

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

2011 BUCKNELL FAMILY LETTER

## 2011 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!



*“Because of His great love with which He loved us” (Eph 2:4).*



Dear Family and Friends,

The love of God, like a bright light in a dark window, wonderfully displays Christ’s coming to the earth.

Think about the greatness of God’s love. What would life be like if it was our job to go around helping people. When we touched them, they would instantly be healed, but their sickness or disease, would be transferred to us.

How eager would we be to carry out this loving ministry? We would probably be very careful about who we actually touched! But God sent His Only Son to be born on earth so that He could **touch** our lives, remove our deadly sin and transfer it to Him so that we could be healed.

We hope the glorious Christmas message of God’s love would not be lost in the busyness of this Christmas season. Oh, that we might believe and find the freedom of forgiveness in Jesus Christ!

*“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him” (1 John 4:9).*

## Changes in God’s Hand

The world and life seem to be changing so rapidly that it is difficult to keep up.

**World changes:** Those trying to keep up with what is happening in the world economy or with various countries around the world

(including America), will find many challenges. “Who is in charge?” “What will happen if...?” These are questions that can only give us, who know Jesus Christ is ultimately in charge, a wonderful peace of heart.



**Ministry changes:** Smartphone? Pad devices? It is astonishing how these little things are changing how we live. By 2014 it is estimated there will be over 1 billion Smartphones! This impacts BFF ministry because we are learning how to distribute our strategic Christian training material via ePub for iPad, mobi for Kindle, etc. [Check out our resources!](#)

**Family changes:** Our family just dropped from 4 teens to 3 when Allison turned 20. But this next year we will again have 4 teens when Isaac turns 13.



## Paul & BFF Ministry

[Biblical Foundations for Freedom](#) (BFF) For the past 8 years BFF been training pastors overseas, in Africa and Asia. The Lord has been using the materials in places one would never imagine. In the spring, Paul will offer training in Malawi and Ethiopia. His past 2 trips to [Burma \(Myanmar\)](#) have been blessed.



Most recently, to focus on international training, Paul is developing [bilingual audio/video training](#) materials. He is generating a new English video training series. Please [sign up](#) for our biweekly e-letters.

## Paul & Linda

Our homeschool student body has been shrinking! Is this good? Yes! Only four in homeschool now. Paul is teaching Chinese and training the older two boys to drive.

Linda has been mastering special herbal remedies. Although people might make faces swallowing the stuff, they work. Our favorite ingredient comes from a common weed from our backyard.



Linda and the older girls enjoyed our first ever "Girls Night Out." We went to a local hotel, did our own spa things, talked, went out for dinner, talked, ate breakfast and talked, and talked some more.

Linda's birthday cake video isn't at the top of Youtube views, but it could be. With lots of children, she has custom-made many birthday cakes. They've add up over the years! ([Take a look!](#)) Paul and Linda enjoy their weekly noon dates and helping out at our international church wherever they can.



## Elizabeth

Elizabeth continues her work at the doctor's office, but hopes to start a small side business creating cards this coming year. When she can,

she makes a point to take a few trips visiting friends and family in other states.

This year she ventured out to Colorado for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent scenery. She's enjoyed participating in an international student ministry with her boyfriend, Brooks, this



past year and looks forward to finding different ways to get involved more. When not busy, you would probably find her spending time with Brooks at a local coffee shop reading.

## Elias, Christy, Joshua and Brianna

Elias and Christy have their hands full not only managing Youth Group but also with their two little ones. Christy has taken learning to sew and Elias has

dived into music composition and hopes to start writing soon. Joshua is a full grown 4 year old and still loves anything with an engine, but the play has



become

much more complex. He builds amazing airplanes with his Legos. Brianna 16 months, loves to destroy those airplanes Joshua builds. Elias and



Christy also have a date night each week when Grandpa and Grandma care for the grandkids. They have so many uncles and aunts, that they rather enjoy all the attention and toys that no one else plays with. Joshua's favorite question is, "Grandpa, can I play with your trains?"







**Allison** is a sophomore at Union University in Tennessee. She is thoroughly enjoying her classes and experiences. Her major is Creative Writing. She is presently working at various jobs to raise money for school, including part-time work at an inner city Christian cafe.



**Kathryn**, 15 and 6th child of the Bucknell family, enjoys doing puzzles, playing piano, and hanging out with friends all year. This past summer she went to her church's youth group retreat, enjoyed herself on vacation in New Hampshire and had fun at Kennywood, an amusement park, for the first time. Next year she hopes to take tennis or dance lessons.

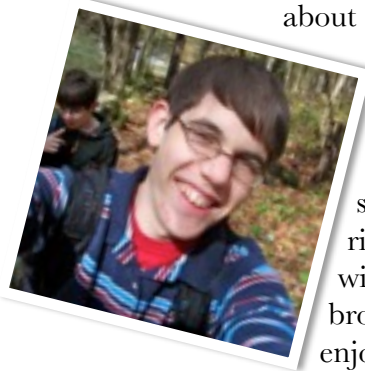
**Daniel**, 18, our most recent high school graduate, has officially joined the workforce. He started his



UPS job with a bang by smashing his thumb in a machine. After stitches and a trip to the ER, he is hoping a new thumbnail will grow. He has been riding his new road bike long distances through and beyond the city.



**Benjamin**, almost 17, has been baking lots of goodies lately, like pumpkin cheesecake! He attends our church's youth group, Oasis, made up of about 7-10 young people. This year



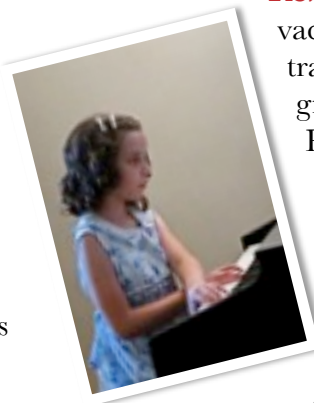
he went skiing, for the first time with Oasis and loved it! Benjamin went biking quite a lot this past summer. Not just a simple ride, but pretty long rides with his friends and his brother, Daniel. Benjamin enjoys hiking and outdoor

activities.

This year Benjamin secured his learner's permit and is learning to drive. He finds it fun and enjoyable, but rather confusing at the same time. He is doing well and hopes to drive more in the future.



**Isaac**, 12, is in the 7th grade. In summer, he started learning how to make apps for the iPhone. They are pretty cool. A few days before school, Isaac started to do math on a website called [kahnacademy.org](http://kahnacademy.org). "It is interesting," Isaac said. Isaac is now doing some Algebra. Recently, Isaac got 900,000 energy points. There are also : Meteorite Badges, Moon Badges, Earth Badges, Sun Badges, and finally Black hole Badges. Isaac assists his dad by burning Dvds for BFF online ministry. "It's awesome to help spread God's word around the world."



**Rebekah** went to New Hampshire for vacation this summer. She likes traveling and visiting her grandparents. Some other things Rebekah did: She drove Uncle Gary's small tractor, spent lots of time with her friend Naomi, went swimming, enjoyed the hot tub, did baking with Mom, went hiking with our small group and takes piano lessons. She also enjoys reading, art and playing

house.

We appreciate hearing from you all. Paul & Linda

