

# The Refior News Bulletin

Paul, Pam, Nikki & Laura

January 10, 1990

Greetings from the Refiors at this time of a new year and new decade,

The Refiors are excited and expectant about the 1990's. Just as you have taken the occasion to reflect upon the past year and the past decade, so have the Refiors. The 1980's were extremely eventful and wonderful years. In January of 1980 we were living in Pinedale, Wyoming where I was engaged in law practice with Gerald Mason in the law firm of Mason & Refior, P.C. However, at that time we were already making our preparations to move from Pinedale and travel to the great nation of Japan as short-term missionaries with TEAM. In May, 1980 we arrived in Japan, very tired and bewildered. The thirteen and one-half months there in Takamatsu were wonderful years filled with great joys and great difficulties. We saw the Lord work in miraculous ways as our great God overcame our lack of knowledge of Japanese language or Japanese customs, and we saw the Lord reach a number of wonderful Japanese friends with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God worked amazingly to bring the new birth of Jesus Christ to a number of Japanese people. Ministry opportunities abounded and when we returned to America, the biggest question in our life was knowing God's Will for the future. Specifically, we asked the Lord to reveal whether His Will was for us to prepare for vocational Christian ministry and return to the mission field or if God's Will was for us to continue as laymen and for me to continue as a Christian lawyer. When we first returned from Japan we were without money, having exhausted any personal resources during the time in Japan, and we did not even own a car. We thought we would settle in Kokomo, Indiana, with the idea that I would commute up to Winona Lake to take courses at Grace Theological Seminary.

I had practiced law long enough that I would not need to take the Indiana bar exam and I would be able to be admitted to practice law in Indiana based upon reciprocity with Iowa and Wyoming (two States where I was already admitted). However,

there would be four months before the procedures could be completed for my Indiana law license. Being out of money and with no work, I looked for a temporary means of a livelihood. A law school friend hired me on a temporary basis to prosecute some jury trials for him in Iowa. So for that next four months I commuted on weekends between Kokomo, Indiana and Ottumwa, Iowa (a seven hour drive). I put a couch in the little room I rented in Ottumwa and I slept in my office. Meanwhile we were living in the basement of Pam's grandmother Hendricks, who graciously provided us with a temporary place to stay. It was an extremely traumatic time for our family. We were dealing with severe re-entry shock coming from Japan back to America and we were also dealing with being broke, living in a basement which was temporary quarters only, and I was away from the family most of the time and our means of an income was very uncertain. It was during that time in Kokomo that we decided that it would be best if we settled in a community that was relatively near but not right in Howard County. We did not really know anyone in Warsaw, Indiana, but it was contiguous to Winona Lake. We did at that time a very unusual thing. We moved to Warsaw, Indiana, not knowing anyone, not having any money, and not even owning a car, in the middle of the winter when it would be six months before we could be listed in the yellow pages, and I hung out my law office shingle and we trusted and prayed that the Lord would allow us to establish a livelihood through the law practice. Step by step the Lord provided in amazing and wonderful ways and the law practice continuously grew and the Lord has abundantly provided.

During the first part of our time in Warsaw, it seemed that the Lord was still leading toward a change in career to missionary service. But as we continued to pray about the matter and sought God's leading, we came to a peaceful and clear decision that God was not calling us into missionary service, but that he had very definitely put us in Warsaw, Indiana to be involved in His ministries and work from Warsaw, Indiana and for me to continue as a Christian lawyer. Once that decision was ultimately made, there was freedom to move forward with the law practice. Previously I was hesitant to invest in continuing legal education, a large amount of office equipment or furniture, a significant law library, etcetera. After there was a settled decision that (for the time being) God was leading us to remain in the legal profession, I was free to proceed to develop the law practice and the ministries from that practice. [I believe that it would be a mistake to "stop going to the mailbox to see if there is fresh mail" with respect to God's Will. However, we remain at peace that we are exactly where God wants us to be and that the Lord's Will is for me to be a Christian lawyer and for us to be involved at Pleasant View Bible Church and with Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries,

and Child Evangelism Ministries, Inc., and for Pam to be involved with Christian Women's Club.]

We experienced some pretty lean times financially in the early part of our living in Warsaw. Pam worked for a time at Zondervan Christian Bookstore to help pay the bills. We suffered some other unexpected financial setbacks. However, through it all, God has graciously provided an ever increasing law practice and the Lord has blessed bountifully beyond any expectations. Our girls have continued to grow up and they certainly consider Warsaw to be their home town. Nikki went through Warsaw High School and was active in the marching band and pep band, high school play, piano lessons and recitals, and excelled academically. Furthermore, Nikki was active in the youth group at Pleasant View Bible Church and continues to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a blessed thing to be able to say that through all of those teen years we saw our Nikki remain true and faithful to the Lord and Nikki did not make a wrong choice about any major decision or activity all the while. We thank the Lord that we never experienced any rebellion from Nikki and we have always had the blessing of an extremely close and supportive and loving relationship with Nikki. Nikki is now in her second year at Cedarville College in Cedarville, Ohio. She is a resident assistant, is doing extremely well academically, has many, many friends, and is really enjoying her time at Cedarville. She is working her summers at the law office to pay her one-half of her college expenses.

During this same period of time we have seen our Laura grow up from a kindergartner to a vibrant and active eighth grader. Similarly we have seen our precious Laura continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and she is honoring the Lord with her life. Laura is a joy to Pam and me and we are blessed with an open, communicative, positive and loving relationship with our Laura. Laura is doing extremely well academically, is busy as a cheerleader, continues with her piano and is active in chorus. Again we are thankful for a good youth group at church to provide regular interaction and positive peer involvement with other fine Christian people. Laura is thinking about switching from track to tennis this spring. I personally would enjoy that switch because it would certainly lead to the opportunities for our family to play tennis together. Laura is developing the artistic talents which God has given to her. With Nikki away at college it makes Pam and me even more appreciative of our precious Laura.

As a family we enjoy sports, particularly watching the Warsaw High School teams. We are enjoying their success this winter. The Warsaw girls basketball team is undefeated and

ranked 9th NATIONALLY by USA Today, and the boys are also undefeated and ranked 3rd in the State of Indiana. The wrestling team is also outstanding and is among the ranked wrestling teams in the State. It has been simply fun to watch the kids do so well. Warsaw is a growing and vibrant community. One of the wonderful aspects of the City of Warsaw is that people who live here really love living here. Instead of hearing people run down the town and talk as if they wished they could live somewhere else, there is genuine community pride and a widespread positive recognition that Warsaw is a great city and a great place to live.

I hope to start the remodeling of the law office to prepare for Jerry Yeager to join the office as an associate lawyer in June. Jerry sits for the Indiana bar exam next month. Jerry is a fine Christian man and he will be an outstanding lawyer. I am really, really looking forward to Jerry arriving. My law practice is not a general practice but is limited to civil litigation, business related matters, and estate planning. When Jerry joins the staff we will continue to turn away law work which does not fit into those categories. Hopefully we will be in a better position to provide more expeditious and excellent service to our clients in these limited areas of practice. I am in the process of looking for a paralegal to replace Tracey Rose who will be moving from Warsaw due to her husband's job transfer. It is not easy to find a good paralegal.

We are really excited and expectant about what is going on at Pleasant View Bible Church. I see us turning a fresh corner and there are growing opportunities for ministry and world wide involvement ahead. We have selected "Kids Praise IV" as the musical for our ACTION kids to present this spring. This will be our eighth musical. We have done all of the other Kids Praise productions, but we skipped Kids Praise IV. We are now at the point of just beginning our try outs.

Please come visit us in this lovely city. And please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

*Paul & family*

# SUPER 25

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

---

- 1 Midd. Village, N.Y. Chilli the King (9-0)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Midd. Village has a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. De-  
Lorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie. Midd. Village is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 2 New Augusta, Miss. Perry Central (17-0)**  
No. 1 in the state. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Perry Central is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 3 Shelbyville, Tenn. Central (10-0)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Shelbyville Central is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 4 Milwaukee Plus XI (12-0)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Milwaukee Plus XI is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 5 Area, Calif. Brea Olinda (13-0)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Brea Olinda is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 6 Washington, D.C. H.D. Woodson (8-0)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. H.D. Woodson is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 7 Des Plaines, Ill. Maine West (15-2)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Maine West is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 8 Duncanville, Texas (21-0)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Duncanville is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 9 Warsaw, Ind. (12-0)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Warsaw is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 10 Clifton Park, N.Y. Shenendehowa (8-1)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Shenendehowa is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 11 Pittsburgh Penn Hills (10-1)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Penn Hills is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 12 Chicago Whitney Young (13-2)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Whitney Young is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 13 Magnolia, Miss. South Pike (13-2)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. South Pike is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 14 Louisville Manual (8-2)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Manual is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.
- 15 Morris, Ill. (12-2)**  
Last week: 1. Won 24-16 over West at Erie. Overlooked by many. Morris is a strong team. Coach: Jeffery J. DeLorenzo. Next game: Thursday vs. West at Erie.