



## December Update



Dear Bethel friends,

Knowing how hard the pandemic has hit our city and the Bethel families, our Christmas Shop Coordinators and we were all worried if we would be able to have our Christmas Shop this year. It was only by faith that we sent out Christmas applications to our families and reached out to those of you who have helped us in the past. God answered our prayers through you all and the response from all of you was beyond our wildest imagination! Thank you so much for your outpouring of love and your support of our Bethel Christmas Shop. **You have enabled many families and children to have something to look forward to on Christmas Day!** Without the help you have given, **many of them will NOT have anything on Christmas Day.** Thank you for your generosity this Christmas.



Ida Saw came with her mom to pick up her family's Christmas presents. Upon seeing the beautiful desk and chair that was given for her, she was overjoyed. She said, **"I am SUPER HAPPY."** When she was asked what she would use the desk and chair for? Ida said, **"I will do my online school."** The iPad holder makes her very happy as she doesn't have to hold it all the time. Her mom, Dim shed tears of saying, **"Thank you everyone for giving us all these gifts. This is the first time my family received Christmas presents. My heart is full of joy. May God bless you for your kindness."** They took off their face masks for a few seconds to take some pictures as they wanted to make sure that we see their beautiful smiles. Unlike the other years where we had a Bethel Christmas Shop Day, this year, we scheduled our families to come and pick up their Christmas presents one family at a time.

In spite of the challenges we face this year due to Covid, we continue to provide help and hope to our community through our invaluable programs and services. Our ministry partner **Once We Were Refugees** and we celebrated the third graduation of our sewing class for this year. Covid-19 didn't allow us to celebrate as a group but we recognized each student individually and celebrate their success! Each graduate took home the sewing machine they learned on, a new ironing board, a new iron, two bags of fabrics, threads, notions, a new scissor, and door prizes! Our students expressed their gratitude for the new skills and the confidence they gained because of their participation in the sewing class.



Thank you once again for your continued prayer and financial support of our ministry. We are able to meet needs and are able to work with our community because of all of you.

We wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas and a Covid free Prosperous New Year!

*Mang Sonna*

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna, Bethel Neighborhood Center