



## Pray BFF Letter #253

January 6, 2015

# NEW YEAR, NEW PROMISES, NEW CHALLENGES

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous!

Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9).

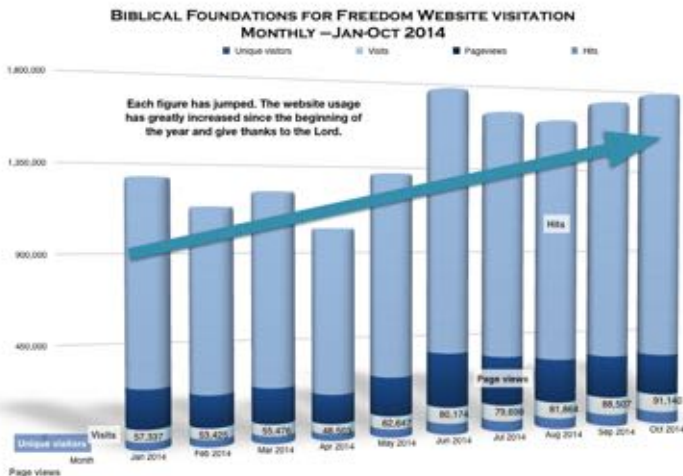
Dear Prayer Partners,

Welcome to the New Year! Many of you have read our recent [Christmas family letter](#) and caught up with our growing family. We sense it is important to share our family news so others will know the genuineness of this ministry. BFF is a real ministry, of a real family, facing challenges with finances, teens, sickness, etc. but pressing on to present the message of God's wonderful truths.

This is a special year for BFF. We will **celebrate our 15th year** since that time of brokenness when I knelt down, cried out and sought the LORD concerning direction for ministry and provision for our large family (only 7 children then). God has poured out blessing after blessing since that time. I never could have dreamed what God would do through this ministry. We now have books, Power Point presentations, seminars and digital libraries, and not just in English; some of them in more than ten languages.

A beggar is appreciative of everything that he gains. I, like a beggar, am constantly overwhelmed by God's wisdom and blessings. Throughout this year, I will share some of the special ways God has worked in this ministry.

The timeliness of the Lord's direction into this ministry is certainly near the top of the list. BFF started in 2000 when the web was in its infancy. I, personally, had never written a web page and did not even know what *html* stood for. Now we have thousands of web pages and many more resources not in traditional web page format—God's strategic timing, not mine. Allow me to tell of two blessings that I recently shared at the BFF yearly board meeting.

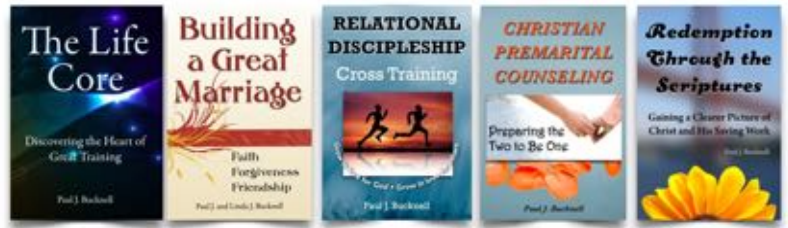


## GROWING WEB PRESENCE

Have you visited the [BFF website](#)? We hope so! But even if you haven't, many have. Notice the growing number of visitors over this past year. In 2014, we had just about 2.4 million web pages viewed, but these traditional web pages form only one part of this growing ministry. There is much more action taking place behind the scenes. More on that in a future letter. The way BFF resources are touching people's lives around the world is amazing!

## **PUBLISHING IN 2014**

The other awesome event in 2014 was discovering a company willing to allow self-publishers to prepare books for print without the usual fees associated with publishing. We only need to pay for the books we order. For those, like BFF with very small budgets and inconsistent monthly income, this is a real breakthrough. The five books below were printed in 2014. These books are designed to take God's people further in their Christian life, marriage, discipleship, ministry and theology—most of them include study questions. We hope to add to this list as we move through 2015. [All available in the BFF store.](#)



Maybe a little contrast will give you a better understanding of my appreciation to the LORD. When BFF began, there was no such thing as self-publishing. I bought a large paper cutter and binding machine, ready to literally cut and glue my own books. I never used it; publishing rapidly changed. Three-ring binders replaced cutting and glueing. Now this company has simplified the process even further and beautifies our work all at very little cost. Praise God! (Much lighter to transport overseas for distribution!)

### **Praise!**

- Thank the Lord for all those who gave financially or prayed for our ministry over the past year.
- Thankful that our family health is better. Colds or flus have slowed all of us down in the past weeks.
- God has been gracious to help me with recent preaching and teaching.
- Completion of a new book, [The Book of Ephesians: Bible Studies](#). This has both basic study questions and more reflective ones for application and thought. 167 pp.
- [Book of Romans: Study Questions](#) was recently expanded with biblical text, outlines to help navigate more difficult passages along with advanced study questions for each of the 32 studies. 227 pp. (Get both plus all our NT resources in the [NT Digital Library](#).)

### **Pray!**

- Consider joining our team in 2015. This is foremost a spiritual ministry where light wars against darkness. These resources are being used around the world and have become so helpful to those who have few or no biblical resources.
- Preaching January 8 and teaching Sunday Training at our church in the next couple of weeks.
- Finalizing the next short-term ministry trip, hopefully by the end of January.
- Keep praying for those who are working on the BFF app to further distribute the resources.

Thanks so much for your prayers!

Paul

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