

# The Refior News Bulletin

Paul, Pam, Nikki & Laura

July 18, 1990

Dear friends & family,

Because of my upcoming trip to France, the first portion of this news bulletin will be written by me (Nikki) instead of Dad. I'll start from the beginning and tell you just how wonderful God has been in getting this whole thing together.

Because Cedarville College had no French program, during the fall of my freshman year my good friend, Leigh Ann, and I began looking around for somewhere to study abroad. We wrote universities all over the United States, France and Switzerland asking for information about their programs. But none of them were quite right, and I just kept amassing an ever growing pile of literature.

The fall of my sophomore year my international business professor mentioned in class a proposed major that was then before the board of trustees for approval: International Studies. It was perfect! I didn't know what the course requirements were yet, but I knew that's what I had been looking for all along. So I went to talk to my advisor and found out that he was heading up the communication arts segment of this major. He loaded me down with information, and we worked together in putting together the major I desired. And of course, one of the core requirements was a foreign study experience.

Now that I had a definite need to find a program, I began searching even harder. But by the time Christmas break rolled around, we still hadn't found anything that would work for both Leigh Ann and I. I was getting frustrated. So as I drove home from Ohio I asked God to give me some clear direction before the end of break to show me that I should continue to plan for France.

Two days before the end of Christmas break I contacted Dr. Nesbitt at Grace College. He told me of a program they had set up with the University of Grenoble. Students pay only a small international fee to Grace, and then the rest goes directly to Grenoble. The first month of classes is intensive language training. The following courses are offered all in French, but on different levels based on the student's test results. Credit transfers to Grace, which would easily transfer over to Cedarville. We would be able to take both written and oral French, History of French Civilization, and History of French Art and Cinema, or French Literature. Once again, it was perfect!

All through winter and spring quarters Leigh Ann and I worked on filling out applications, obtaining passports and all the other fun stuff that goes with planning a trip

overseas. We were so excited we could hardly stand it. God had been so good to us, and practically laid everything right into our laps while our heads were turned.

Our plans at this point are to depart from Chicago August 27, arrive in London and spend a few days there getting over jet lag. September 1 we'll take the ferry over to the mainland, and then a train down to Grenoble. After a couple days settling in at Mme. Corbier's house, we will register for the intensive language training -- and go for it.

Of course, it's not going to be all work. Grenoble is situated in the middle of the Alps, and is well known for its skiing. And I'm sure that we will travel around France and to nearby countries several weekends. Then, during our two-week Christmas break and for the couple weeks in late January, early February after first semester, we will travel extensively. Mom and Dad are planning at this point to join us sometime for the February travelling. What a great opportunity to see countries that we may never get a chance to see again.

We will return to the States in mid-February. I'll work for a few weeks at Refior Law Office (to help pay for the trip), and then go back to Cedarville for spring quarter. It's an amazing opportunity, that won't cost much more than two quarters at Cedarville, and that will earn me possibly as much as 20 hours of credit towards my major. God is good.

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I (Paul) will now pick up following Nikki's report to give you some additional family information. The entire family is anticipating Nikki's trip to Europe. I am sure that we will get very homesick for Nikki. Even though she has been away at college these past two years, at least we were able to regularly talk by telephone and we were able to make trips back and forth at different points during the quarters. We are making preliminary plans for a trip by at least Pam and me to France at the beginning of February, 1991. If we can succeed in getting Laura out of school we will take her also (we are hoping we can do that since this presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the entire family to be together for such a trip). We would hope to rent a car and travel to various countries with Nikki and her friend, Leigh Ann.

Nikki and Laura finished spring semester with outstanding grades. Nikki completed her duties as resident assistant and every indication was that she was a very effective R.A. and that "her girls" really loved and respected her. As previously reported, Nikki is working at the law office this summer. She is again doing an outstanding job for me. Laura has regular duties at home, including her job of lawn

maintenance. This week she gets to paint the fence and the pool building. We are enjoying our little backyard resort more than we can say. It has been fun to have a lot of kids over. The carpenters are finishing the deck this week and the entire project is finally reaching its completion. Laura begins tennis lessons this week. We are looking forward to seeing how she will respond to teaching by an expert. If it appears that she has potential in tennis, then she is planning to try out for the high school tennis team next spring. Warsaw does have a beautiful indoor tennis facility which would then allow her to continue playing tennis through the winter months.

We have been quite successful in some major jury trials which have been completed in recent months. In the last REFIOR NEWS BULLETIN I reported about an upcoming homicide jury trial. It was an exciting case as it unfolded and when the jury came back with its verdict "NOT GUILTY" there was a classic courtroom scene with shouts of joy, hugging, tears, etc. I have a policy of trying to avoid the news media whenever possible. Even though newspaper, radio, and TV people were there, I succeeded in directing my clients out a back way so that we could avoid cameras and interviews. It is really great to have Jerry Yeager on board as a practicing attorney. This is particularly helpful since I have been out of the office a good bit recently (e.g. depositions in Michigan last week, Houston next week, and even as I dictate my portion of this bulletin I am travelling back from a day in Indianapolis).

Pam is doing great. She and I took a long weekend away as a sort of honeymoon two weeks ago. We drove up to Macinac City (the northernmost point of the lower peninsula of Michigan) and then took the ferry over to Macinac Island where we had a room at the Mission Point Resort. We had an absolutely marvelous, romantic, relaxing and enjoyable time together. We had precious times to talk, to play together, to dine out at exceptional restaurants, and on and on. I certainly did not lose weight on the trip. Macinac Island is renown for its fudge. I partook not only of the fudge but just about everything else that was available. Yes, I now have declared myself to be back on a diet. Anybody who has seen me recently would not say that I am looking very emaciated. We have started regular racquetball challenges among the three men at Refior Law Office. This provides an opportunity for strenuous physical activity at least twice per week. If I can continue with the racquetball, plus swimming and weight lifting, I actually may end up getting back into shape. Of course I am fully aware of the fact that the biggest change that is necessary is for me to truly restrict my calorie intake.

Pam and I are now in the process of organizing for the 1990-91 ACTION program at church. One of the strengths of

our ACTION program has been the maturity and experience of our ACTION leaders. Most of this year's leaders will be continuing with the program next year. We are very expectant about what the Lord will do this coming year as we minister to the children. Our summer ACTION program has been going extremely well and we have seen the Lord bring marvelous fruit this summer.

We are very thankful and excited about the many activities and ministries of Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries this summer. Al Buhler and the team of summer missionaries are swamped with activities and great results are being seen, all praise to God. Laura was at Hiawatha Christian Camp in the upper peninsula of Michigan all of last week. We really missed her. Laura had a great time. For the second year in a row she was chosen as one of the two girls of the whole camp as "Miss Hiawatha." This is in honor to the girls (junior high through high school) who have demonstrated balance and achievement and particularly Christian character throughout the week. There were a number of churches at the camp. Both of the girls selected Miss Hiawatha and one of the two young men selected as Mr. Hiawatha were from the youth group of our Pleasant View Bible Church. It was a great week in all ways for Laura but particularly spiritually. She made some new commitments concerning some aspects of her life and Pam and I are very delighted and excited about all of this.

Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Refior for the four of us

