

# M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

2 0 1 3 B U C K N E L L F A M I L Y L E T T E R

## 2013 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Dear Family and Friends,

This year has passed swiftly due to a number of significant events: January, the passing away of Paul's Aunt Myrna; February, our dog, Riley, died; May, Elizabeth's grand wedding; and in August, Dad Bucknell's passing. God has been gracious to us through these times, but these things would not be meaningful or understandable apart from Christ Jesus.

*"And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end" (Luke 1:31-33).*

Life would be unbearable if there was no giving or receiving of forgiveness. All the bitterness wrapped up in us can be gone, thanks to Jesus. He died to take away our sin, "God made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21). Our hope and prayer as a family is that you will join us and the angels in celebrating the full glory of the work and life of Jesus Christ. May Christ's kingdom rule every heart and home!

*"And behold,  
you will  
conceive in  
your womb,  
and bear a  
son, and you  
shall name  
Him Jesus."  
—Angel  
(Luke 1:31)*



### Paul & BFF Ministry

Paul visited two new countries and one new continent this year to teach 3 day seminars. He appreciated being driven across the high Andes Mountains in Peru, on his first trip to South America. Paul



was also blessed to visit India again, as well as Nepal for the first time. The morning he was preparing to return to the USA, he was crippled by horrific back spasms. At least it was the kind that hurt when standing rather than sitting! It was a long, painful journey home.

Paul's new book and companion study guide, [\*Redemption Through the Scriptures\*](#) gave him a new appreciation for how God has revealed His saving plan throughout the Bible.

### Redemption Through the Scriptures

Gaining a Clearer Picture of Christ and His Saving Work

Paul J. Bucknell



Other big news: The IRS, with a little media-induced help, re-instated BFF's tax exempt status. [BFF](#) released *The Seed Project* and now has over 500 teaching videos.





## Paul & Linda

Our family has never faced so many changes in one year. The children are growing older and flying the coop!



We were exhilarated and joyful with Elizabeth's wedding to Brooks, but saddened by Dad Bucknell's sudden passing. We had planned to visit him just weeks after it happened. The good side is that our family had



spent several weeks with him earlier in the year. Many of us attended his simple funeral service and assisted in cleaning out his magnificent collection of stuff. He was 92 and part of the Great Depression mindset – never throw anything away. We have only good memories of Dad.

In the midst of all the busyness, the two of us still managed a short trip to Louisville (after dropping Allison off in Tennessee) to celebrate our 35th anniversary. How different not to have all the children around and be able to enjoy each other's company.

Paul's great challenge this year was to develop a Sunday School class on redemption. He decided to turn it into a book. One of his greatest joys is to team-teach with several other brothers.

Linda stepped out of the Children's Ministry coordinator role several years ago, but has been asked to oversee the elementary classes again. Our church is filled with young children – many of them from China – making the task challenging! Rebekah is still homeschooled.



## Brooks & Elizabeth

Brooks and Elizabeth tied the knot on May 4, 2013. Everyone I talked to that day sensed the glory of marriage. Paul had the privilege of walking Elizabeth down the long, ornate aisle of the First Baptist Church. Everything worked out well.



The new couple has carefully planned their time to get in some fishing up at the cabin, for Brooks to take a trip to Africa, and for their regular work with internationals. They

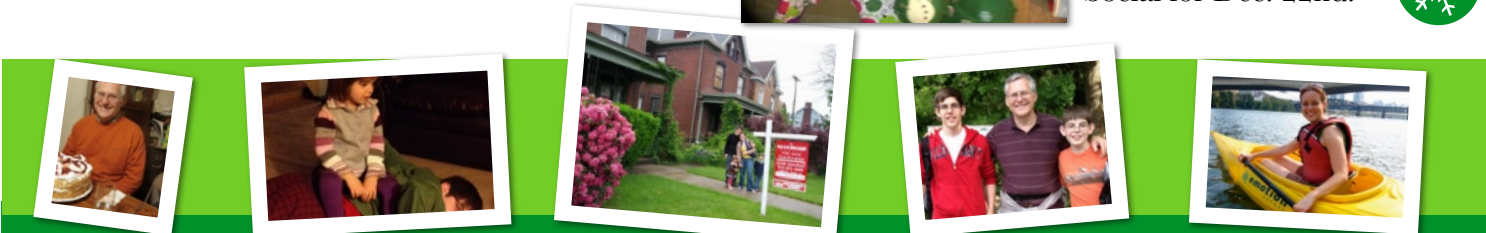
live nearby in Monroeville.

## Elias, Christy, Joshua, 6 and Brianna, 3

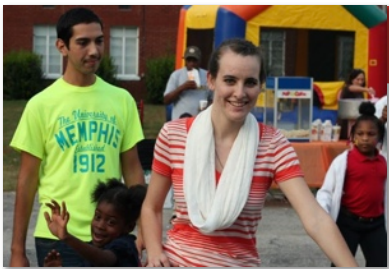
Elias and Christy have been busy buying, moving into, and renovating their first house. Dad and Mom are glad they are closer. Christy has started homeschooling Joshua. They have officially stepped down as Youth



Group Advisors. Elias has stepped up to be one of the coordinators of the worship team at church, and Christy is organizing the church's Christmas Social for Dec. 22nd!







**Allison** has begun her final year at Union University in Tennessee. She loves the English language



so much that she is applying for graduate school in publishing! She loves her opportunities to serve inner city children near her school. Praise the Lord for providing for her financially! She has also had a part-time, summer internship serving BFF.

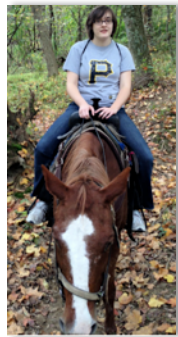
**Daniel** loves his job caring for and walking dogs for his clients. He will adjust this job to part-time when he starts some college courses next month.



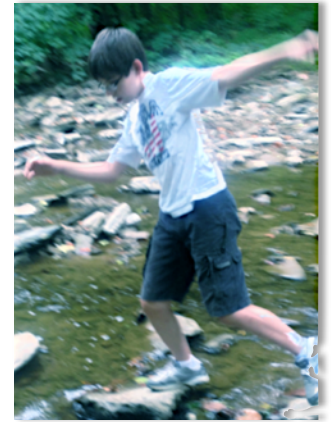
**Benjamin** did well at the community college and graduated from high school. He was eager to move on and gain some freedom. In Georgia, he's found a job he likes at Callaway Gardens Resort, and within three months received commendation of being their best worker.



**Kathryn**, 17, is still refining her cooking skills for her gluten free diet. She is eager to get her license and loves school, though at times she is challenged by the workload. She is planning to join Dad on his spring trip to Peru. This will help to improve her Spanish.



**Isaac**, 14, is glad he could join the youth group this year. He has joined Kathryn at PA Cyber School and likes the German class he is taking. He has grown so much this past year!



**Rebekah** 12, sometimes feels a bit left out when Kathryn and Isaac go to youth group activities, but she is able to join Dad and Mom's small group where her friends attend.

She and Isaac play many creative games together.

As always, we appreciate hearing from you all.

Paul & Linda Bucknell  
3276 Bainton St.  
Pittsburgh, PA15212 USA  
#412-761-3508

