

The Refior News Bulletin

Paul, Pam, Nikki & Laura

April 19, 1990

Hello again from the Refiors!

I am sorry that it has been so long since the last bulletin. Let me bring you up to date on some of the Refior family news.

We made it through all of the commotion, disruption, dust, and noise of the remodeling of the office and it really looks great. In fact, with the extensive remodeling it really looks like a different building on the inside. There still is outside yard work to do because I had a new water line and sewer line put into the building as an additional part of the process.

Plans are getting more and more concrete for Nikki's studying at the University of Grenoble in France this Fall. Because the program Nikki wanted was available through Grace College here in Winona Lake, she is technically transferring from Cedarville College to Grace College for the Fall semester. Nikki and Leigh Ann (Nikki's friend who will be studying at Grenoble with Nikki this Fall) will be coming to Warsaw this weekend to meet with the Grace professor who is coordinating the program. Nikki is doing just great at school and we continue to be very impressed with Cedarville College both academically and spiritually.

When the Warsaw high school students returned from spring vacation, they reported to the brand new high school which is unbelievably big and beautiful (and expensive ... and we taxpayers are certainly paying for it!). The high school will now be a four year high school instead of just tenth through twelfth. That means that when Laura enters the ninth grade this Fall, she will be with the entire high school student body. We really have enjoyed the unique situation in Warsaw where they have had a separate school just for ninth grade, called the "Freshman High." Nikki really, really enjoyed having that separate school during that year of transition. Laura has decided to pursue tennis instead of track. Tennis is not offered as a competitive sport in Warsaw until the ninth grade. We are going to start Laura in tennis lessons this month so that she can develop the proper fundamentals of the sport and progress in her skills before

next spring's try outs.

Earlier this month Pam, Laura and I flew down to Florida for a lovely vacation. This was during Laura's spring break from school. Unfortunately Nikki could not go with us because her school break was not the same. In fact, this was the first major family vacation that we have ever taken without Nikki. I do not like even the smaller aspects of this "leaving the nest" reality.

We rented a car in Fort Myers and spent the first day on a nearby island, enjoying the sunshine and beautiful white beaches. We then traveled down to Naples for the next four days. We had an absolutely tremendous time there. We dined at wonderful restaurants, enjoyed the beaches, played together, rested, and truly had a vacation. We visited a special preserve operated by the National Audubon Society which allowed us to be in a cypress swamp in its original state. During that tour we saw any animals, including alligators, in their truly wild habitat. A highlight was watching a previously motionless huge alligator suddenly and violently turn, dive, and then come up again with a big turtle in its mouth. One more bite on that turtle and it was down his throat and the alligator resumed his position of looking like a log. From Naples we traveled across the State of Florida to Miami. On route we went on an airboat ride in the Florida Everglades. We enjoyed seeing numerous alligators in the wild-even in the streams and ditches along the highway. We took a brief driving tour through the city of Miami. We enjoyed seeing the special architecture and the Gold Coast. We then traveled up to Riviera Beach which is just north of Palm Beach. A client had directed us to a particular spot and a specific motel which must rate as the best kept secret in Florida. For a very reasonable rate we enjoyed a motel which was right on the beach, and the beaches there were the best beaches we saw of any place in Florida. One of the highlights for Laura and me was snorkeling around a coral reef. We were thrilled as we found ourselves surrounded by beautiful and exotic ocean fish of different shapes, colors, markings, and sizes. The only bad part of that experience was my discovery of just how sharp coral is. I inadvertently brushed my hand against the coral and it sliced my palm and ripped the skin off of the top of one of my fingers. I have been nursing that back to health since. We drove up to the Stuart area one evening to enjoy fellowship and a lovely dinner with Bob and Doris Kesler. The Keslers are the owners of Explorer Van Company which is one of my major business clients. There were other enjoyable activities along the way, but suffice it to say that we had one of the nicest vacations we have ever had. And it was particularly enjoyable when the vacation was over to simply drive the rental car to the airport, check it in, and then

fly home. When one is finished with a vacation, the last thing he wants to do is look forward to two and a half days of driving in order to get home.

An even more significant event took place on March 28th. Pam and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary. We are blessed beyond measure by our great Lord with a beautiful, mutually supportive, loving, and enjoyable marriage relationship. I do not say that our marriage is better than anyone else's but I definitely do not know of any couple which enjoys a better or more rewarding or more fulfilling marriage relationship than that which Pam and I enjoy. Again, how I thank the Lord for Pam and our marriage, and the family He has given to us. We strive to keep the Lord Jesus Christ at the center of our marriage and the center of our home and He has blessed us far beyond anything to which we are entitled.

Last night we picked up Tsuguyo Komatsu who is a Japanese college student. She will be staying with us for the next several weeks. She hopes to attend Grace College this Fall. We had never met her before. This contact was arranged through Ralph Cox.

As we approach the summer I am reminded of my need to get back on my diet and get serious again about exercise. I really do intend to get into great shape this year (that is what I have said each year for the last ten years or so).

We look forward to Jerry Yeager joining the law office staff as associate lawyer next month. We also are excited about Mark Miller - a law student at Valpraiso University - beginning work next month as well as a law clerk.

Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul D. Refior
for the entire family