“A vivid depiction of the needs of our migrant workers—and the power of faith in meeting those needs.”

— Tessa Rouverol Callejo, The San Francisco Foundation

New Book Explores the Difficult Lives of Migrant Farm Workers in Northern California... and One Woman’s Compassionate Response to Their Plight

For Immediate Release

PESCADERO, CA, October 2011 — It started simply. The pastor stood outside her church and greeted the workers as they came in from the fields. She spoke to them in Spanish and they responded. Soon a bridge was forged.

This is the true story of a rural community in Northern California who awakened to the migrant farm workers in their community—and chose to embrace them. Led by one extraordinary woman who was bolstered by her deep and abiding faith, the community offered “radical hospitality” to the strangers in its midst. And in doing so, they discovered an important truth—that our common humanity binds us all.

Rev. Wendy J. Taylor is the founder of Puente de la Costa Sur community service agency in Pescadero, CA. A retired pastor in the United Church of Christ and a spiritual director, she resides with her wife, Ellen, in the Pacific Northwest.

Margaret Kimball Cross is a writer and award-winning community activist from Waterloo, Iowa. She resides with her husband, Peter, in Northern California.

Rev. Taylor welcomes the opportunity to share with interested audiences the experiences—and the human face—of migrant farm workers in Northern California.

To inquire about a speaking engagement, contact the author at revwendy@no-longer-strangers.org

Request a review copy at info@no-longer-strangers.org
Praise for

No Longer Strangers
The Practice of Radical Hospitality

“...explodes the myths that allow immigration to be used as a wedge issue in our communities.”
— Edith Rasell, PhD
Minister for Economic Justice, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Church of Christ

“No Longer Strangers invites us to set aside fear-invoking terms such as “illegal aliens” and to offer hospitality to the “men and women alone” who work in fields and kitchens and back rooms all over this country, often invisibly, but bearing the gifts of God.”
— Dick Matgen, former Senior Program Officer
Peninsula Community Foundation

“Full of intelligence, humanity and understanding, No Longer Strangers shows how faith, when practiced in the context of today's complex world, still has the power to transform lives.”
— Tessa Rouverol Callejo
FAITHS Program and Civic Engagement Officer
The San Francisco Foundation

“I have never lived in a rural farming community, nor in a community that depended on workers who—for many reasons—are invisible. But now I feel I've lived that experience—thanks to the authenticity of this book. I loved the details, I wanted to take it all in, down to the very last crumb.”
— Migs Carter, Multicultural Youth Advocate

“No Longer Strangers tells the story of the development of an organization that recognizes, values, supports and includes migrant workers. If you really want to make a difference in your community, this is how you do it.”
— Beryl Rullman, M. Ed., Coaching Nonprofit Executives

“No matter what happens in the world around us, radical hospitality can soften the harsh word and lighten the load. For those migrant workers caught up in a life of toil, Puente has eased the burden of unfair immigration policies and made the South Coast feel a little more like home. This is the story of how Puente began.”
— Kerry Lobel
Executive Director, Puente

“Some of us thought the hard part would be getting here. But, when we got here, we had other problems, and it wasn’t that simple...It is really hard to find myself so far away from the land where I was born. But when we encounter this support from you, we can show our families that we are being taken care of. It makes them so happy. They thank God, and they pray for all of you, too.”
— A worker from Oaxaca, one of The Men Alone,
from the video at www.no-longer-strangers.org