

Refior News Bulletin

July 15, 1998

LAURA MARRIES BRIAN !

There have been **THO** extremely important family events in the past half-year since the last **BULLETIN**. First was Laura's graduation with honors from Cedarville College on June 4th, and second was Laura's marriage to Brian White on June 20th. These have been extremely happy occasions for the Refiors. Here are some of our happenings. Back in January Pam and I had the delight of traveling to Cleveland, Iowa for the wedding of Larry and Ellen Zaidenwer's son Mark, in Syria. That was a special time because Larry is such a precious brother in the Lord. The added delight of that trip was meeting our wonderful friends, Kurt and Julie Swans, after the wedding and spending a day with them. Then we hustled back to Warsaw because our church's "SUPER BOWL PARTY" outreach for the teens was being held at the second-floor Lake Room and the third-floor Courtroom of my law office. We thank the Lord for spiritual fruit that night.

In February Pam and I had the pleasure of organizing the program and serving as MC of the Valentines banquet at Pleasant View Bible Church. That was fun. In March Laura finished college. She was able to finish a quarter early. That became extremely important because she could be at home during the three-month period before the wedding. It was our special pleasure to have our dear youngest daughter living at home for that extended period. We were able to make a couple of trips down to Indianapolis to watch the high school basketball team being coached by our future son-in-law Brian White.

Later in March Pam, Laura and I had our "last vacation before Laura's marriage." We went to Phoenix and had an absolutely wonderful time. I mixed a little business with pleasure. I attended the mid-year meeting of the NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION. In fact, I was one of the presenters at a legal seminar at the meeting.

I will give a more detailed report about Laura's wedding below, but I will insert at this point the fact that my lovely girls seemed to be working on wedding preparations almost every day. It was a really fun time. In April, Pam, Laura, Brian, Nikki, Jonathan, and Luke and I all went to the Notre Dame spring football game in their newly-expanded stadium in South Bend. We had special interest in watching because of our friends the Wisnes who have TWO of their sons playing for the Irish. Laura's wedding shower in Warsaw was also in April.

The first weekend in June the entire family, including Pam's parents, E.J. and Shirley Petro, went back to Ohio for Laura's graduation exercises. Pam and I could have not been prouder of our

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sweet Laura - such a strong, godly character - so intelligent - so beautiful - so warm and sensitive - so mature and balanced. **WHAT A KID!** Because Laura had moved out of college three months earlier, it was a very relaxed weekend. Laura did not have the pressure of finishing papers or exams, and there was no hassle of carrying boxes or loading furniture. It was extra special. Way to go Laura!

My brother, Wendell, married Maria six days before Laura's wedding. That brings me to the report of **LAURA'S WEDDING**. I previously sent this report to some of you by e-mail. (Which reminds me, those of you who have an e-mail address, please send it to me at: paul@refior.com. If you want to check out my web site, go to: www.refior.com).

Brian asked for Laura's hand in marriage way back in May of 1997. He finally proposed in August, 1997. The details of those important events have been previously detailed. The ten months of engagement at times seemed like an eternity to Laura and Brian, yet (as is always the case) the time actually flew by. Even though Brian was teaching high school students in Indianapolis, and Laura was finishing her college degree in Ohio, they managed to see each other very regularly during their time of betrothal.

From the time Laura was a little girl she had delightful and wonderful thoughts and plans for that special "home day" when she would have her own wedding. Pam and I did have the advantage of that experience four years earlier when Nikki was married, and all of the preparations, and emotions that were a part of that special time. That meant that we could better gauge our time table for the wedding preparations. Every single aspect of all of the details of all of the preparations for Laura's wedding was wonderful. It was a time of family unity and sweet participation. Pam and Laura had many days of working together on various aspects of the wedding. Even though Nikki was over in Oberlin, she was able to participate in the plans for busy schedules would allow. And all of us were involved daily in the participations through prayers and conversations.

In retrospect one of the most humorous events occurred Thursday morning before the wedding. Laura had carefully planned to construct a suspended ceiling of delicate gossamer with white lights as a way to transfer the entire appearance of the multi-purpose room of the church (I call it "the gym"). Our work crew worked for hours to construct the wires, light cords, and strips of gossamer, all ultimately attached up through eye bolts high on the walls. Before the suspended ceiling was hoisted, the lights were checked and everything was ready. It was one of those exciting moments when a vision or a dream was about to become a reality. With four men poised to pull the cords at the corners of the structure, the call to "pull" rang out and the elevation of the gossamer ceiling began. Laura was joyful and all smiles... but only for a few seconds with the reality was much less obvious. Even when the four corners were raised to their planned positions, the wide strips of gossamer gently waved within a foot or two of the ground. That is when (again, in retrospect) I so wish there had been a video camera focused in on Laura's face. Not only did her countenance fall, but my precious girl was instantly crushed. There was no "Plan B" for the scheme of decorations. Something that was planned to be totally unique and wonderful had just failed miserably. A number of people took Laura out of the room to give her love and consolation. At that point I was not thinking about how to have a beautiful decoration. I was concentrating on only one thing - getting the suspended ceiling re-engineered and getting it to work so that my precious Laura would have the emotional sting of that failure removed as soon as possible. Fortunately the new plan worked perfectly so that when Laura returned, the twinkling suspended ceiling was perfectly in place and absolutely beautiful.

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We had the blessing of a lot of wonderful help at all phases of the wedding preparations. Vicki Tyson was not only the wedding coordinator but she and her family employed God-given creativity and abilities in creating absolutely beautiful decorations. Several wonderful ladies from the church, as well as members of families worked hard and long, with the sweetest of spirits, to make things just perfect for Laura's big day. We will always be thankful for the loving help given to our family in that way.

By Friday afternoon the work was basically done and there was the freedom to proceed to the wedding rehearsal and rehearsal dinner that evening without further worry concerning such preparations. The rehearsal was a good experience. Pastor Ivan French (now Pastor Emeritus of our church) had officiated at Nikki's wedding and we had the honor and privilege of him officiating at Laura's wedding as well. In my estimation there is no finer preacher of the Word of God than Pastor French. The very power of his godly life adds dignity to every event. The rehearsal was fun and significant. Then it was off to the Harmons Plaza Hotel where Brian's parents had arranged for an outstanding rehearsal dinner (and a big THANK YOU to them for that). The food and the service were great, but the best part of all was the sharing time that followed the meal. Family and friends in attendance were encouraged to share stories about the past of Laura or Brian, and to express feelings and sentiments from their heart to the couple. Brian and Laura then responded with thoughts from their hearts and expressions of gratitude. It was a most wonderful and tender time.

That evening was the last night that Pam and I would be the parents of an unmarried child. We were already "old hands" at the so-called "empty-nest." (And Pam and I know that with our Great relationship our nest actually is NOT empty - as we truly are still on our honeymoon). After all, Laura had been away at college for four years already. But, as all of you with grown children fully understand, this is a powerful and heavy reality that there will be no more school vacations when the child will come home to live, and "home" will be some place other than where the parents reside. Furthermore, after numerous thousands of days of being Laura's family head, and protector, and provider, that mantle was about to be passed to another man. Being the type of person who ponders long about things I consider significant, those many prayers and meditations seemed to all be newly concentrated that night and the next morning.

Because we had prepared well and had worked hard earlier in the week there were no major preparations remaining Saturday morning, so the morning of the wedding day could be relaxed and reasonable. The wedding pictures were scheduled for BEFORE the wedding ceremony so everyone put on formal attire early at Pleasant View Bible Church. Everyone had been very careful for Brian not to see the wedding dress or to see Laura in it. In order to still have the glory of that first revelation of his bride in her wedding gown, Brian entered the church from the front. We had the music of the hour for the wedding professional of the bride on audiotape, and the sound person started the music at the appointed time. Then the doors opened and I proudly and slowly escorted my lovely daughter down the center aisle to a beaming and emotional Brian White. At the front of the sanctuary I gave Laura a sweet fatherly kiss and then returned to the back. People who have witnessed the entrance into the sanctuary so that Laura and Brian could have some tender moments of love and spiritual union. After that came the pictures. Some of us were also snapping shots while the photographer was doing his professional work. We tried hard not to get in his way or to be flashing our cameras until after he had finished his (I still do not think he was thrilled with all of our amateur photographers). The picture taking took a little longer than planned so that by the time we had finished, people were arriving for the wedding. That meant it was about time to take our positions. I moved toward the lower of the sanctuary. Nikki, the Matron of Honor, and Laura were both there. The three of us had a brief and warm season of prayer together (we had had the opportunity to pray with Pam also involved earlier). Then it was really THE time. The bridesmaids took their positions. I then had a tender and significant time of prayer just with my lovely girl, Laura. When we finished Laura had tears in her eyes which required immediate attention by Nikki (I did not intend to disrupt her make-up right before her entrance, really). I was glowing with excitement and delight, and filled with a million whirling thoughts. Laura was absolutely radiant and stunning in her bridal gown. I was so happy that Nikki was Laura's Matron of Honor just as Laura had been Nikki's Maid of Honor four years earlier. Nikki was also absolutely beautiful. Throughout the entire preparations and the wedding day itself, I was so proud of Nikki as she could not have been more supportive, loving and giving to Laura and Laura's wedding. One of the cutest parts was our 2-year-old grandson Luke, all decked out in his little tuxedo. The plan was for him to escort the mother of the bride down the aisle, with his father to their table him at the front and escort him to the nursery (Jonathan's parents were there and they would take care of Luke). But Luke had just awakened for his nap and was not inclined to walk through hundreds of people right then. So Pam instead carried Luke while I walked behind. After Luke was then escorted out by Jon we had the mothers light the candles for the unity candle ceremony. I then walked to the back to resume my place. After the bridesmaids had entered the doors were closed and my precious Laura - so perfectly beautiful - took my arm. The double doors opened and Laura and I slowly moved toward the front of the church. With the candles lit and the room filled with flowers and gorgeous decorations, it was almost like walking into a dream world. There at the front was Pastor Ivan French in all of his dignity, and Brian White, my daughter's man, handsome, sturdy and strong, exuding his joy. I looked ahead wanting to see my precious Frances, her sweet countenance was radiating those wonderful things that could only be interpreted by one who has been married to her for nearly three decades. What a fine moment it was indeed. I remained in good control throughout the opening of the ceremony. Pastor French asked who gave this woman to be married to this man. After I announced, "her BEAUTIFUL mother and I do," I named my precious wife. It was after the rest of the ceremony started that I felt my emotions rising to the point of spilling over. At that point my tears of emotion that were known only to my precious wife.

Every aspect of the wedding was glorious. It was so important and meaningful to us that our first "daughter," Debbie Gerrick, could be with us and truly sing at the wedding. Her songs were so outstanding. The music of the harpist gave a very special mood. Joyce Hodges was magnificent on the piano. All in the wedding party were so attractive. And the ceremony itself... officiated by Pastor French as only he can... was profoundly significant and impressive. One unique part of the ceremony was the preliminary part of the ring ceremony. On Laura's sixteenth birthday, I had a special, formal date with Laura to talk to her about important and mature things. I specifically talked to her about honoring God by obediently keeping herself pure for her future husband. Laura made a commitment to her parents and to God that she would remain pure until marriage, and we gave her a plain "purity" ring to wear daily as a symbol of that promise. During Laura's wedding ceremony Pastor French justified that ring and directed Laura to remove it from her finger and give it to Brian as her token of presenting herself as a virgin to Brian, further specifying that with Brian's receiving of that ring he was likewise affirming to her his virginity - each therefore having saved themselves only for the other upon their marriage.

After the vows had been exchanged, Pastor French pronounced them husband and wife and introduced them as Mr. and Mrs. Brian White. After the recessional Laura and Brian returned to the sanctuary to greet each person personally, at which point the guests made their way into the multi-purpose room (gym) for the wedding reception. There was no formal receiving line that was planned. However, Pam and I found ourselves near the entrance and were greeting people, and we just simply stayed there and had the delight of talking with people as they came into the reception. The reception was also absolutely wonderful. Pastor Lofquist was the Master of Ceremonies. When there is a large gathering of friends and family there is the reality that one cannot spend nearly as much time with each individual as he would like. We will always remember and appreciate the people who came to Laura's wedding. Beloved family members, friends from afar, and nearby

It was 95 degrees when we helped Laura move from Warsaw down to their new apartment in Noblesville. (Laura's and Brian's new address and telephone are 612 Nelson Circle Noblesville, IN 46060, (317) 221-4911). This past Sunday afternoon we traveled down to see their apartment, and they had fixed it up so beautifully. What a nice place to start their life together! Things are not slowing down for Pam and me. This weekend we have the junior high kids from church on Friday, and the senior high kids on Sunday afternoon, at our house for swim parties and cook outs. We will have the delight of our grandson Luke joining us for three days while Nikki and Jon go on an anniversary honeymoon. Pam will be flying out to Virginia August 8-12 to participate in the wedding reception Brian's parents will be hosting in Chesapeake (and Pam is looking forward to visiting some of our Virginia "family"). Speaking engagements, honeymoon get a ways, law conferences, the normal work at the office, plans for some changes for our house, and on, and on and on. Please stay in touch!

The Wedding Ceremony of

*Laura Refior
and
Brian White*

"And the two shall become one"



June 20, 1998

The Wedding Ceremony

The Wedding Party

- Harp Prelude
- Seating of the Grandparents
Canon in D
- Seating of the Parents
Vocal Solo Debbie Garrick
Parent's Prayer
- Processional
Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring
- Processional of the Bride
Bridal Chorus
- Opening Address
- Giving of the Bride
- Vocal Solo Debbie Garrick
Seekers of Your Heart
- Charge to the Bride and Groom
- Exchange of Vows and Rings
- Lighting of the Unity Candle and Prayer
Great is Thy Faithfulness - In His Time
- Pronouncement and Prayer of Dedication
- Introduction of Mr. and Mrs. Brian White
- Recessional
Wedding March

- Matron of Honor
Nikki Lambeth sister of the bride
- Bridesmaids
Beth Jehlmann friend of the bride
Kristi Krogel friend of the bride
Jennifer Reed friend of the bride
Carla Salvaggio friend of the bride
Wendi Wright sister of the groom
- Best Man
Colin Castelow friend of the groom
- Groomsmen
John Spruill friend of the groom
Steve Moulson friend of the groom
Ron Wright brother-in-law of the groom
Brian Burns friend of the groom
Jonathan Lambeth brother-in-law of the bride

The Wedding Participants

- Parents of the Bride Paul and Pam Refior
- Parents of the Groom Ron and Carol White
- Grandparents of the Bride T.J. and Shirley Petro
Everett Refior
- Great-grandmother of the Bride Eunice Henricks
- Grandmother of the groom Evelyn Viers
- Usher Paul Petro
cousin of the bride
- Junior Usher Luke Lambeth
nephew of the bride
- Honorary Bridesmaid Shirley Petro
- Officiating Pastor Rev. Ivan French

- Pianist Johna Hodges
- Harpist Alicia Weberte
- Soloist Debbie Garrick
- Guest book Darlene Juske
- Gift Attendants Rachel Tyson
Rachel South
Ashleigh Lackey
- Programs Brandon Fletcher
Hannah Petro
- Sound Technicians Rick and Connie Blue
- Videographer Tim Petro
- Wedding Coordinator Vici Tyson

The Reception

Please join Laura and Brian for the reception following the ceremony, in the multi-purpose room.

- Reception Coordinators Pam Lackey
Marcia South
- Master of Ceremony Rev. Les Lofquist
- Servers Ann Petro
Hannah Petro

*Our New Address:
Mr. and Mrs. Brian White
612 Nelson Circle
Noblesville, IN 46060
(317) 773 - 4031*

? Please remain seated. The Bride and Groom will





The College Graduate!



Laura with Grandma + Grandpa Petro

Two Ceparville College Alumni

Beating the heart



Prayer immediately before the Bridal Chorus



TOTAL JOY!

Tom stitching the bookmark for Laura's wedding Bible



A mother's final preparations





The WHOLE Family !

