

Dear Family and Friends,



“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12).

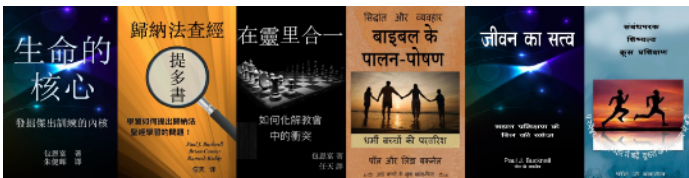
The Lord gave the shepherds, and all of us, many signs because He didn't want us to miss the significance of Christmas: Jesus' birth into this world. His most humble beginning warmly reminds us Jesus is the Savior, here to help us.

I (Paul) have been a Christian for fifty years. How wonderfully the Lord has worked in my life. I need His love and power to continue to shape me. It is Jesus, alive from the dead, who so amazingly works to change lives. When He saves, He changes. As He changes us, He uses us. Mercy so amazing!

Paul & BFF Ministry

The BFF ministry has continued expanding this year with more articles and books. At least six BFF books were translated into foreign languages. Paul launched the new BFF mobile website. Please visit and join (no cost)! www.bffbible.org The BFF websites topped five million page views this year!

In 2019, Paul visited two countries, Tanzania and India. He originally planned to visit Kenya, but then



communication abruptly stopped. About the same time, a radio preacher, who had contacted him years earlier, invited him to Tanzania. (Come to find out later, the emails to Kenya went to spam.)

Every trip tests our energy, faith, planning, and finances. But God has always come through! After holding two training sessions in Western Tanzania, Paul held a Chinese Marriage Seminar for Chinese pastors ministering in Africa. Those 8-9 talks challenged his rusty Chinese!

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Paul on Twitter: @PaulJBucknell || [Follow BFF on Facebook](#)

Paul & Linda

traveled a bit more around the East Coast this year. It looks like the Pittsburgh-Raleigh trek will continue for a while. With two



married daughters in Raleigh with our grandchildren, Paul on the board of a Christian leadership ministry, and opportunities to preach (in English) at the Chinese church there, it is becoming like a second home (not to mention all the friends from Pittsburgh that have moved there). Not a few want us to make Raleigh our first home!

We love being Grandpa and Grandma. We made one surprise visit to Raleigh to join Briana's science fair. Back in Pittsburgh, Linda continues to coordinate Elementary Sunday School, organizes the weekly Ladies Prayer Meeting, assists with socials, and is part of our Church's Expansion Team. With Daniel married (living close by), we only have two children at home now, so there is more free time. Our youngest, Rebekah, 18, is driving. Life is changing for us; it does not ask if we like those changes. We will go to Raleigh again on our way back from our regular winter trip to Florida to help Allison and Aron after the birth of their first, a son, in February. Paul's fifth-generation cousin from Latvia visited in the spring.

This year ends with some fun activities, along with a visitor from India (see picture). One day, we attended 'A Musical Christmas Carole'

at the Byham Theater. We had great seats near the front. It was extra special since we had recently met and talked to one of the key actors, Meredith's uncle, at their wedding. Later that same evening, we went to the Benedum Center to attend the



'Getty's Irish Christmas Concert.' And to finish off the year, we will go to Baltimore to participate in the Chinese Mission Conference (English track) with upwards of 3,000 attendees. Our church has more than sixty people attending.

Brooks & Elizabeth have tried to incorporate more deliberate rest into their lives. They have both been able to enjoy reading more books and getting away to go



fishing in the springtime. Elizabeth enjoys gardening more and more each year and finds ways to nourish its beauty as time allows. She loves to be home caring for her home and little family. After overcoming some walking difficulty, Josie loves to play outside and run around, looking for seeds and pinecones. She is almost two and a half and loves to talk and sing when she's in the mood and is learning new words daily. She also loves helping mama "cook" in the kitchen and is often found feeding her stuffed animals with her snacks. Their family is still involved with

international student ministry, and Brooks is working for insurance.

Elias and Christy are still settling into North Carolina life. This year the two older kids joined a two-day homeschooling co-op.



It's been a great experience but a big change in routine. Elias is enjoying the work at Rendering House. Christy has continued to enjoy knitting. Joshua, 12, is usually busy reading a book, building legos, drawing, tinkering in the garage, or playing

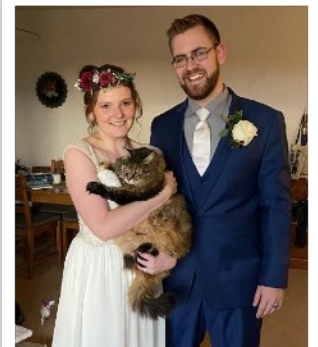
with friends. You can usually find Brianna, 9, reading, drawing, and creating projects or playing with one of her new friends. Micah, 5, is usually busy either copying one of his siblings or getting into something these days.

Aron and Allison have been quite busy this year! They've moved three times since May, found out in June that a little one was on his way, and have had to make a lot of adjustments as the year progressed. Allison has stayed busy in the gym to prepare for baby Herrera's arrival in February 2020, and she has been working through all the options when it comes to staying home/working/combination of the two. Aron has kept up with his sales job at Infiniti and still enjoys working with his customers and having great conversations as he walks them through the process of buying a car. The Herreras have finally found a local church and have been enjoying the process of making friends and community.

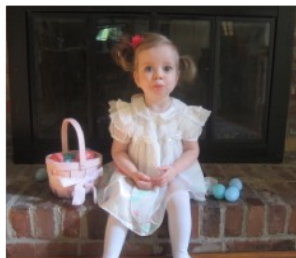


Daniel and Meredith 2019 was a busy year for Daniel and Meredith with announcing their

engagement in March and getting married in November. Daniel finished up his last semester in school and graduated in the spring with a Physical Therapist Assistant Degree. He passed his board exam in July and started a job at a physical therapy clinic. Meredith started a new job as a veterinary lab technician at a nearby emergency and specialty veterinary hospital. Both enjoyed spending their free time hiking and camping, as well as spending their honeymoon in Arizona, where they explored Phoenix, Sedona, and the Grand Canyon. Meredith and Daniel like to cook together, visit coffee shops, and explore the city. He helps with the Children's Ministry at his church and has a leadership role in his Discipleship Community (small group).



*All
eight children
together!*



Benjamin & Christina

Ben and Christina spent the year exploring and trying new things. Ben continues to work at the resort as a Chef Supervisor and enjoys his downtime. Christina has started nursing school and fostering kittens for a local rescue. Fynn enjoys her early college classes and got her driver's license in April. She works part-time at a boutique.



Isaac, 20, graduated with an Associates Degree in Software Development last spring. He works part-time at a rock store packing and shipping rocks and semi-precious stones. He enjoys playing piano, improvising, and jazzing up tunes of his own composition. He is part of our church College group-Anthology and serves on the Tech team. Isaac, a couple of friends, and siblings have enjoyed experimenting with film making. He continues to spruce up his computer skills with the aim of landing a full-time job.



Kathryn, 23, likes living in her own place with two housemates. She is keeping her hand in flower arranging. She did the flowers for Daniel's wedding. She is adjusting to a full-time schedule in the garden department at Home Depot. She loves working with the people at Home Depot and forming friendships, even with some customers. She continues to serve as an assistant Small Group leader, and on the Worship and Tech teams at church. She spends her free time cooking, doing small group activities, or with her housemates talking or watching movies.



Rebekah, 18, a senior, will soon graduate from PA Cyber. She plans to work for a year then go to cosmetology school. She still finds time to bake, even with a part-time job and studies. She's been experimenting in the kitchen, with mainly French pastries. She hopes to do more advanced baking. Rebekah enjoys participating in Cooking and French clubs at school. In the spring, she went on a River Cruise with her French club, explored other cultures with Polish and Serbia events. She recently got her driver's license and is super excited to be able to drive on her own!



If you pass through, we have room for guests or family!

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