

# The Refior News Bulletin

Paul, Pam, Nikki & Laura

January 10, 1992

Dear Friends,

Paul, Pam, Nikki and Laura Refior extend to you hearty wishes for a blessed new year in 1992! My, this year is already one-fortieth over... I will always remember 1991 as the year that monumental changes occurred in the world that were considered impossible only months before hand. When I see those kind of changes occurring it serves as a reminder and encouragement to me to pray for important, gigantic things that seem impossible, but, "with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26). 1991 will always be remembered by me as the year my dear mother, Marie Refior, died. 1991 will always be remembered by me as the year the new law offices were built. The Lord blessed my family tremendously in 1991 and we saw many spiritual victories in 1991. Indeed 1991 will always be remembered as a year of great consequence. But... as I think of it, every year is a year of great consequence and that leads me to be really "fired up" and expectant about 1992. I am looking for 1992 to be a great year in every respect.

It is a mere twenty years ago that Pam and I graduated from college at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. 1972 was the year that we moved to Iowa City to start law school at the University of Iowa (and where I rapidly developed an irreversible passion for the great Iowa Hawkeyes). Nikki was a toddler at that time and Pam, although certified as a teacher, took on the tremendous responsibility of being the principal bread-winner as she took employment in a factory there in Iowa City. I will always be grateful for Pam's tremendous sacrifices during those law school years.

Fifteen years ago, in 1977, I was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy stationed at the Naval Legal Service Office in Norfolk, Virginia. By that time both Pam, Nikki and I had received Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. We were living in Virginia Beach and actively involved in a great church, Tabernacle Church of Norfolk, under the leadership of Pastor Gene Garrick. Laura was a toddler, having been born at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital a couple of years earlier, and Nikki was in elementary school at Newtown Road Elementary. I was a 7-day-a-week jogger and was working out every day at the naval station and was in absolutely great physical shape (those were the days). Pam was involved in teaching Good News Clubs with Child Evangelism Fellowship and was active in the mother's club at church. I was having a greatly rewarding time in the Navy from a professional standpoint, involved in a large number of serious cases (e.g. murders, robberies, counterfeiting, and on and on) both as a defense counsel and prosecutor.

Ten years ago, in 1982, we were here in Warsaw, Indiana and I was struggling to put food on the table as a solo practitioner. Following the Navy we had a delightful couple of years in Pinedale, Wyoming practicing law with Gerald Mason and taking in all of the splendor of the towering and majestic Rocky Mountains. Laura had also becoming a christian, meaning that the Lord had blessed our family in the greatest and most eternal way by bringing all of us to Himself through faith in Jesus Christ. We had accepted an invitation to serve as short-term missionaries with the Evangelical Alliance Mission in the City of Takumatsu, Japan, working under the leadership of Ralph and Stella Cox. We had seen the Lord do great things while we were there in Japan. Following the term in Japan we returned to the states and the decision was made to move back to the midwest where we had been raised. After a brief stay in Kokomo, Indiana we made a very unlikely decision - we moved to Warsaw, Indiana, a place where we had never lived, where we knew no one, where I had no clients and no business, where I was uninvited by the legal community and all of this at a time when we were broke, did not even own a car, a typewriter, or any law books. God is certainly faithful. It was in 1982 that Pam and I were asked to initiate and develop a children's program at our Pleasant View Bible Church. We started with a modified version of the Olympians, under Word of Life. In the spring semester Laura and Nikki were both at Madison Elementary and then in the fall Laura was in the first grade at Warsaw Christian School and Nikki entered the large Warsaw Middle School.

Five years ago, 1987, found us well-settled in Warsaw. We had purchased the property on the lake for the law office. We had built a new house. Nikki was in high school and active in the marching band and the honors classes. Laura was still at Warsaw Christian. We continued to be working the kids at church, but the name and program had been changed to ACTION. I was serving as a deacon at Pleasant View and Pam was very active in Christian Woman's Club. We were continuing to grow in the Lord.

Move ahead five years and here we are in 1992. Wow! Nikki is a senior at Cedarville College. She took the Law School Admissions Test and did very well and she has applied to and will be attending law school at Indiana University, Indianapolis campus this fall. Laura has her driver's license, is a junior varsity cheerleader, and is having a great time at Warsaw Community High School. Pam and I continue to be involved in the ACTION program at Pleasant View Bible Church, and we are just now starting the rehearsals for this year's children's musicale. This year will be somewhat unusual in that we are writing the script ourselves and combining songs from at least three different musicales. Pam is still participating in Christian Woman's Club. She is also active in Mom's in Touch, which is a prayer and support group specifically for the teachers and administrators of the local public schools. We just moved in and are thoroughly enjoying the new law offices. I keep saying that I need to diet and exercise more (actually I am at the present time doing something about that).

The cheerleaders at Warsaw High School cheer for both the boys and girls basketball teams. As a JV cheerleader Laura cheers for JV games as well as varsity games. Pam and I enjoy supporting Laura at the games and we enjoy the games as basketball fans as well. Warsaw is presently undefeated and ranked fourth in the State of Indiana.

Laura has continued to develop as a singer. She was in the high school select choral. Nikki and Laura recently sang a duet at church when Nikki was home from school. That really warmed our hearts and it was extremely beautiful. There are great advantages and conveniences in Laura to have her driver's license. However it is one more step toward her leaving the nest and a significant step in her spreading her wings. Pam and I affirmatively and prayerfully have tried to parent our children toward proper independence. The fact exists nonetheless that there are heart tugs as we see our children becoming less and less dependent upon us and I simply do not have a little toddler or school girl to bounce on my knee any more.

The law office building project was a major activity last year. I served as my own general contractor. I had Lisa Harris of my staff assisting as Project Manager. I admit a glowing sense of delight as I think back to a year ago when I was still designing the building on the backsides of placemats in restaurants and now we see the end product of what started as a dream, and then became a concept, and then became a plan, and then became drawings, and then became blueprints, and then became a foundation, and then became a framed structure, and then was under roof, and then was completed, finished, carpeted, and finally then was an occupied and functioning law office. What a project. For all of the excitement and satisfaction of seeing that all happen, I must say that it is a tremendous relief to have the building finished and occupied. I declared to my staff that 1992 is "the year of law." I will be better able to direct creative planning and thinking to the law practice, my cases and clients, the various christian ministries God has given, to my family, and everything else.

1991 was a blessed year for Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries. We have seen our evangelistic films put into additional languages and sent out many, many videos and films to many new countries. We have films now in Japanese and Hindi. The preliminary steps for a new film to be made in the far east are well on their way. It was a fruitful year at the fairs and other events with the Good News Caboose, and in the school and neighborhood Countdown Clubs. Once again we have an outstanding group of adults serving as leaders for the ACTION program at Pleasant View Bible Church. Oh how Pam and I thank the Lord for the great opportunity that we have to participate in the lives of these children year by year.

My Iowa Hawkeyes had a great football season, ending the year with a 10-1-1 record, which was one of the best records of all major universities, and which was the best overall record of any of the teams in the Big 10. I am now anticipating both the men's and women's basketball teams of the University of Iowa to have tremendous



seasons. The wrestling team at Iowa is again ranked as a prohibitive No. 1 in the nation.

My dad, Dr. Everett L. Refior, is doing quite well there at the homeplace in Whitewater, Wisconsin. He remains active in several organizations and has been doing some traveling. My dad continues to be very active in the religion and church which my mother had founded several years before her death. We have not seen the sun for two to three weeks here in Warsaw, Indiana (although yesterday I flew by small jet to southern Illinois and during the time above the clouds I actually witnessed the sun and I can therefore attest that it still exists). Well, it is time to bring this to a close (I have been dictating it as I have been traveling home from a hearing in Federal Court in South Bend). We certainly hope that 1992 will be a great year for you. You know, 1992 very well could be the year in which Jesus Christ returns again! We have such a sense of anticipation and optimism about 1992. This is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Paul, Pam, Nikki and Laura