

# Refior News Bulletin

March 24, 2006

## Joceyln Mae White !

*The judge in Indianapolis entered the final adoption decree on March 23, 2006. We all thank the Lord for His Goodness.*

It was back in November when the possibility of adoption first presented itself. At first Laura and Brian were quite hesitant because they were still hurting from the loss of Leah. The possibility developed into a probability when Laura and Brian met with the teenage expectant mother and her family and then the Lord prompted Laura and Brian to embrace the possibility.

*[We want to express our deepest thanks to the young unwed mother who made the hard and selfless choices, (1) to carry and nurture her baby to birth, and then (2) to place her baby for adoption with a loving family. That young woman's willingness to selflessly make choices to ultimately benefit her baby, have resulted in incalculable joy to Laura and Brian and the entire family.]*

I had the privilege of representing Laura and Brian as we raced through the technicalities and legal requirements for the Indiana adoption of little Jocelyn who would be born in Colorado. Laura and Brian were told that the due date would be at the end of January. In mid January communications came to indicate that the birth would be sooner. Arrangements were made and I flew out to Colorado with Laura and Brian, while Pam stayed at their home in Indianapolis with Karis. In fact, Karis had her third birthday just as we were leaving for Colorado. We had an initial birthday party then, and the "full" birthday party was after the return from Colorado. The night before the delivery, we had dinner with the expectant mother and her parents. The next morning we arrived at the hospital literally minutes before the doctor indicated that it was time

for the hard pushing to start. Laura was in the delivery room for the birth of Jocelyn. As prearranged with the hospital staff, Laura and Brian assumed the role of mother and father immediately after delivery, so that even during the hospital stay, Jocelyn Mae was with Laura and Brian. That allowed the bonding to take place from the second of birth. On the day following Jocelyn's birth we had the "ceremony" there in the hospital when the natural mother and her father signed the piles of legal papers that I had prepared.

When we were loading up the car at the hospital and the natural mother had given Jocelyn to Laura and Brian, it was an emotional time, as you can imagine. Then we had a two-day drive back to Indiana. In Lawrence, Kansas Laura and Brian were able to rendezvous with several of their friends from Virginia. That was a time of happy reunion as all three of the ladies were happily tending to their respective babies. Upon arrival at the White's home in Indianapolis, three year old Karis was ecstatic to meet her little sister Jocelyn, as was Grandma Pam.

On the day following the arrival in Indianapolis we had our first hearing in the adoption court. The judge entered the order of temporary custody consistent with the guardianship papers and the consents for the adoption that were all in order and on file with the court. Even though that Indiana is far and away the best state and most secure state for private placement adoptions, Laura and Brian were greatly looking forward to the final hearing when the adoption decree itself would be entered. Over the past 2 months+ Pam has spent a lot of time in Indianapolis helping out and loving on Karis and little Jocelyn.

Right after we returned from Colorado, Nikki had to go in for surgery. Pam felt awful that she could not be in two places at one time. Pam was there in Indianapolis to help with Laura and the girls, and then she drove over to Lafayette to help out with Nikki who developed some post-surgery problems. The whole family gathered in Indy to celebrate Karis' 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Karis had some of her other playgroup kids over and we all went out afterwards to a nice restaurant.

We made it through all of the legal technicalities and it was a happy day on March 23, 2006 when we had the final adoption hearing. The judge was very gracious and afterwards we were even able to get some pictures with the judge. Following the court hearing we had the happy time of celebration as Nikki and her family came over from Lafayette. It was a blessed time in deed. We all give our great God our praise and thanks. Jocey is now legally a part of the family (in hearts, she has been since birth), and her name is Jocelyn Mae White.

On February 4, 2006 we rendezvoused with Nikki and her family and we all flew down to Orlando, Florida. We rented a condo in the Orlando area. Jonathan's sister and her family live nearby so the Lambeth's went to visit with them for a day and a half. Pam and I had a day to ourselves, which we used by going to Disney's Epcot. We had a marvelous and romantic day together. I was pulled out of the crowd for one of the street theatres and played the role of "King Arthur." The next day we met up with Nikki's gang in anticipation of going to Disney's Magic Kingdom the following day. We had riot at Disney and everyone had a marvelous life-memory time. The next day we drove the rental van down to our condo in Naples where we had several days together enjoying Florida, the beach, restaurants and relaxing together. The boys especially like the heated pool that is a part of a condo complex ... they may have enjoyed the beach a little bit more, but the pool was a close second. It was a very special week with the Lambeth's. Upon

our return to Indiana Pam was back down to Laura's. She did return on Valentines Day so that we could have some special sweetheart time together. Toward the end of February Laura very astutely noted that Jocelyn was not doing well, and when she took her temperature, it was quite elevated. Laura got Jocelyn into the doctor immediately, and the doctor immediately placed Jocelyn in the hospital. That was the start of a very tense 11 days. It turned out that Jocelyn had a very serious infection that had reached her blood. Fortunately, one of the antibiotics that they started in the IV for Jocelyn the first day in the hospital, was exactly the right antibiotic to combat the infection that was ultimately determined. Hundreds of people were praying for little Jocey and the Lord answered those prayers. Jocelyn is doing so well that she has gained a lot of weight and she looks about as healthy as a pretty little girl can look at two months old.

Pam and I were able to "bop down" to Naples for a very short time earlier this month, arriving back to Warsaw the day before the start of the marriage seminar I led. It was a Friday evening and all day Saturday seminar.

There actually have been some other things that have gone on over the past three months. We had special times with the family around Christmas. On December 31<sup>st</sup> Pam and I flew down to our place in Naples, Florida. Then on January 1<sup>st</sup> we traveled with three busloads of radical Iowa Hawkeye fans from the Naples/Ft. Meyers area up to the Outback Bowl in Tampa where Iowa played Florida. Florida took a large early lead, but then Iowa hit its stride and was storming back. Toward the end of the game, and with Iowa down just one touchdown, Iowa completed a perfect onside kick and had the ball. With the momentum, there was no doubt that they would have scored to tie the game, and then go on to victory in overtime. However, the referee (one wonders how he could be so blind) flagged Iowa, saying that one of the Iowa players was offsidess on the kick. On the next attempt Florida took possession and ran out the clock. It turned out that there were many cameras rolling at the time of Iowa's successful onside kick (which Iowa then had stolen from them by the ref). Not only was Iowa not offsidess, the nearest player was at least a yard behind the line when the kicker made contact with the ball. Oh well .... it still was a fun time and a beautiful day. Pam's mother, Shirley Petro, was with us in Florida. It turned out that because of work I needed to fly back to Indiana sooner than expected. So Pam stayed in Florida with her mother a week longer than I. I was able to complete and timely file my appellate brief with the United States 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals. I will be arguing that case before the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit next month. It was just shortly after Pam and her mother returned from Florida that the call came that Jocelyn was going to be delivered early (vital statistics: born at 9:38 a.m., January 19, 2006, dark hair, dark eyes, 19-3/4" and 7.0 lbs.)

Our grandson Stephen had his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 20<sup>th</sup>. On the day before, all of the family gathered at Nikki's house so that we could have a special birthday party for Stephen. One of the things that has been accomplished with all of these neat times togetherness, is that we have effectively passed around different types of flu and other sickness for at least two cycles so far this year. In just a week we will be celebrating Luke's Big 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. And to celebrate his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, later this week in June we will enjoy a weeks' vacation to San Diego with just Luke.

I am dictating this *Bulletin* as I am driving back down to Indianapolis. After the adoption celebration last evening in Indianapolis, I drove home because of the work I needed to do today.

I will arrive at Laura's house tonight in time to "granddaughter sit" for Karis and Jocelyn while Pam and Laura go off to the "ladies tea." Laura is the head of women's ministries at Castleview Baptist Church. This is one of their major events. Brian will be away as the speaker to a missions meeting tonight. So we already have it planned - Karis, Jocey and I are going to have "movie night" as we share popcorn while watching "Chicken Little." Should be a great time. We look forward to being with Nikki and her family for church on Sunday.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> we **celebrate 36 years of blissful and terrific marriage!!!** We have so much fun and joy together. We work together. Play together. Parent and grandparent together. Travel together. Laugh together. Love together. Our Lord has given us such a fulfilling and enjoyable life together. These are good days indeed.

Well there you have it. You know about our beloved Jocelyn Mae White and the completion of the adoption, as well as some of the other Refior Family News. Please stay in touch. Attached are some photographs which will allow you to "see" some of what I just described.

## *the Refiors*

347 North Buffalo Street  
Warsaw IN 46580  
Tel: 574-269-6649  
Fax: 574-269-7487  
E-Mail: paul@refior.com

15415 Cedarwood Lane, #301  
Naples FL 34110  
Tel: 574-527-0466