



# The Bethel Beacon

December 2023



Dear Bethel friends,

December has been a good month for us year after year because of the wonderful tradition of the **Bethel Christmas Shop** Prairie Baptist Church and Bethel started in 1968. This year, we provided the Christmas wishes of seventy-five families, twenty-five senior citizens, and ninety-nine students who participate in our programs. We are very grateful to KU Health Systems, KCK Fire fighters—Strawberry Hill Station 1, Rescue 1, Pumper 1, Shawnee Mission LaSertoma, Bishop Ward High School, American Baptist Women, several churches, and many individuals for their generosity. The love you all have shown to our community gives them hope and makes their holidays better. Thank you for your partnership in offering hope.



God continues to do miracles in our midst and we had just witnessed another one a week before the Bethel Christmas Shop. We were struggling for more than two months to get a permit to use our newly constructed mini-gym as there was a difference in interpretation of some building materials. We were told to redo two parts of the outside walls using a different material or cover the parts with stucco. In order to get a temporary certificate of occupancy, we were required to do a few things. However, when we were given the permit to use the new building, it was not a temporary one but a permanent Certificate of Occupancy! We thank God and our city officials for the miracle that was done!

Grace Baptist Church adopted all our senior program participants, and they were all thrilled to receive their Christmas presents. Pat, a senior said, *“Thank you so much for adopting me. I am so grateful and I’m expressing my gratitude from the bottom of my heart. I know these gifts came from the hearts of people who love Jesus. Thank you for loving us and taking care of us. Merry Christmas to everyone.”* After they received their Christmas gifts, our seniors were in a hurry to go home. We plan on taking them out on a field trip to see the Plaza lights as we have done it in the past.



We will be closed from December 23rd to January 2nd. If you have any questions while we are closed, please call 913-548-8831, or contact us via Facebook messenger, or email us at [admin@bethelcenter.org](mailto:admin@bethelcenter.org)

We wish you and your loved ones a very **Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!**

Rev. Mang & Nem Sonna