



The Laws of Supply and Demand – Tough Choices

My final year in seminary I had, what I thought, a tough choice to make: I could keep my car and drop out of school until I earned enough to continue, or I could sell my car and use the proceeds to pay my tuition -- I learned a lot riding the bus that year.

I learned the bus route by heart after a few failed attempts waiting in the cold for my connector back to seminary. I learned that where I went and what I could do were not only dictated by my finances, but also access to transportation. I learned to love riding a bicycle again (even when



it was freezing) and I learned the hidden places where the homeless found respite.

I also learned a great deal about grace from friends who would loan me their car from time to time so I could take my dog, Bob, to the vet, or strangers willing to “*tell me where to go*” when I wasn’t sure how to find my way home. Whether by choice or circumstance, when you are poor the options available to you are limited.



One of our community members recently had heart surgery to repair a congenital birth defect. Of course, she didn’t have insurance. How can you afford health insurance when that decision will affect your ability to provide shelter for your family?

Her story is not uncommon in our community. Everyday farmworking families make hard, difficult choices. Our hope is that with the opening of our Health & Wellness campus, the choice for better spiritual and physical care will become a little easier. It is our way of showing grace to those in our community whose choices are limited.

The first phase is the dental clinic, operated entirely through dental professionals willing to give up one day a month to help those in our community whose choices are few. These are dedicated volunteers. Most adults in our community have never seen a dentist. By the time they reach the clinic neglect and disease may make extraction their only choice, which is why dental education will also be part of every patient's visit.

In preparation for the opening of our clinic, Mission Smiles brought their mobile dental clinic to the mission for a Saturday brigade. It was a great opportunity for our volunteers who had undergone the required training by the Florida Department of Health, and our volunteer dental professionals to get a firsthand glimpse of what we would be doing on a regular basis.



The professionals saw 43 patients and performed 46 procedures. In that one day, over \$15,000 in free dental care was provided in our community. In addition, each patient received spiritual care, a dental hygiene kit, and had their blood pressure checked.

I learned a lot my last year in seminary riding the bus, I have learned even more since coming to Beth-El. In all ways, this is a ministry of grace. If you would like to learn more about the clinic or how you can volunteer, please email me at Kathy@beth-el.org.

Dios le bendiga,



Rev. Kathleen Dain
Executive Director





Many thanks to Mission Smiles for providing their mobile clinic and leadership, and to our wonderful Beth-EI volunteers!



Greetings from Nuevo Camino at Beth-EI!

In many churches Spring and the end of the school year often marks a winding down of activities —not here-- we are gearing up for both continued ministry and new summer programming!



The mission continues to serve members of the community through the Tuesday food pantry and outreach services. This summer two youth from the worshipping congregation have made a commitment to serve at least once a week in this ministry. In the month of May, the men of the church organized a wonderful luncheon for mothers. During worship on Mother's Day, the children of the church learned a song they sang in honor of mothers and the men offered a

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serenade. In May, I celebrated my first Quinceñera worship service for a young lady in the congregation. The community also gathered for a movie night and supported a youth fundraiser.

As we look ahead, we'll be receiving work groups from churches and other organizations. We're finishing up Cedarkirk camp registration and planning transportation to camp for our children and youth as well since this is a challenge for our community. Thank you to all who support our scholarship program which enables our young people to have an experience that would otherwise be beyond their reach. Vacation Bible School registration continues for children and youth volunteers, complete with breakfast and lunch. We thank church groups who set aside time to come and to share Bible school programming with our children!

Peace,



Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara

Pastor, Nuevo Camino at Beth-EI

Summer Cool People

We would like to introduce to you our summer staff for 2018.

Melanie Canizares

I am one of the new Summer Programming Assistants at Beth-EI and will be working along with Janelly Rodriguez on our summer programs such as CedarKirk and Vacation Bible School. I was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in a military family moving around throughout my childhood. My family currently resides in Riverview, FL while I am studying in Miami. I recently completed my third year at the University of Miami studying Neuroscience on pre-med track. I am applying to medical school this summer with hopes of gaining acceptance for Fall 2019 and being able to make an impact on underserved communities.



Janely Rodriguez

My name is Janely Rodriguez. I am a recent graduate of the Hillsborough Community College and Lennard High School. In the fall, I will be enrolled as a full-time student at the Florida Institute of Technology as an astrobiology major. I have been living in Wimauma for about thirteen years now. I attended RCMA Academy, so the Beth-El community is one of familiarity, which is why I was so excited to learn that I had gotten the job of summer programming assistant. I grew up in the area and remember having my middle school classes here at Beth-El while my middle school was being constructed. It is being back in the same room that my class was in as a Beth-El employee; It seems that everything came back full circle.



Are you ready for Summer?

At Beth-El we are!



One of the most exciting times of the year is approaching... Can you guess? Yes, Summer is almost here!

As you may know here at Beth-El we take summer pretty seriously. Our calendar is full of activities for our summer programs. We also have several work groups scheduled during the next couple of months. The summer troops come from everywhere, even from DC, to work in different projects, rain or shine.

VBS will start the first week of July. I already have seen several familiar little faces coming to register. Children are always excited about what's new every year.

Their conversations start with questions like: "Do you know what we are doing this year? Is my backpack going to be this/that cartoon picture? Are you going to the pool again with us? My feet are bigger" and so on. It makes me feel very happy when I realize that all the work behind the scenes and all the programing is worth every single second.

We are collecting school supplies and other items to help children with what they need to start school.

The blessing of the backpacks is August 5th. We expect to distribute more than 80 backpacks for the children that attend to our summer programs plus around 500 backpacks for the community members.

And all this is happening thanks to your donations and faithful prayers!

Sheila

Sheila Villamar
Operations Assistant

Sounds of Summer

Children's laughter is frequently heard around the mission this time of year. Kids love coming to Beth-El for VBS and we love the volunteers who make these programs possible. This year our mission will be shipwrecked one week, and super heroes the next. This will be the fourth year that Trinity Presbyterian of New Port Richey camps out at the mission for the first week of VBS. All of us at Beth-El love to see how they will transform our hallways and classrooms into the VBS theme for that year. The second week of VBS will be led for the first time by Fernadina Beach Presbyterian Church with curriculum and props provided by Pine Shores of Sarasota. The great part about the sounds filling our hallways is that they are not restricted to the children. Young and old love their time at Beth-El. Come join us aind out for yourself.



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
- Deodorant
- Bar soaps
- Razors/shave cream
- Body wash and lotion
- Baby formula
- Baby shampoo and conditioner
- Baby wash and lotion
- Diapers New born/size 1



Summer is around the corner and with that our Back to School Program. Thanks to your donations, every summer, Beth-El distributes more than 500 backpacks filled with school supplies. Here is an idea of what you

Back to School Supplies Wish List

- Back Packs (Middle and High School size)
- Glue Sticks
- Binders (1",2",3")
- Washable markers
- Coloring pencils
- Notebooks
- Highlighters
- Loose leaf paper
- College ruled paper
- Composition notebooks
- Scissors
- Pens (black, blue, red)
- Pencils
- Erasers of any type
- Hand sanitizers (pocket size)
- Index Cards
- Three hole dividers
- 3 prong folders with pockets
- White board markers

could donate!

Pencil pouch

Beth-El Dental Clinic



Construction on the dental clinic is almost complete. In preparation, we are collecting 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.**



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

For farm deliveries or lunch at the farms times, please contact Javer at javer@beth-el.org (813) 633 1548 ext. 228 for more details.

Meet Jose Diaz

Jose recently joined the staff in the newly created position of property operations manager. You can read more about Jose in next month's newsletter.





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 or by emailing us at:

info@beth-el.org



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

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 | ext. 223 | email: kathy@beth-el.org |
| Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara, Pastor | ext. 222 | email: tamara@beth-el.org |
| Javier Izaguirre, Community Outreach Mgr. | ext. 228 | email: javier@beth-el.org |
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| Melanie Canizares, Summer Assistant | ext. 226 | email: summer@beth-el.org |
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Extraordinary Support Staff:

Maria Galarza

Arcadio Renteria

Jesus Gallardo