

**Misión Peniel**  
*a ministry of Peace River Presbytery*  
**Year End Report for 2021**  
*February 2022*



Misión Peniel seeks to be a critical resource to the farmworker community of Immokalee in the name of Christ. Our mission statement expresses the desire to address the isolation and injustice among those who are often forgotten and neglected by the vast majority, even while being called “essential workers”. We seek to be a place where “Peniel”, the face of God, is shared so that all may experience God’s transforming love, compassion, and grace.

The Misión Peniel year-end report offers a special reality. This report provides insight for how we have responded to unique circumstances. In this time we have had to be faithful to the Lord's call to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Throughout the year, our faith and trust in God has led us forward!

Throughout the challenges presented in 2021, Misión Peniel has sought to walk in solidarity with the farmworker community in the ways Christ accompanies the most vulnerable. Amid the uncertainties faced, we have borne witness to God’s abiding presence and trusting faith. As a result, we have had to make a serious assessment of who we are and how we serve one another. We have had to adapt to new realities. We embrace God’s transforming presence redefining and reshaping the ways we serve and sustain this mission and its outreach into the community. We believe our response has been faith-filled!

We are not what we were a couple of years ago. It would be incongruous to pretend to go back to the same old ways when reality is different. This is a new challenge we all are facing. All the changes and adjustments made have been possible with the blessing of God and your ongoing support. With both, we hope to be able to count on the new journey as we continue to be open and ready to learn and respond to where the good Lord will lead us in ministry in 2022 and beyond!

May the following information, numbers, and experiences from 2021 provide you with understanding, empathy, and a renewed desire to grow with us. We hope this report inspires you to continue supporting the ministry we bring forth among Immokalee farmworkers and the community in which they live in this year and for years to come! Your partnership in Christ’s mission is a blessing for which we give God thanks!

In Christ’s Partnership,  
The Misión Peniel Coordinating Team





Throughout the pandemic, the mission has adhered to CDC guidelines for creating a safe environment for people to gather.

## **2021 brought us Vaccines, Prolonged Pandemic and the Delta/Omicron Variants**

### ***Misión Peniel responded by...***

- Working with **Partners in Health, Health Care Network, and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers** in providing educational materials and information about COVID-19 at Friday distribution.
- Hosting on site vaccination and testing events.
- Providing grant and donor funded financial assistance to those affected by COVID-19 facing loss of income while in quarantine. **Total funds distributed in 2021: \$777,310.95. Individuals served: 903**

## **2021 created an increase in food shortages for those impacted by the pandemic**

### ***Misión Peniel responded by...***

- Supporting 21 homebound clients year-round with weekly meals, basic groceries, and hygiene products through the mission's **Pan de Vida Outreach Ministry**.
- Preparing and delivering food boxes to those in quarantine with the help of our partner organizations (PIH, HCN and CIW). Local churches also contributed the specific items packed in each box. Average throughout 2021: **15 boxes per week**.
- Distributing **3,500 pounds** of non-perishable food per week/175,000 pounds total. Food provided through Harry Chapin and Midwest Food Banks and local church food collections and donations designated for food relief.
- Distributing **76,000 pounds** of fresh, responsibly sourced, and culturally appropriate produce through our partnership with Cultivate Abundance.
- Providing a yearly average of **400 households per week** with fresh produce and non-perishable food through Friday's distribution

## **2021 pandemic conditions challenged us to continue to provide a safe environment for the community and for volunteers for food distribution**

### ***Misión Peniel responded by...***

- Monitoring the updated CDC reports and local COVID reports.
- Further adapting all outreach activities in compliance with the CDC guidelines.
- Asking all volunteers and community members to adhere to our guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. **Volunteers provided close to 3,000 hours of invaluable service in 2021!**

## 2021 called for creative thinking for holiday celebrations

*Misión Peniel AND Local churches from Miami to Bradenton responded with Joyful Abundance by...*

- Raising \$10,340 for Christmas Joy bags for children
- Distributing 517 gift bags on December 17, each filled with holiday treats and a \$20 gift card to a local variety store. These were filled in advance by 11 participating churches.

## 2021 was a transforming year for Misión Peniel.

As guided by Christ's spirit, we embraced the uncertainty of the times with a faith that led us to new relationships with people, organizations, and churches. We experienced a new level of trust from the community, being identified as the mission where needs are met. We received the gifts, talents and resources that so many of our church partners shared with us, which were then transformed into an abundance for sharing with the community. We learned that some of the smallest acts of kindness have the greatest impact on one another. The opportunities God gives us to serve one another are all around us. We have affirmed once again, that we are in this together!

*We hope you know how much your partnership means to the people we serve. You brought so much joy, assurance, and relief into the farmworker community. May they continue to count on your support in 2022. Thank you!*



Community Health Workers provide educational Resources about COVID-19, Vaccines and Testing.



In addition to food, donations of books and school supplies are often shared with families.