

The Refior News Bulletin

Paul, Pam, Nikki & Laura

April 22, 1991

HI!

Well ... we have been "smitten." Prior to our recent vacation I was sort of lukewarm about the idea of a cruise. We wanted to do something special with the family funds that we had set aside for an earlier planned trip to Europe to visit Nikki (that trip was canceled, partially because of the war in Iraq). Pam was our family travel agent and gathered all sorts of information. Ultimately, we decided to go on a cruise. So Pam lined up a cruise for the four of us whereby we would fly from Fort Wayne to Orlando, pick up a rental car and drive to Cape Canaveral. Then we would board the Premier cruise ship S/S Majestic and go to the Abacos Islands (a four day cruise) and then return to Cape Canaveral, then Orlando and take in the Disney attractions. That sounded very good and it looked like we would have a very nice vacation. Even though Nikki had just arrived back at Cedarville College a week earlier, she skipped a week of classes to join us on our special family outing.

What I anticipated to be just a nice vacation turned out to be so wonderful and so much fun and so fulfilling as a family that I am sure we will want to plan to go on a cruise again. Talk about being "pampered"! We were on a two hour feeding cycle with so much service that if it were not so enjoyable it might have been embarrassing. Every meal was a five course, five star meal. They cleaned our cabin literally every time we went into it and left it again. The beach was more beautiful than any postcard I had seen, and ... it was just so much fun, especially as a family together. One of the highlights was the day that Laura and Nikki swam and played with a couple of dolphins. I am sure that the girls will long remember that unique experience.

We enjoyed the Disney attractions a lot, too. We went to Epcott Center, the Magic Kingdom, and MGM Studios. Pam and I were selected from the audience at MGM to participate in a sound effects presentation. That was fun. Then I was selected from the crowd to be one of the "extras" in a production pertaining to Indiana Jones and a display of various stunt man activities. I was dressed up in a turban and a robe (it really was not all that convincing since my white socks and Reebok athletic shoes didn't quite fit the theme). Again, that was a lot of fun.

With all of the special sights to see and things to do, it all really served simply to be the places and events for Paul, Pam, Nikki and Laura Refior to enjoy each other's company and deepen our relationships. It really, really was a very special family time which will continue to bear dividends for life I am sure.

We are only two weeks away from the presentation of the children's musicale at church, entitled "Psalty, Kids and Company 10-Salvation Celebration." The theme of this year's musicale is really great. The setting is a train trip and it is all about two children who have not yet been born again and how they hear the gospel and come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, despite the deliberate efforts of "Risky Rat" to keep them from hearing the gospel and to keep them from becoming Christians. The script as received had a final scene that did little more than commend the authors for having come up with ten years worth of musicales. We decided that that was terribly inappropriate and so we created a new final scene of our own which is consistent with the excellent theme of the musicale. We will be putting the musicale on at church on Sunday night, May 5th, and then again on Thursday evening, May 9th. Yes, I am again Psalty. Pam is Psaltina. Laura and her friend, Beth Russell, are helping with cuing kids to stage and with the actions which accompany the various songs. Lisa Harris is again our music director, Bob Harris is doing the sound and technical part, and a host of other adults are involved significantly in the production of the musicale. Our prayer is that it will be used greatly in the lives of our own ACTION kids, and as a great blessing to our Pleasant View Bible Church family, and that it will be a clear presentation of the gospel and a ministry to friends, teachers, family and guests who attend.

Nikki is back in the swing of things at college. The reports we receive are that she is delighted to be back among her friends. She is meeting new friends as well. It is good for Nikki to be back among young people her own age. It is very hard to believe that Nikki is about to complete her junior year of college. Nikki is planning to come home the weekend of Mother's Day and we are all looking forward to that.

Laura has fully immersed herself in planning, meeting, and working out with the other junior varsity cheerleaders. Laura really is a natural. Her summer is already filling up. She will be going to camp with the church youth group and to cheerleading camp. Her piano recital will be coming up soon.

Things should be pretty hectic around the office this summer. Plans are moving forward rapidly for the large addition to the law office. As planned it will be a structure 46'x 46', with three stories. All of that construction will be going on while we are trying to conduct business. Furthermore, my present individual office is going to be converted into a receptionist/waiting room area for the new entrance. The roof of that room will be removed and a flat roof for an open-air deck will be constructed in its place. Along with the noise, commotion, and displacement to be caused by this addition, we will have to provide work space for three additional people on the staff. Nikki will be working again this summer, and two law clerks, Mark Miller and Bill Fawley, will be starting in May. As always things are quite busy at the office, but we

are all happy and there is such a delightful camaraderie and team work at the office that I absolutely enjoy my work and the people with whom I work.

We are anticipating some very special guests in the near future. Next month Satomi Tanaka from Takamatsu, Japan will be visiting for a number of days. Pam plans to assist Satomi in shopping for a wedding dress. Satomi will be getting married this summer to Stephen Sakamoto. The wedding will be in Japan. Then Stephen and Satomi will return to the States where they will continue theological training. Two or three months later we will have the privilege of Debbie Garrick moving back in with us for a semester. She roomed with us several years ago during the year when she attended Grace Seminary. We consider Debbie and Satomi to be members of the family so we are really looking forward to these upcoming reunions and the opportunities to spend a lot of time together with these great ladies. [Perhaps I should give a word of explanation to any receiving this Bulletin who do not have the benefit of the history of our relationships with Satomi and Debbie. Debbie is the daughter of Pastor and Helena Garrick of the Tabernacle Church in Norfolk, Virginia. When I was in the Navy we attended TAB and fell in love with the Garrick family. Debbie has been serving as a missionary at Black Forest Academy in Germany and she is returning this summer on a furlough. We met Satomi Tanaka when we were short-term missionaries located in Takamatsu, Japan in 1980. Satomi was a high school student who was first attracted to the Refiors because of the opportunity to speak English. Satomi received Jesus Christ while we were there and has been a trophy for the Lord ever since. Satomi recently resigned as a high school English teacher there in Takamatsu. Satomi has continued to live with her wonderful family in Takamatsu.]

Pam has become quite involved in an organization called "Moms in Touch." This organization exists in order to support teachers and administrators in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high school in Warsaw. They pray for the teachers and administrators every Wednesday, and from time to time they do special things such as take cookies to all of the teachers and administrators. It is a ministry that is not asking for anything from the school people, but is intending to minister to them. Because God hears and answers prayer, this is a very important means of assisting directly into the school system. Additionally, it is certain that some teachers and administrators will at some point want to know why these ladies are so regularly spending time supporting them. We pray that that will lead to open doors for the Lord to work.

We are seeing good signs of the economy rebounding. For example, Explorer Van Company, which is a client of the firm, are going gang busters and everything looks positive for the future. We are seeing people who had been taking a "wait and see"

attitude finally deciding that they should go forward with plans for building, business expansion, etc. I enjoy seeing things moving and being a part of it.

At Pleasant View Bible Church we had a really outstanding missions conference. It was different than any missions conference I had previously been a part of. Rather than the traditional four or eight consecutive days of conference, it was held over three successive weekends. On one of the Saturdays there was a missions fair in the gym and classrooms at church which provided activities, food, audio visual presentations, and opportunities for interaction with representatives of mission boards and with the missionaries themselves. The response of the congregation was great and there was a tremendous Faith Promise commitment. Praise the Lord. Pastor French is going strong and I believe that real spiritual victories are being won at Pleasant View Bible Church.

I am not doing real well on my diet/exercise program. That cruise was disastrous. However, since my knees are shouting at me with every step I take, I have more than a little incentive to get serious again about following the doctor's program and advice. Pray with me about that, please.

My Dad seems to be getting along reasonably well since the death of my mother. He went on a trip to Costa Rica and says he had a very good time on that trip. Hopefully he will be able to come down to Indiana and visit us for several days in the very near future.

Some folks receiving this bulletin have not written to us in a very, very, very long time. Why don't you just sit down today and write us a postcard or a letter. Thanks.

Sincerely,

