

# Detention Limbo

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

port him to Eritrea because of the country's warring factions.

Amanuel's story is not unique and many refugees and immigrants in the United States end up in detention limbo when they end up having confrontations with the law.

For Amanuel, it was a simple theft conviction along with a 10 year old DUI charge that has left him in the crosshairs of immigration officials. Advocates say that Amanuel took a plea deal that didn't make sense, and that despite having successfully served time already on these old cases, they have come back up to haunt

him. "I hope to see him again so much," said his mother, outside the Portland immigration facility. "I miss my son and I love him. I can't even visit him. I don't know how to say this but we need to come together and help, because I can't do it alone."

Nicole Brown, leadership de-



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"I hope to see him again so much," says Elsa Mengis, a Portland mother, about her 38-year-old Portland son who is in federal custody and faces deportation because of his immigration status.



Thomas Amanuel

velopment director at the Center for Intercultural Organizing, shared similar sentiments.

"It's a big case for this family and for Portland, and we need people to know and pay attention if we want to change these laws," Brown said.

An earlier plea for a governor's pardon for Amanuel's relatively minor offenses never got filed, despite paying an attorney to file the paperwork.

"They feel cheated," said Brown. "They paid and there's no evidence he filed it."

If Amanuel can get a governor's pardon, he may be able to move forward in getting a stay and even naturalizing in the future.

**NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3725 N. Gantenbein Avenue - Portland, OR 97227 - 503.281.0163

invites you to our annual  
**Fall Revival** 7pm nightly  
October 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Rev. Bertrand Bailey, Jr.**  
Senior Pastor  
Greater Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church  
New Greenwood Baptist Church

**Rev. J. Walter Hills, II**  
Pastor - NHMBC  
Portland, OR

www.portlandplayhouse.org

TICKETS \$10 OFF with code "observer"

**YO! GET ON THE BUS!**

Oregon Cultural Trust OREGON ARTS COMMISSION

**HOW WE GOT ON**  
SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> - OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>



## Sweet Street Food Cart

New location 15th and Alberta

call 503-995-6150 to place order

Mon. - Fri., 11:00am - 7:00pm • Sat. - Sun., 11:00am - 5:00pm

Wednesday Special: 3 Wings \$2.00

Friday Special: Rib Sandwich, Beef or Pork, \$4.00

Advertise with diversity in The Portland Observer  
Call 503-288-0033 or email ads@portlandobserver.com