

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2016 BUCKNELL FAMILY LETTER

2016 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Dear Family and Friends,

How grateful we are for the awesome handiwork of God's love that is seen in Jesus Christ's arrival into the world. People are trying to create experiences and find relationships to make this world bearable, but we must remember that only in Jesus can we find true and enriching love and joy. What a privilege it is to celebrate Christmas each year. Merry Christmas!

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great, He will reign over the house of Jacob forever” (Luke 1:31-33).

Paul & BFF Ministry

BFF's mission to create, distribute, and empower the people of God continues, as does Paul's writing, traveling, and training of Christian leaders around the world. This past year, Paul spoke in several places, including Kenya, an island on the great Lake Victoria, the southern Philippines, and Malaysia. He added two new seminars: *Life in the Spirit: Experiencing the Fullness of Christ* and *Knowing God: Experience and Love Him*. Both of these seminars include digital resources for personal enrichment or teaching.

2016 has been a great year for creating and distributing new resources into the world. The materials that BFF has to offer have continued to build in number and language availability. Paul published an expanded version of *The Bible Teaching Commentary on Genesis*. Not every resource is planned, though! Paul was surprised by the idea behind his new book *The Lord Your Healer*, which aims to answer 13 difficult questions about life, health, sickness, and death. With extra funding for translations, Paul was about to get eight books translated this year, into languages like Burmese, Hindi, Swahili, and



Spanish. In fact, Paul has been overloaded with the opportunities!

While traveling, Paul is deliberate in his visits at Bible colleges and seminaries. He offers them books and access to BFF's digital libraries in an effort to establish beneficial relationships.



Paul & Linda have both moved into their sixth decade of life, and are celebrating increasing opportunities to serve their family, church, and community. Since August, due to their former pastor's move to another church, Paul has been pastoring at OIF (Oakland International Fellowship) part-time while the church continues to search for a new pastor. When he's asked how pastoring is, he responds with “a full-time pastor works about 80 hours a week, so part-time is about 40 hours!”

The pastoring work overlaps with the BFF ministry in interesting ways. Several years ago, Paul discovered that God had been using Paul's volunteer ministry at OIF over the past decade to lead him into the development of relevant resources for BFF. Paul's teaching series at church became the foundation for new books and training materials. Now, as Paul pastors, he finds himself increasingly focused on the pressures and demands that pastors face. Thankfully, this temporary, joint partnership has been progressing well.

Meanwhile, the children are maturing! With the youngest moving into high school, they don't have any little ones of their own running around anymore, which has allowed Paul and Linda more freedom. They both recently drove to Chicago to pick up Kathryn from college. On the way, they stopped at Paul's former college, Moody Bible Institute, for the first time in 39 years!

Paul can remember the years spent there, and is amazed at how much time has passed—a lifetime of ministry! It was an honor for Paul to gift a set of his books and digital resources to the Moody library.



Paul and Linda thoroughly cherish the time they spend with their growing family. Despite the many things they've done and the many ministries they've been involved in, the harmony and strength found in family gatherings has become a wonderful source of deep joy and peace. What a wonderful gift from God!

Brooks & Elizabeth

are both involved with international student ministry. Elizabeth teaches a Wednesday morning Bible Study, and Brooks teaches a Friday night Bible study. They also enjoy having students enjoy the comforts of their beautiful home. This year, Elizabeth planted a garden for the first time; she's still harvesting vegetables to this day! Brooks continues to work in the insurance business. They enjoy fly fishing in the spring, and are always looking for other ways to enjoy the outdoors, no matter the season.



cruise to the Bahamas, while Grandpa and Grandma Bucknell watched Joshua (9), Brianna (6), and Micah (2).

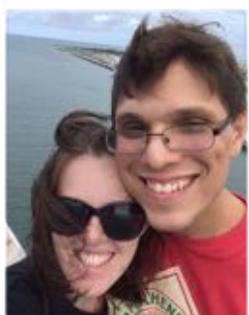
Allison is still enjoying the perks of living in New York City. She's perfected her latte art skills, and has begun the process of launching her own freelance editorial business, which is both scary and exciting. Her boyfriend, Aron, moved to the city in August to be closer to her, and since then, they've enjoyed exploring the city and making memories in the same place. She's also become a gerbil mom again!



Daniel has kept himself very busy by taking college courses and maintaining a job at a gem store in downtown Pittsburgh. He loves his new church, which is closer to home, and regularly attends a Bible study. In addition to biking and weight lifting, he has discovered the joys of rock climbing.



Elias and Christy had quite a year of raising their children, homeschooling, and serving in various church ministries. Add to that a job change and travel, and it becomes quite a busy year. They celebrated their ten-year anniversary with a



Benjamin & Christina

This year, Ben and his family relocated to Florida to further his career. He accepted a position with The Ritz-Carlton, and is learning a lot. Emily entered a school program for intellectually gifted children, and is looking forward to choosing which high school to enroll in. Christina is looking forward to starting a part-time job in January. The whole family is enjoying and exploring their new town together.



play for OIF's worship team.

Rebekah is now doing PA cyber for school. She still attends Keepers of the Faith, a girls group similar to girl scouts; this is her fourth year and she still enjoys it very much. In November, she decided to get baptized! Rebekah still likes to bake and do things like cross-stitching and, something new, the knifty knitter.



Kathryn, 20, has completed a year and a half of college and done well at Judson University. She made many good friends there through the long nights in the studio working on architecture projects. She is currently looking for a job in Pittsburgh since she has decided not to return to Judson next semester.



As always, we appreciate hearing from you all! If you should ever be passing through, we have a bedroom for a guest or two!

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Isaac, 17, is excited to graduate high school this coming spring. He has a great interest in computer programming, and is planning to major in Computer Science in college next year. Isaac has continued to teach himself piano, and has started learning how to

