



Dear Family and Friends, 2017

Merry Christmases are possible only because the King of wisdom, power, love, and peace has come into the world. To the degree societies and rulers resist God's ways, the world will further plummet into a violent, cruel, manipulative era. May you find much room—a whole heart—for Jesus in your life.

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Paul & BFF Ministry

BFF's 17th year is about to close. Paul had stepped in as an interim pastor in our local congregation, but in July could again fully employ himself with BFF work, creating and distributing practical and helpful Biblical resources to empower the people of God. But despite this extra busyness, Paul was, by God's grace, still able to write, travel, and train pastors around the world.

He developed and taught a five-session seminar on “Striving for Moral Purity.” Meanwhile, he was able to bring his book, [“The Life Core: Discovering the Heart of Great Training”](#) into a well-received seminar in Nigeria. He was delighted at the opportunities to speak a record number of hours in Burma (Myanmar), despite a fractured foot. In one



place, Paul was asked to speak on [Abiding in Christ: Walking with Jesus](#). He had to work hard to transform this book into a seminar, not because of the topic but because of the powerful ways God had spoken to him in the past, leading to the book, which often led to a time of brokenness. We so desire your support and prayers. [Sign up/update here](#) if you haven't been getting our monthly prayer letters. One of the exciting opportunities was to distribute 3 Burmese translated books to our attendees. Burmese Christian books are hard to come by.



Paul & Linda have had a busy year helping Elias and Christy move, seeing Allison, our third daughter, marry Aron, watching Isaac graduate from high school and enter college, anticipating the birth of their fifth grandchild, and keeping up with the numerous job changes for our children. Through June, Paul had been acting as a part-time pastor to help their local church, which only added to the already super busy schedule. They were finally able—five months late—to get away to celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary in a very pleasant BNB. It was also nice, later on with the family, to visit the Boston area for Paul's Mom's 90th birthday celebration.



Linda has continued to oversee the joint elementary Sunday School time for both congregations. There are definitely rewards in seeing the children grow in their knowledge of God's Word but there are also many difficulties. For example, sometimes a new child who does not understand English shows up, and Linda uses her Chinese and tries to find an interpreter. Every ministry has its own challenges.

When family members are at home, Paul often considers how wonderful the harmony in our family is—it is like Christmas all year round!

Brooks & Elizabeth were busy readying their hearts and home for a new baby girl—Josie. Elizabeth remains at home, caring for Josie. Both she and Brooks volunteer at Prism, an international outreach. One Chinese scholar who attended their Harvest party and square dancing was so surprised to see Kathryn, whom he saw at church, babysitting, not realizing Elizabeth and she were sisters! And though the outdoor sports and activities have been curtailed some, Brooks still gets out to fish and hunt.



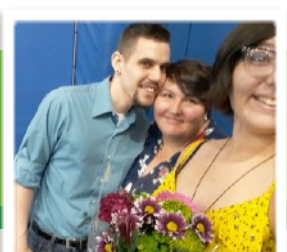
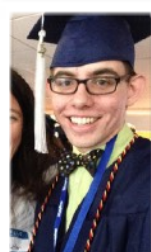
Elias and Christy faced lots of changes this year as Elias first shifted to consultant work and later moved to the Raleigh area so he could join the company full time. They are grateful for Grandpa and Grandma Bucknell's help watching their growing children—Joshua (10), Brianna (7), and Micah (3)—as they made this big move out of Pittsburgh. They have finally found a church that has a nice small group right where they live.



Aron and Allison both moved from New York City to Raleigh in May to start new jobs, and in October got married. They are enjoying the process of starting a life together, and are grateful to

have finally found a church and small group. They've started attending trivia nights semi-regularly. Allison keeps busy both with her full-time editing job and freelancing, while Aron is getting used to selling Infiniti cars rather than cell phones. She loves her new pet rats.

Daniel has worked hard studying for his Physical Therapy Assistant program. Meanwhile, he retains his job at a gem store in downtown Pittsburgh. He is very active in his church, and is involved in a mentorship as well as small groups. He continues to stay active, biking, camping, and rock climbing. Daniel and his girlfriend, Meredith, love exploring Pittsburgh together.



Benjamin & Christina

Sarasota, Florida has been nice to Benjamin's family, and though they have been in the same town, they have also had lots of changes. We all celebrated with Benjamin when he won first prize in a local cooking contest with his entree entry. He has since then moved on to another resort hotel, Long Island Key Club, where he supervises the early shift at one of their restaurants. Emily is doing very well in her school, and Christina has been busy caring for their new home not too far from where they formerly lived. They love the beach as a getaway, and are exploring the area as they make new friends and put down roots.

Kathryn has not slowed down upon returning from the Chicago area. She has had two jobs at different florist shops and has become quite accomplished in this aspect of design. She designed and arranged flowers for Allison's wedding, a pastor's ordination, and for her church. She is very active at church in both small group and as a vocalist on the worship team.



Isaac graduated from high school and started attending Cedarville University, a Christian university in Ohio. He likes the challenging Computer Science program and is grateful for a financial gift that enabled him to attend

classes this year. Isaac has excelled in his piano playing and is considering a music minor.

Rebekah likes her ongoing PA cyber high school classes. She still attends Keepers of the Faith and continues attending the church youth group. She loves baking cookies, enjoys reading the Guardians of Ga'hoole series, sleepovers with friends, and hanging out with her siblings and new niece!



Please note our new emails below! If you should ever be passing through, we have a bedroom for a guest or family!

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