

# *Refior News Bulletin*

Paul \* Pam \* Nikki \* Laura

December 28, 1993

## ***GREETINGS FROM THE REFIORES***

This is our post-Christmas letter. I am assuming that this will arrive at a time when your mailbox is less congested when compared to the Christmas card/letter season. We are all doing great.

It was wonderful to have Nikki home for Christmas. However, we are now entering into something new. We have to "share" Nikki. She will be spending half of her Christmas break with her boyfriend, Jonathan, down in Missouri. Laura is up in the Detroit area for a couple of days attending a Camp Hiawatha holiday get-together (and, of course, visiting Jared). It sure is a good thing that Pam and I love each other so much and enjoy each other so much, since the girls desire to spend time with some other folks (which, of course, is just fine).

Laura has had a number of excellent opportunities to sing. The Select Chorale participated in the high school Christmas concert, they sang at a number of different restaurants and businesses, her quartet has sung the National Anthem at the beginning of a basketball game, and Laura has had the opportunity to do the National Anthem solo as well. This past Sunday Laura sang a beautiful, God-honoring and worshipful song as a part of the morning worship service at Pleasant View Bible Church. Last year the kids involved in the high school musical were told that it would be at least two years until W.C.H.S. would put on another musical. They just announced that the spring play will be the musical *Annie*. Laura is very excited about that and looking forward to participating in *Annie*. Laura has decided that she will definitely attend Cedarville College next fall. Nikki is an alumna of Cedarville. Laura wants to take a physical therapy course which will include a degree from Cedarville College followed by a masters at another university. Pam and I believe that there is no better college or university for Christian young people to attend than Cedarville College. Obviously we are delighted that Laura will be going to Cedarville College.

Nikki finished her first semester of graduate studies and teaching at Purdue University. She enjoyed her classes a lot, but she especially loved teaching. Purdue finished first semester before Christmas break so Nikki has been able to enjoy her vacation with no homework. Nikki did so well in teaching her class first semester that

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they decided to have her teach two classes second semester. Nikki will really be swamped. We had the pleasure of going down to Faith Baptist Church in Lafayette where Nikki (and Jonathan) were in the Christmas cantata entitled *Born to Die*. It was outstanding. The gospel message was as clear as I have witnessed in any cantata or musical presentation. Jonathan had a major part and Nikki had a relatively minor part. Nikki also was in the choir which participated throughout the cantata. Earlier Nikki (and Jonathan) participated in an extraordinary presentation around the church building which presented the Christmas story and the entire life of Christ through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord. Pam and I did not get down to see that, so we look forward to taking that in next year. (For more information about Nikki see her enclosed letter.)

As a family we had one of the most delightful Christmases ever. We really enjoy each other in special ways and during special times over Christmas. Pam and I were very mindful of the fact that this is our last Christmas while having one of our girls still in school and living at home. It is easy to get nostalgic. I found a box containing audio cassettes of earlier Christmases when the girls were little. That has been fun listening.

The big event the Saturday following Thanksgiving was the **WEDDING OF MY FATHER, EVERETT REFIOR, TO BETTY PHELPS**. The wedding was held in the Lake Room on the second floor of my law office (it is a very large room, 46 feet in length, with large windows overlooking the lake). All four of Dad's kids were in attendance (Gene and Linda Refior, Wendell and Margaret Refior, Donna Refior, as well as Pam and I). The reception followed immediately. It was a very warm and nice time. It was good to see and get-together with my siblings, albeit only for a brief time. Dad and Betty have taken up residence at Dad's house in Whitewater, Wisconsin. They were down in Indiana over Christmas and just loaded up a rental truck with more of Betty's furniture and possessions up to Wisconsin this week.

Things at the office are going well (there, of course, the ongoing usual pressures of too much work, not enough time, clients not paying, etc.). Since the last *BULLETIN* my work has taken me to Florida, South Carolina, Texas and Michigan. We succeeded in getting a total victory in the case for Explorer Van Co. pending in Federal District Court in Seattle, so I will not be needing to travel out there any more (I made four trips to Seattle in 1993). Other than a trip to Dallas in February, and several trips to Michigan, I have no other trips away planned. Oh yes, over Laura's spring vacation we are planning to go to Florida. Nikki will not be able to go, but Laura's best friend, Beth Russell, will be joining us.

I started playing basketball twice a week at the church gym at 5:30 a.m. with a group of guys from the church. My knees are holding up pretty well. It is fun, and it is a part of yet another attempt to get into better physical condition. We have two informal requirements for participating in the games: (1) one must be more than 30 [more than 40 is preferable], and (2) one must at least sort of be out of shape. We are hoping that in addition to the fun and fellowship, we men will be holding one another accountable as we try to be obedient to get our "temples of the Holy Spirit" back into obedience. We close each session with a season of prayer. It has been great. Things continue to

be good a Pleasant View Bible Church. We look for 1994 to be an excellent year in the Lord's service.

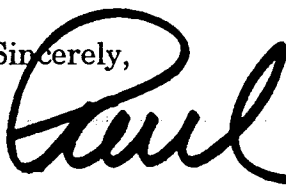
Opportunities for Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries to participate in world evangelization through our evangelistic films seem to be increasing so rapidly it might be called "explosive." We do not know how long the doors will remain open to the gospel and to missionaries in the former Soviet Union. Some very exciting opportunities are now being considered.

A great man of God... One of the Lord's most choice servants... Pastor Gene Garrick of Norfolk, Virginia went to heaven last month. Gene died just days after being diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. When I received the news of the diagnosis I sensed a special prompting of the Lord that I should go to Norfolk as soon as possible. The Lord opened the door by working for there to be a continuance of a hearing that could not (from a human standpoint) be continued, and working out all of the other details. I will always be thankful that the Lord opened that door and gave me an opportunity to actually spend some time with Gene before he died. It was good to be able to be with Helena, Cathy, Gene L., and Debbie. The Garricks, particularly Helena, were very important in the process of Pam coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We have a special love for the Garricks. Debbie has lived with us on a couple of occasions and consider her to be one of our own. This has been a time of grief for the Garricks. Christmas has brought some sorrow in addition to celebration of the birth of Christ. Please pray for the entire Garrick family. Debbie will be returning to Vienna and Cathy back out west, both on January 6, 1994. Especially pray then.

During December of each year I reflect upon the year that is nearly completed and I compare how things were with the goals I had set for the year. I then carefully and prayerfully prepare goals for the upcoming new year. I have just completed that important process for 1994 and I am very expectant for this next year. 1994 would be a great year for the Lord Jesus Christ to come again. If he does tarry, 1994 should be the best year ever.

Watch my Iowa Hawkeyes beat California New Year's eve in the Alamo Bowl. And how about the Hawkeyes women's basketball team? ... Rated #2 in the nation and undefeated !

Time to bring this *BULLETIN* to a close. We greet you with all of our warmth and we trust that 1994 will be a great year for you. Why not make a New Year's resolution that you will write to the Refiors.

Sincerely,  


Paul, Pam, Nikki and Laura

kmh/r.december.nb



Donna Gene Wendell



Dad & Betty

# (Nikki's letter)

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 22, 1993

Greetings at this wonderful time of Christ's birth. During the holiday season I just wanted to take the time to fill you in on all the many things going on in my life. I realize that I have been generally poor in my correspondence with about everyone this semester, so I have some catching up to do.

I am now well settled in West Lafayette, Indiana. I finished my first set of final exams in my masters program in French literature, and have turned in the final grades for my French 103 students. It is wonderful to have a couple weeks here without papers to write, homework to correct, and tests to grade. This last semester has been very busy, but I continue to enjoy my classes and I thoroughly enjoy teaching.

I had only one class of 21 students last semester. They were a good group -- participated well in class and got along great. In general they did very well too. I only had about five students earn below a B final grade. I was proud of them. It was exciting for me to watch them grow in confidence and ability in speaking French. I recall one particularly memorable day when I had instructed my students that for the final few minutes of class they could do anything they wanted as long as it was all in French -- they were not to speak even one word of English. Well, they were used to me using only French, and they generally used mostly French in class, but they were skeptical about being able to converse without using any of their mother tongue. Just before the class ended, one student, Mary, called me over excitedly. "Nikki, Nikki" she said "we just had a whole conversation in French. We can do it!" I was as thrilled as she was. They had had the ability to do so for a while, but they finally realized it themselves.

My classes were rather varied in subject matter. Bibliography and Criticism was my one course in English because it covered graduate students in all the foreign languages. It gave useful information for research and papers, but was itself a pretty dry course. My general literature course that I took as part of my admission requirement (because I don't have a BA in French, I have to catch up with a couple undergraduate literature courses) briefly covered authors from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. It was a quick overview, but one that I needed. My other graduate class was in 20th century French theater. It was a good class, but I must say that I got tired of many of the immoral themes that run in modern French theater. In each of these classes God gave me the opportunity to witness through a paper or assignment to each of my teachers. In Bib. Crit. I was able to turn in an outline of the plan of salvation to show proper outlining style; in my undergraduate literature class I wrote my semester paper on the comparison of the medieval play "Le Jeu d'Adam" and the Genesis account of Adam and Eve, including a couple paragraphs on how the fall of man required a savior, and verses that showed that Jesus was the that savior; and in the theater class I added a dedication page to the term paper that presented my dependance on Christ. How wonderful to have such an open forum to share Christ to the lost! I also had the opportunity to witness to several of my students. Many times it was in the context of them asking where I went to college. I would then explain that I went to Cedarville and tell a little about what the school stands for. In fact, one girl I gave a Bible, and presented the plan of salvation to her several times over the course of a lunch together. I am awed and humbled at the open doors the Lord has given to me. Please pray with me that I will be sensitive to opportunities to share my God with all those around me, and that hearts of my students, peers and professors will be tender to see their need of a savior.

On the non-school side of life, I have developed a wonderful relationship with a godly man from my church. His name is Jonathan Lambeth. He is finishing up his masters degree in chemistry, and will begin research work for his PhD next semester. He is intelligent, fun, very talented musically, a

leader in the college and career class, and he spoils me terribly. He has been up to Warsaw a couple times now, and my family just loves him. Let's see, how can I describe Jonathan to you. Well, for my birthday he surprised me with roses, took me down to Indianapolis for a wonderful dinner, carriage ride and a walk around Union Station. Another time we spent over an hour in the toy section of Target, shooting each other with toy guns down the store aisles, and playing with all the computer games on display. While I was writing 3 different papers in French, grading tests and getting ready for finals, Jonathan came over and helped me cook and clean, then helped figure all my final grades. I could go on and on. I have met his parents, and like them very much. But I will not meet the rest of his family until next week when I go out to Missouri to spend a week with his family. I am looking forward to getting to know them all (as well as spend some time with Jonathan where neither of us has to worry about homework or grading).

I have gotten involved in Faith Baptist Church in Lafayette. I am singing in the choir. Of course I am active in the college and career group. I worked one evening in the living nativity the church puts on for the community – they build beautiful sets all around the church and parking lot, bring in camels, donkeys and sheep, and have each scene manned with actors playing the part that is being described over the speaker at that station. It is really something! I was one of the mourners at the tomb, and got to walk up to the tomb, see that it was empty, embrace the other girl and run back to tell the disciples the great news that Christ has risen from the dead. I got my exercise that night as I repeated this same sequence about every 45 seconds or so. Jonathan and I were also in the Christmas cantata at the church. He had the lead part in a prodigal son-type story. I was his girlfriend who dumped him when he lost his money. He told me that I was simply too convincing in my part.

My family is doing well. Dad is excited that the Iowa Hawkeyes are playing in the Alamo bowl New Years Eve. Mom is busy Christmas shopping and wrapping presents. Laura is finishing up her senior year of high school (I can't believe she's almost out of high school!). She has decided to attend Cedarville College next year (YEAH!!!!!!!). I'm just a little excited. Candy continues to be a very spoiled dog. And generally everyone is happy.

Drop me a line sometime and let me know how things are going. I hope your Christmas and new year are happy and God honoring.

Love,

Nikki Jo



Nikki & Jonathan  
10/30/93