



January Update



A view of our new Driveway from the south exit of it on 7th Street.



A view from the West

Dear Bethel Friend,

Happy New Year, 2019!

As you can see in the pictures above, we are very close to completing our renovation project and our campus and building have new looks! They are not only better but they address safety issues we had before. The new garage will protect our vans from thieves and vandalism, and the new driveway and new pick up and drop off site on the south side will provide safety to our children/youth and their families, and senior citizens who participate in our programs. If everything goes well, we will be going back to our renovated building and campus in the first part of February! **We cannot wait to go back to Bethel!** Your prayers and financial donations enable us to offer **Hope** to struggling individuals, children/youth & families, and we are very grateful to you. Thank you very much for your recent donation to our ministry.



The Bethel community mourns the passing of a long time Bethel fan and supporter, Mr. Pershing Mann and a Bethel senior Mr. Charlie Alvarado in the second week of January. While Charlie was an entertainer, Pershing was a cheerleader for us. Pershing served on the Bethel board for 6 years and fell in love with the people we serve. He said, ***“What Bethel does is handing up not handing down to people but helping and educating young people and struggling families to become self-sufficient.”*** He helped many people and his legacy will live on for years to come! The picture on the left was taken during his visit to our Center few days after his 97th Birthday in 2015.

I enjoyed spending time with Pershing and listening to his inspiring stories. He encouraged me by saying, ***“Mang, you are the right person at the right time to lead Bethel ministry. Love the people you serve and don't leave them.”*** It was so good to have him all these years to cheer me and Bethel up. It was his **BIG pledge** that motivated and challenged individuals, businesses, foundations and churches to give their gifts towards our capital campaign. He visited Bethel a few times and was very pleased with the progress we made. Although he couldn't wait to see our renovated building, his time to be with the Lord and his beloved wife Mary has come, and he left us! Saying “Good bye” to our best cheerleader is very difficult! The Bethel community and I will miss him and his encouragements!



One of the best days at Bethel has always been the day we hand-out Christmas presents to our families. Last December, we helped 100 children and youth, 30 seniors, and met the Christmas wishes of 66 families as many of you adopted our families for Christmas. The mother of a Somali family that received Christmas presents from us for the first time said, ***“Thank you very much for all these Christmas presents. I cannot believe all these presents are for us.”***

May this New Year be a year of success for you and your family! Thank you for all you do for us.

Rev. Mang Sonna, Executive Director