To learn more about volunteering, please email MaryEllen at outreach@beth-el.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

Thanks to Eckerd College for helping pack resources for Tuesday's pantry.

Immediate Needs

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

- Deodorant
- New Socks
- Hats (baseball style)
- Bandanas
- Men's Pants Sizes 30-36
- Toothpaste
- Disposable Razors
- Feminine Products
- New Men's & Women's Underwear - All Sizes
- Adult Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Insect Repellent
- Sunblock
- Adult Long Sleeve Button Up Shirts
- Bar Soap
- Dental Floss



I would like to become more involved at

I would like to donate \$ _____

Beth-El Mission as a Volunteer:

- Step Up for Success Mentor
- Food Pantry
- Lead VBS
- Organize a Workgroup
- Organize a Food Drive
- Organize a Clothing Drive
- Summer Camp Scholarships
- Back to School Program
- VBS Supplies
- Education Scholarships
- Dental Clinic
- Food Pantry
- Mission's Greatest Need

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



Gift cards are a wonderful way to help support the Beth-El community. The cards can be used in a variety of ways including for purchases of clothing, food or fuel. To learn more, please contact Kathy at Director@beth-el.org

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.



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., Friday 8a.m. to 2p.m. Other times by appointment.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Staff

Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain, Executive Director

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Jose Villa, Intern

Extraordinary Support Staff:

Maria Galarza

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