

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2015 BUCKNELL FAMILY LETTER

2015 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Dear Family and Friends,

Peaceful Christmas greetings! May you know Jesus, the true Prince of Peace, who offers a supremely better way of 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

Each year finds us relying on the LORD more and more to manage. Perhaps it’s our age, or perhaps, it is our growing family, with three kids in college, traveling, and a very intensive ministry.

One of Paul’s biggest challenges this year was team teaching the Book of Revelation for our church Sunday Training class. He cannot ever remember needing to pour so much time and concentration into preparation. Fortunately, they started early, but still there was intense study needed for each weekly lesson. But the timing is of the Lord, seeing the increase of calamity going on around us. Has Satan been released (Rev 20:3)? Is the earth transitioning into its last days before it will be burnt up (2 Pe 3:10)? Perhaps this is the time Daniel wrote of, “But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase” (Dan 12:4; Rev 22:10).

This year is the first time that Linda was able to go with Paul on an overseas ministry trip. The Family Seminar in Taiwan afforded them a great opportunity to minister to families in Taiwan as well as visit their old stomping grounds in Taichung. What was once

so familiar in the 1980s, has drastically changed. Paul also spoke at the Mother’s Day services at the church that began in their living room outside of Kaohsiung. An updated transportation system and orderly traffic made travel a pleasure.

During the Myanmar leg of the trip we taught a marriage seminar in greater Yangon. The church structure where the seminar was held collapsed soon after due to heavy rains. They still have no church building.

Paul’s resources have continued to grow. He published a greatly expanded *The Bible Teaching Commentary on Romans* and its companion study question book. Several other books are now in paperback. By God’s grace he added 3 foreign translations: Chinese (*Premarital Counseling*), Hindi (*The Life Core*) and Burmese (*Building a Great Marriage*).

Someone commented on the marriage book, “You have a cheerful, hopeful tone in spite of very honest treatment of difficult marriage situations; thankfully it is contagious.” “Your materials are quite thorough without being too scholarly.” This well summarizes Paul’s goal of bringing God’s truth into the lives of God’s people.

BFF has its own [Facebook](#) page! Paul has started to use a new graphic-enriched way to regularly provide coordinated graphics and links to introduce new and updated resources. Please join us and pass the word along.

www.facebook.com/Biblical-Foundations-for-Freedom-BFF-209924859048429/

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





Paul & Linda not only took off to Asia together this year but also had an overnight get away at a farm's Bed and Breakfast. They are thoroughly enjoying this prolonged warm fall. For decades Paul,

Linda and family have travelled to Florida in the deep winter. With his Mom moved north and his Dad passed away and his house sold, they feel a little like nomads trying to figure out how much of this annual trek is part of their lives.

Perhaps you wonder about Linda's heart condition? In June, at her check up with the heart specialist, he said that her heart was back to normal (i.e. healed)! Thank you everyone for giving them an extension of active ministering through your prayers that even enabled Linda to have no problems during their Asia trip during sweltering conditions.



Only three children are living at home now since Kathryn went off to college outside of Chicago: Daniel, Isaac and Rebekah. Allison is presently completing her Masters in publishing at Pace University in NYC. Most of the family were able to get to the Boston area for a niece's wedding over Labor Day weekend.



The whole family was able to gather in early November for an early Thanksgiving. It was nice to have everyone together and recount their blessings from God. Linda's big challenge? Getting used to her first mobile phone (iphone 4s). She even sends/ receives texts now! But often forgets to take it with her!

Brooks & Elizabeth



Brooks and Elizabeth are doing well. Elizabeth has resigned from her ten year employment and now enjoys caring for many needed tasks around home. They started attending a startup church in an urban area. They took a trip driving many international students to Niagara Falls with P.R.I.S.M. They love their opportunities to fish and walk in the outdoors.

Elias, Christy, Joshua 8, Brianna 5, and Micah 17 months

Elias and Christy have been exceedingly busy juggling the responsibilities of work, 3 young children, home repairs, and church activities. Joshua and Brianna are both homeschooled. Being only a few miles away, Paul and Linda get to see their 3 grandchildren several times every week. Elias still serves as one of the coordinators for the church music team. Meanwhile, Christy has rejoined the worship team and helps out coordinating social events. Joshua enjoys spending his time building with Legos. Brianna enjoys being with her brother or practicing her ballet moves. Micah had recently started to walk and is thoroughly enjoying his new-found mobility.



Allison has been keeping busy in New York City this year. She moved to a new apartment in Washington Heights this September, and is finishing up her Master's program this week! She is currently looking for a job in publishing. In the meantime, she has been enjoying work as a barista in a coffee shop. She's still looking for the best burger in the city!



Daniel, has busied himself taking courses toward a Physical Therapy Assistant degree, as well as holding two part-time jobs, one at a downtown Pittsburgh Gem store. He often bikes to school and work. Daniel

gets other siblings (rarely Dad) involved in weight lifting and because of his therapy courses is able to give many good pointers. He is on the Tech team at church.

Benjamin & Christina have had a busy year including a big move to Brunswick, GA for Benjamin's new job as a chef at the new Westin Resort on Jekyll Island. This year we were blessed with the addition to our family of 12 year old Emily, Christina and Ben's daughter. It was great we could all be together in November. They love the new fence around their yard so their tiny dogs can run free.



Kathryn, having graduated from high school, now spends most of her time outside Chicago in Elgin, IL in



the Interior Design program at Judson University. She has been challenged by the art and design classes while most interestingly enjoyed her wood-working class. The parquetry to the right, she designed and made. She has taken some big steps, learning to travel on planes and trains by herself. She likes the beautiful campus and the people she has met.



Isaac likes his third year at a virtual high school at home. German has been his favorite class (and teacher). He continues to attend Oasis youth group. He and Rebekah often help with childcare at church. He has picked up a part-time job and an interest in Minecraft programming. We often hear him pleasantly

playing his mastered piano songs—at all times of day and night!

Rebekah finally finished reading the *Chronicles of Narnia* this year after a few stalls. She continues to homeschool with a twist. This year she has a video teacher and takes her tests online. She has kept up her interests in making things with her hands: cross stitch, friendship bracelets and baking. She continues to earn badges for her Keepers of the Faith girls' club. She, Isaac and Dad took a mountain hike this summer to the Arethusa Falls in NH and enjoyed swims in the Florida ocean waves in February.



As always, we appreciate hearing from you all. We now have an extra bedroom for a guest or two!

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