



Ben & Wendy Burks

January 2025

Greetings to all our friends!

Every year, my wife (a self-proclaimed “word nerd”) chooses a word for the year. This year, her word is “praise”. Psalm 150 is a great chapter in the Bible highlighting “praise” and it ends with: *“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.”* Wendy and I have SO MUCH to praise Him for! God has continued to show Himself mighty, strong, faithful, trustworthy, and simply AMAZING! Watching His mighty hand and seeing His works has never ceased to amaze us. For years, we proclaimed to have a “front-row seat” as we watched Him perform miracles in the lives of others. (And we will NEVER get over it!) Today, we feel as though we continue to watch Him perform GREAT ACTS, even though our seat may have somewhat changed. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 106:2, *“Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise?”* Well, we can!

Just a little over three years ago, we stepped out on faith to follow what God was telling us to do, even though it was a very difficult step. By faith, we have trusted God for EVERYTHING, and He has proven His faithfulness over and over! God provided for all our needs in miraculous (and sometimes hilarious) ways. He has filled our schedule with meetings and given us plenty of ministry opportunities. He has also answered some very specific prayers in our family. We cannot help but *“praise Him for His mighty acts”!* (Psalm 150:2)

Wendy and I are blessed to be a part of a great team of faith-based recovery workers from all over the country who collaborated and helped to write a bottom-shelf recovery program curriculum. We are thrilled that God is already using it in numerous churches and in foreign countries. The two-year, Bridge to Recovery Curriculum was just completed and we are excited to continue to write materials with the goal of helping hurting people. This endeavor is now expanding into other opportunities, and we are excited to see what God does. To God be ALL glory and praise!

We just returned from a Missions Conference and concurrent Ladies Conference in Pleasant Hill, Missouri. Being with Pastor Brent Blaise and his wife, Julie, is always refreshing to us. They are quite possibly the most self-sacrificial people we have ever met! God is using this small, rural church in GREAT ways and it is always a joy to be with them. We saw one man saved this week and many decisions made for Christ. Because we go here every year, we get to minister to the families in unique ways. It was a thrill for us to observe the baptism of a young man whose family has been transformed by the power of Christ! We saw another young family that God rescued and restored who are now expecting their first child. So much has transpired in the lives of these families and we are honored to be a part of it.

Because of our ministry experience, Wendy and I are given many opportunities to speak on the phone to hurting people all over the world. This is ongoing and, seemingly, never-ending. It is an honor to point them to Jesus and to give comfort and direction. However, we need wisdom.

Please pray for us that God will continue to use us to help others who find themselves in difficult circumstances, whether it is a wayward child, a struggling marriage, a discouraged pastor, an addict, or other hurting individuals. The needs are GREAT!

In addition to great ministry news, we are thrilled that our daughter has found “the one”. I will get to walk my baby girl down the aisle this June to be wed to Josh Harris and Wendy and I couldn’t be happier for them. This has been a personal prayer request for years, and God brought a fine young man into her life whom we adore. Please pray for them as they seek God’s will in all things. For those of you who know us well, we found that Dr. George Crabb (our dear friend) had a significant part in advising Josh on where to attend med school, which led to Hannah meeting him. We discovered that Dr. Crabb was a mutual friend long after they began dating. (Seeing God’s hand can also be so enjoyable!)

There is so much more to share, and we will do it all year in our letters. For now, please pray for us. Our schedule is not as full as in previous years, and while we trust God’s plan in all things, we want you to know that we have many open slots available for you! Give us a call at 708-882-6085 and let’s schedule a time that we can be a blessing to you and to your people!

Sincerely,

Ben and Wendy Burks

Upcoming meetings – join us if you are nearby!

- February 9 – Community Baptist Church – Lexington, NC
- February 16-19 – Open Bible Baptist Church – Chatham, VA
- February 20-23 – Bible Baptist Church – Columbus, OH
- February 28-March 1 – Gospel Light Baptist Church – San Antonio, TX
- March 13-16 – Worth Baptist Church – Fort Worth, TX