

Refior News Bulletin

December 2005

Merry Christmas !

From the Refiors.

By God's grace Pam and I continue to be healthy and hilariously joyful in our marriage and in life. I love being a sole practitioner. I love having my principal office in Warsaw, Indiana and my branch office in Naples, Florida. I love having a limited practice so that I am only doing the types of work for which I am competent and which I enjoy. We love being just two hours away from our children and grandchildren. We love such warm interaction with them that hardly a week goes by when we are not with some of the family. We love interacting with our Christian brothers and sisters. We love the opportunity to maintain wonderful friendships. Indeed, these are really wonderful days.

Pam continues to be active with the Community Bible Study. She has accepted a position as a substitute facilitator and has enjoyed the additional involvement as part of the leadership group. I see the Lord working in significant ways through Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries and the Evangelical Alliance Mission, and I have found it to be exciting to be a part of the boards of said ministries. We are now in the preparation phase for shooting LCEM's latest evangelistic film, "Ransom." I had the privilege of writing the script. I am now preparing to be the speaker for Calvary Baptist Church's couples Joy and Passion in Marriage seminar. My book on marriage was republished and is now available (in whole or in part) for FREE at http://www.refior.com/your_choice/index.html (or a quality paperback of the book can be ordered on-line for those who prefer to buy a book rather than downloading on their own computer, at <http://www.trafford.com/05-0338>).

Nikki and Jonathan Lambeth and their three boys, Luke (9), David (6) and Stephen (3) are happy and active in Lafayette, Indiana. Luke is in 4th grade. David started school this year in kindergarten. Both attend Faith Christian School. Stephen (3) gets mommy all to himself on school days. Last Friday Luke broke his arm while sledding with the family, and will be in a cast for awhile. Jonathan is teaching chemistry, science and Bible at Faith Christian High School. Nikki continues to do French translation work at home, while she works hard as an effective and Godly wife and mother. The boys enjoyed soccer this fall. They will be going on a family vacation to Florida, including Disney World, in February.

Laura, Brian and Karis White (Karis will turn 3 in January) are happy and involved in Indianapolis. Brian ministers as the pastor of education and discipleship at Castleview Baptist Church. Laura is active with her various ministries as a pastor's wife. Last Sunday she sang the solo "Breath of Heaven" as a part of their Church's Christmas program. It was beautiful and moving. Laura has assumed the leadership of women's ministries at their church. They have a great group of friends. Karis started dance lessons and enjoys the weekly "play group" of close mommies and kids. They are planning a special trip to Colorado in late January. Laura and Brian went through the process of invitro-fertilization and there was the joy of Laura becoming pregnant. But then God chose to take little Leah home which left a big void in the heart. There remains full confidence in God's goodness and that He is always right, yet the emotional impact was deep. Here is the poem Laura wrote the day she learned that their baby had died.

Baby of Mine

Your life beat within me
Knit there by my Lord.
But can mine beat past this breaking
To accept your heart beats no more?
Your first breath was in heaven
In the hands of the Divine,
Oh, Baby of Mine.

You never knew pain
Or felt a twinge of fear
Life cut so short
By the One who wanted you near.
But you'll never hear my song or
Feel your earthly mother's touch.
For all of eternity will you know how much
I love you, Baby of Mine.

You were never mine to keep
Or mine to decide to live.
I cannot control what is only God's to give.
And for reasons only He will ever know
He wanted you created,
loved,
and let go.

So I'll hope in the thought
Of eternity long.
With you showing me your Father's house
While I teach you your mother's song.

Your first breath was in heaven
In the hands of the Divine.
I'll love you forever, Baby of Mine.

Here are some of the things that have occurred over the past six months. Pam's brother's son, Paul, married Jen in June. We had everyone home over the 4th of July. We had matching red "USA" hats and had a delightful time together. Luke earned a blue ribbon for his 4-H woodworking project. I celebrated my 55th birthday (this was a big year for birthdays as Nikki and Jonathan both turned 35, and Laura and Brian both turned 30). Our place in Naples, Florida survived hurricanes Katrina and Wilma, although Wilma did destroy many large and gorgeous trees and palms, and did blow off the fascia of our place. We made our annual trip to Iowa City to cheer the Hawkeyes on to another victory, along with our dear friends Kurt and Julie Swaim. Grandson David had minor surgery on his face. Nikki's family got a Labradoodle named "Kit." That has changed some of their family life (and Nikki does not consider it all to be for the better). The Lambeths enjoyed an aboveground pool in their large backyard. David showed an entrepreneurial spirit when he went around his neighborhood raising money by selling some pencils. Nikki and Stephen and Laura and Karis joined us in Florida in September.

In September Pam's grandmother, Eunice Hendricks, celebrated her 104th birthday. Pam has had a wonderful, warm and close relationship with Grandma Hendricks throughout these decades. Pam has visited grandma in Kokomo, Indiana weekly for a long time. A few days ago, Grandma Hendricks slipped out of this life and into the loving arms of Jesus. Grandma Hendricks was a grand lady.

We had the delight of having Nikki and her family with us for four days over Thanksgiving. A precious friend, Louise Peffeley, also joined us for Thanksgiving dinner. Another very significant change is that I ended my tenure as the President/CEO of the second manufacturing company. We are just now concluding the sale of assets and final year-end reports. That means that for the first time in years I am working only as a lawyer.

I am happy to report that God Himself is not worried about all of the complaining and fussing by the "politically correct" crowd who object to "CHRIST" being a part of Christmas and object to Christmas itself. Try as they might, the **P.C.** folks do not in any way undermine the truth of Jesus Christ, including the truth about His birth at Christmas. The Bible says in Romans 3:3-4, "For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar." (Of course the phrase "politically correct" is a gross misnomer. It is not political. Instead it actually is a type of terrorism. And it is not "correct" at all. It really is terroristic subjugation, or "**T.S.**" That means that the people who espouse "politically correct" are actually saying, "I will hurt you and call you stupid unless you abandon and reject traditional Christian values, and unless you condone, tolerate and even approve my left-wing positions and agenda.") My suggestion is that there be a deaf ear to such "**T.S.**"

We are hopeful that you will enjoy Christmas by celebrating its true meaning, namely, Jesus Christ the Son of God came to this world to save sinners and to provide the only way of salvation - which is through faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone as Savior. Please keep **CHRIST** in Christmas.

Attached are some photos of our family which line up with the above current report.

Warmly,

Paul & Pam

Paul ("Rafe") and Pam Refior