

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2014 BUCKNELL FAMILY LETTER

2014 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Dear Family and Friends,

Significant events have pushed this year by quicker than others: Linda's heart condition, Benjamin and Christina's wedding, Brooks and Elizabeth's new house, a grand new grandson along with Paul's travels. But it is a blessing that rushing time makes us more easily remember the glories of Christ's first coming and eagerly anticipate His second.



*"Because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise from on high shall **visit us** (Jesus birth), to shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:31-33).*

The greater scenes of darkness are emerging all around us. In America, as the fabric of the society is torn apart, we see more social unrest and desperate actions. Elsewhere, we see mad killing. How dark will it need to get before we seek His Light to fill our souls and society?

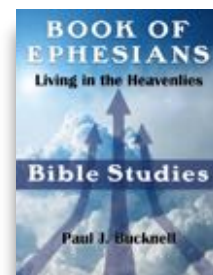
Paul & BFF Ministry

How special that Kathryn joined Paul this year on the STM to Peru! We held seminars in the beautiful 'white' city of Arequipa and got stuck in Lima's traffic

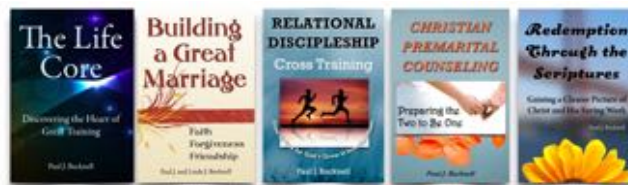


on the way to a seminar meeting! Kathryn wanted to stay!

The Book of Ephesians holds a special place in Paul's life. He was able to write a 170 page study guide through the book, including both text questions as well as advanced questions. Need a New Year project? (Included in Discipleship 1 Digital Library.)



Createspace has eliminated initial costs for printing. This has enabled BFF to print other books in paperback.



The seminars are highly welcomed. They bring significant help to Christian leaders on the topics of parenting, marriage, Christian life and growth. It was an honor to return to Taiwan for the first time since 1997. The website continues to be highly frequented, "I'm so grateful. Just spent two hours on your website. The 3 stages of discipleship - the missing link." Cindy T.

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Paul & Linda

How exciting to see our family grow and mature. We discovered that we were home alone a few evenings this

year!

Benjamin got married to Christina south of Atlanta, while Kathryn has become our chief chauffeur. Our biggest puzzle is why our auto insurance went up \$600 a year when we went down from 3 cars to 1. Perhaps we need another car! In his spare time, Paul and a good friend, replaced our very old sneeze-inducing carpet with a beautiful wood laminate floor in our living room. Hard to believe we have lived here for 22 years.

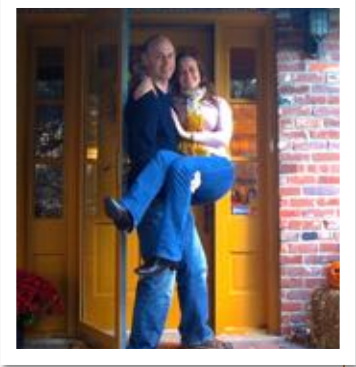
In case you were wondering, we still have 4 children at home: Daniel, Kathryn, Isaac and Rebekah. Allison drops by on extended grad school breaks. Kathryn and Isaac are still studying virtually, while Rebekah is the last genuine homeschooler. How many years have we been doing this? Hmm, more than 25 years!

much the heart has healed. It was back up to 80% functioning in July. This is great news, and we thank the Lord and the hospital for absorbing all the cost for her. We are still amazed by this gift—not a small amount of money.

Benjamin is no longer here in PA. We are glad to have our first daughter-in-law but we miss them being so far away. They just moved over the border to Alabama and are doing well.

Brooks & Elizabeth

Brooks and Elizabeth just bought their first house. We congratulate them on the reward for their long wait. They have started to host international students in their new home. Fortunately, they are a bit closer to us now, but both hold full-time jobs and so we only see each other on special occasions—but the good side of a big family—we have many special occasions!



Elias, Christy, Joshua 7, Brianna 4 and Micah 4 months.

Elias and Christy have been doing well. Joshua is being homeschooled. They are challenged with work around the home and the new addition. But we are glad to see that they still get out for their weekly date. We have opportunity to see



The biggest earth-shaker was Linda's heart condition. We were out one day on our weekly date and because Linda had a hard time breathing

going up our stairs (bedroom on the third floor) we stopped at the doctor's office. Well, we never made it out to lunch that day. Her blood vessels and arteries are all fine but somehow a virus (the doctors suspect) attacked her heart and weakened it down to minimal function. The good news is that she has been getting better, though she had to face a lot of tough days largely due to the medicine that forced her to slow down—tough for a Mom who has been ultra busy all her life. She will have, we hope, a final test next month to see how



our grandchildren a few times a week. Elias is still one of the coordinators of the church music team. A church team came to help redo their kitchen floor.





Allison graduated from Union University in Tennessee and moved to bustling New York City to study publishing at Pace. She loves her new church, the

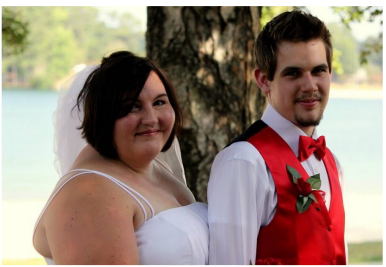
challenge of classes and will start an internship—part of her course—in early February.



Daniel, now 21, has been busy taking a full load at our nearby college to prepare for an Assistant Physical Therapy course, starting next fall. He was glad to do so well in his anatomy class that he need not take the final. He looks well, strengthened by weight training. Now Dad better do a little catch up!



Benjamin & Christina got married in June. Having worked himself up, he is now working hard as the assistant chef in a resort area outside Atlanta. They have recently moved into a new house and renovated it themselves. They live near Christina's parents.



Kathryn, 18, thoroughly enjoyed her trip to Peru. She even had opportunities to speak to the youth and pastors about what it was like growing up in a Christian family. She likes her 12th grade virtual classes and is following up



an interest in Interior Design. A few college applications are in! Meanwhile, she has really matured, cooking many of her gluten-free meals, taking dance lessons, and driving about Pittsburgh.

Isaac, 15, liked the hike up a mountain this summer with Dad and Rebekah. He is still growing, hoping to pass Dad soon. He and Kathryn attend youth group and often help watch children when there is a need at church. The little boys especially like Isaac to play with them.



Rebekah, 13, is such a grand helper around the home. A simple request and bang—it is done. She likes learning the flute with her friend, Naomi, and enjoys lots of company. She has joined the other readers by starting to read a lot. She earned quite a few pins in her new Keepers of the Faith girls' club.

As always, we appreciate hearing from you all.

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