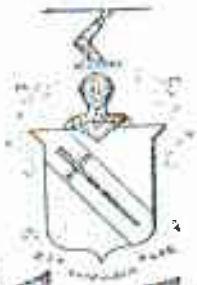


Brother Rafe's Bulletin



PTL*

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Greetings from Paul, Pam, Nikki & Laura Refior. This has been a wonderful year for us. One in which the hand of God has been more evident than ever before. He has blessed us richly indeed.

We still live in our townhouse in Virginia Beach. It is amazing that it is already about time for us to put it on the market. Lord willing, I will be leaving the Navy this summer. This has been a wonderful place to live and we have more dear friends here than in any town, so it will be hard to leave. But I believe that it is the Lord's will that I enter civilian law practice.

I have accepted a position with a Christian attorney in Pinedale, Wyoming. In September, Pam and I traveled to Iowa where I interviewed with many law firms. I was certain then that we would be returning to my beloved Iowa. We had a lovely time in Iowa. We met the Swains in Iowa City for a law school reunion of sorts. We stayed several nights with the Thompsons in Iowa City. In fact, we used their house as a sort of home base. It was great seeing them again. I was also able to see the Scandretts while there. After we returned to Virginia, I received a number of fine job offers. But during discussions with Pastor John Harrell and Don Sether in Ottumwa I became convinced that I should not accept those positions. So I turned them down and decided to start my own law office in Ottumwa. I was very excited about doing that, and I was very complacent that that must be the Lord's will in my life. But then one morning I prayed, "Lord, it appears that it is Your will that I go to Ottumwa, and I really want to do that, but I do want to follow You. If You have anything else in store for me, please show me." THAT DAY I received a letter from Gerald Mason, a lawyer in Pinedale, Wyoming. I realized that I must at least write him back. I did and that was the beginning of a series of letters and phone conversations which culminated in his sending Pam and me plane tickets to go out and check it out. In early January we flew out there. To make a long story short, I accepted the job and we plan to move to Wyoming this summer, the Lord willing. Pinedale is a berg with only 1200 people. It is smack dab in the

middle of the Rockies. It is soooooo beautiful. There are four large lakes near town. They have the best elk, moose, deer, mountain sheep, mountain goat, and antelope hunting and great fishing. Everyone there snow skis and snowmobiles. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is a must. It will be a great place to raise our kids (and have a few more). No one there locks their homes or their cars. They teach snow skiing in school at the school's own ski lift. My practice will be general in nature, with a good deal of banking work because of Gerald's interest in three banks. It will be required that I get my pilots license and instrument rating as soon as possible because our practice will require that I fly most of the time. I will have to take another bar exam. I have begun the process of studying every night. Here we go again. Pam and Mikki are also excited about the move. We wish that we would be closer to our relatives and friends in the Midwest, but the pilot's license will make it easier to visit.

I am now Head of the Legal Assistance Department in my office, having completed my duties as a prosecutor in December. Last year was a great year for me at work. The most interesting events were prosecuting a murder case in the Panama Canal Zone (things ARE tense there), and defending a rape case in Italy (I will be returning to Naples next month). Pam and I know that coming into the Navy was the best decision for us. We are, however, looking forward to our return to the civilian sector.

Mikki has grown up. We just got the news that she earned a spot on her school's gymnastic team, the only second grader to make it. She continues to excel in school. Laura speaks fluently. She is probably the prettiest girl ever created. Pam is HOT pregnant for our third. I love Pam and the girls more than ever. Pam is the ideal wife. We could not be happier. Thank you, Lord.

Please allow me to review with you some of the things that happened in our lives this past year. As I stated earlier, this was a wonderful year for us.

We attend an exciting church where we have several hundred dear friends. We have received extensive Bible teaching there. We have had opportunities for service in the various Sunday Schools, Pam's Good News Club (weekly Bible School for neighborhood kids, Pam's Mothers Club, Pam's delivery of meals on wheels to shut-ins. We have had the richest fellowship with our brothers and sisters there. We will hate to leave the church here. The church we will be attending in Pinedale is a small, warm, Bible-believing independent Baptist Church. It has a summer camp in the mountains, so we may be able to serve at the camp in some way. We were able to worship in Pinedale and meet the people in the church. We are looking forward to its small family type of togetherness.

We realized a substantial increase in activity in our back yard when we put up a swing set. It has been fun to watch the kids at play. Mikki has enjoyed having friends spend the night. We have a very small lake across the street from our house. You should have seen the excitement on Mikki's face when we caught our first sunfish therein. When we brought it home to show Pam (alive in a bowl of water), it became clear in a hurry that the fish must be returned safely to its home. (I have been working on getting my animal-loving wife prepared for my hunting and fishing in Wyoming.) In May Pam and I had a second honeymoon at Jags Head, N.C. We had a delightful time. One morning we left our room on the beach to watch the sun rise over the ocean. Pam was not real thrilled about the idea until the beauty of the scene warmed her up a bit. We enjoyed visiting Kitty Hawk on the same trip. This was a good year for seeing people we love and care about. Gary Roop visited us in May. My parents came in August. Pam's parents in May and then again in December. They brought along Pam's Grandmother Henricks. They shared Christmas with us. That was so nice. Times like that are all the more precious in light of our upcoming move West. Grandma Henricks remained with us when Pam's parents left and she is still with us. It has been great for us all to have this additional time together. We have invited her to move in for good, but she has her home and friends in Indiana and she says she doesn't want anything to do with Wyoming winters. She is a delightful person who couldn't be more helpful around the house and with the kids. We will miss her when she goes home. We also had the pleasure of visits by my Aunt Irene and her daughter, Patricia. We had a good opportunity to talk and spend time together. It was great to see in Iowa those people mentioned earlier plus Rob Stickler, the Fosses, the Krons, the Kultala and the Timmons. We visited the Timmons shortly before the big UofI/ Iowa State game. John and I were backing different teams. Who won that game, John? He said good-bye to our dear friends Doctors Jim and Wendy Barnes who moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. We sure miss them. We babysat for some puppies for several days. It is quite apparent that Laura is going to love animals with the same intensity that Pam does. While the puppies were there, Laura had at least one in her arms at all times. After they left Laura continued to pretend that she had puppies to play with, and her favorite toy now is a lifelike rabbit with a broken ear (every day Laura breaks the ear off and every night Daddy glues it back on, an instant hero). Last summer I met Johnny Hamilton in Panama. I thank the Lord for that meeting. Even though he has gone on to be with the Lord, I cherish the time we had together and the opportunity to know his family who are now all back in Norfolk. We enjoyed our trips to the ocean last summer. I really enjoy body surfing. Twice last summer I went with Jane Trenchard (with whom I team teach) and her husband and our 11th grade Sunday School class to the Trenchard's place on Lake Gaston. We had a good time. I even surprised myself by being able to water ski after 7 years. Mikki had a birthday party in October (she's 7) complete with a house full of kids, balloons and a licky House Cake. Not to be outdone, Laura's birthday cake two weeks later was a Snoopy cake. The mouth of our Jack-o-lantern last fall spelled "REFIOR". We were able to visit more of this part of the country this past year. This is truly an area with history at every turn. Recently we visited some of the old colonial plantations along the James River. I could go on and on. These "little" things are big things to us. Please let us hear from you. We have a warm home, full of love and happiness. We love company and Pam is an outstanding cook. We - blessed abundantly and we give God all the praise and thanks. THE REFIORES