

**Dear Family and Friends,**

Merry Christmas to you!  
Many wonderful Christmas carols capture the important meaning of Christmas. They present the complete story of Jesus who came not only to be born but to live, die and come to life again!

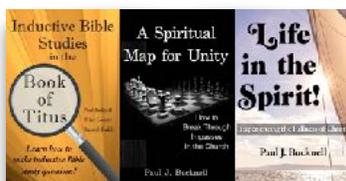


*“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).*

**Paul & BFF Ministry**

Every year, Paul’s travels take him to different countries, but now he usually works with the same coordinators. These trips thoroughly excite him as he witnesses the great works of our living Lord among people around the world. This fall, he went to Nepal and several places in the Philippines. He made a brief stop in Singapore and he zigzagged between hurricanes or storms (otherwise known as cyclones, typhoons) in the USA, Japan, and Philippines. Amazingly, all his plans worked out including one class that took place during a micro-burst storm blowing rain sideways across the small classroom (no windows to close).

Increasing numbers of Bible Colleges and Seminaries are using BFF resources for classes. We published three new books this year.



**Paul & Linda** thoroughly enjoyed their 40th anniversary trip to Vermont, delighting in the green beauty of the countryside. We loved the gardens at the VonTrapp lodge and enjoyed lunch looking out over the valley.

We even managed to get in a visit to Kane’s Donuts!



Paul continues to create new resources and materials for BFF, trains pastors and Christian leaders overseas, and is in the process of launching a new website. He serves at church team-teaching adult Sunday School and preaching occasionally. He visited his Mom several times, helping her move to assisted living.

Linda continues to coordinate Elementary Sunday School, helps organize our weekly Ladies Prayer Meeting, and has just finished serving as point person for our annual Christmas Brunch. She finds herself less busy with family things, but has enjoyed



spending time mentoring two ladies from church.

[Sign up/update here](#) if you desire to get our monthly prayer letters.

**Paul on Twitter:** @PaulJBucknell

[Follow BFF on Facebook](#) for updates!



**Brooks &**

**Elizabeth** enjoy volunteering with Pittsburgh Regional International Student Ministry in different capacities. Elizabeth is involved

with the women's ministry, and Brooks has taken groups of students to visit places like Niagara Falls and Washington DC. It's a special experience both for the students and for them. Brooks continues to work for insurance while Elizabeth cares for home and family. Josie, 16 months, has been a joy and delight to their family and loves to give people and animals a friendly wave.



**Aron and Allison** have settled into married life and are enjoying the growth and maturation that comes with time. Aron loves his job at Infiniti car sales and has become quite a capable salesman. He loves the business and the opportunities it presents. Allison has been working hard on her freelancing business and setting goals to make going full-time a reality. Work doesn't leave room for much else these days, but they've been learning how to enjoy the small moments.



**Elias and Christy** are slowly settling into North Carolina life after moving again, this time from the rental to the house they bought. They really enjoyed the neighborhood pool this past summer and thank God for His provisions. They are grateful for finding a wonderful new church home

to be part of. Elias is enjoying the work at Rendering House. Christy has taken up knitting. Joshua, 11, is usually busy reading a book, building legos, drawing, tinkering in the garage or playing with friends. You can usually find Brianna, 8, reading, drawing and creating projects or playing with one of her new friends. Micah, 4, is usually busy either copying one of his siblings or escaping to an adventure. He is also the comedian and makes us laugh with his antics.

**Daniel**, 25, has recently finished all classes associated with his Physical Therapist Assistant Program and has passed the Comprehensive Exam! He will be doing 2 Clinical Rotations in the spring semester, and will sit for his Licensure Exam in July. He enjoys rock climbing every Monday with his friends. He and his sweet girlfriend, Meredith, like to cook together, visit coffeshops, 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).



### **Benjamin & Christina**

Ben and his family are still enjoying south Florida. Ben is working hard as a Chef Supervisor in a local resort. Christina is keeping busy with Airbnb. Fynn is thriving in her courses and recently got her first part-time job.

Ben and Christina spent any free time they've had their year exploring new things such as kayaking, traveling, and target practice.



**Isaac**, 19, is taking online classes in Software Development at our local Community College. He will graduate in the spring with an Associates Degree. He hopes to transfer to a 4-year college in the fall to get his BA. He works part-time at a rock store packing rocks and semi precious stones for shipment. He enjoys playing piano and improvising and jazzing up tunes of his own making. He has been part of our church's College group-Anthology, serves on the Tech team, and helps out with kids programs.



### **Kathryn**, 22,

has recently moved into her own place, sharing with 2 housemates. She is learning to manage working full-time at the flower shop, cooking all meals for herself,

housekeeping, doing things with friends... She is part of Worship and Tech teams at church and is an assistant Small Group leader. Kathryn took a flower arranging class at our famous Pittsburgh Phipps Conservatory, and learned several different new forms. She and Isaac took on the project of redoing the Family Room as a Mother's Day gift. They learned how to sand and refinish a hardwood floor, change electric outlets, install lights... Great job!



**Rebekah**, 17, is a junior at PA Cyber school. She enjoys the flexibility and is involved in the French and Cooking clubs. In the summer she passed her driver's permit test and now takes every chance she can to practice. She loves to bake and has recently tried her hand at more advanced things, like cream puffs and candy. She attends Oasis, her church youth group and loves to hang out with her friends.



If you should ever be passing through, we have room for guests or family!

Paul & Linda Bucknell  
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