

Refior News Bulletin

December 26, 1997

Laura is Engaged !!

Actually for some of you this is not new news because it occurred on August 7th. This is a great event and we are so very pleased with Brian White - Laura's fiance. Here is how it happened:

[This is Laura now writing.] Dad wanted me to give my own account of what happened. Brian and I had been talking about getting engaged for a while so Brian had to work especially hard so as to surprise me. And he did a great job! Brian had told me that he was going to send me a special package that was to arrive right before he did. He told me that it was to make me want to see him more (as if I needed that after three weeks apart!) I didn't get my hopes up about it because I didn't think that Brian had money for the ring yet. Brian was sending the package to Dad's office where I was working this summer. It was to arrive Wednesday to Thursday then Brian was coming on Friday. This was during the time of the UPS strike. The package didn't arrive on Wednesday, and Thursday it hadn't arrived by noon ... then by two ... then by four. Dad said that he wanted me to go run an errand for him then go home to help mom cook dinner since she was also watching my nephew Luke. Despite my disappointment about the package not coming in, I went home. Right at 5:00 Dad called and said that the package had arrived right before the end of the work day. I told him that I was in the middle of making dinner and could he just bring the package home. There is an important detail that I must add here. Brian had told me that when I got the package at the office, I should go out to the park (which is just next to the office) and open it. Dad reminded me of that fact and said that those instructions were even written on the package. I said that Brian would never know and just to bring it home! Dad said that he didn't really think that was what Brian had in mind, and I should honor his request. So I left in my bib-overalls with Luke to quickly run over to the office, still a little annoyed that Dad was being so stubborn. When I arrived I gave Luke to Dad, and I went over to the park. The package was a book called, "The Love Story of Laura and Brian." It had an introduction and then several chapters. Each chapter was a stage in Brian and my relationship. He had scanned pictures into the computer and bound the whole thing together. I must admit that the thought went through my head that this could be the real thing - but then I quickly said to myself that I wasn't going to get my hopes up any more because I thought Brian didn't have the money. So I kept reading. The last chapter said, "Page missing. Get from Brian the next time you see him ..." Even then I thought that this was just to make me want to see him more the next day. So I closed the book and began gathering the

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things together when I heard a voice right behind me say, "Do you want the last page of your book?" I whirled around to see Brian standing there. I ran over to him. He opened a folder and said, "Here is the last page." Inside was a page that read "Laura, will you please marry me? please!!" Then he got down on his knee and proposed. What an exciting day!! Brian is the answer to my prayers and dreams. He has been a wonderful boyfriend, a fantastic fiance and will be a perfect husband. I love him so much and can't wait to marry him!! We've planned our wedding date to be on June 20, 1998 at 1:30 at Pleasant View Bible Church, Warsaw, IN. To each of you who is able to come, we would love your presence on our special day. - Laura

[Paul again] One of the unexpected and unique aspects of Laura's engagement is that ... get this ... I actually watched ! It wasn't intended. Brian had called me several days earlier to ask for my assistance with his plan on how to set up the engagement surprise. When Laura arrived at the office she had little Luke (we had the pleasure of having Luke for three days while Nikki and Jon went to a state park for their anniversary honeymoon). Normally I would have just gone home at that time, but a client had car trouble and he was off with Pam's dad getting a part at the auto parts store so I could not leave. So there I was with Luke, unable to leave. I decided, "Well, I'm inside the building so I won't disturb anyone, and the engagement is taking place right there in public by the lake so, **why not watch?!** So I was holding Luke and the two of us watched through the picture window in the lobby of the office while Laura was getting totally surprised by Brian's presence, and then we watched the proposal itself (without sound of course). That was great. I only wish that Pam could have also watched, or at least that I could have taken a picture. [Thank you, Laura, for being willing to have even your Dad watch you get engaged !]

We have always made a big deal out of the Fourth of July. We had the delight of having EVERYONE together. This Independence Day was different than any of our others, however. The temperature was so cold that we were wearing sweatshirts and coats on the Fourth of July. Nonetheless we did enjoy the celebrations. Luke was in awe of the fireworks. That was fun. A new tradition was started as well. Pam, Nikki and Laura went "garage sale-ing" on the July Fourth weekend. They had a riot.

Shortly after the last *Bulletin* Pam, Laura and I had a very wonderful trip to Virginia. For several years we had wanted to get back to the Virginia Beach/Norfolk area of Virginia. This is where we lived when I was a Navy lawyer (JAG). Laura was particularly happy to be going to that part of Virginia because that is exactly where Brian lives. Laura flew out before Pam and I drove out. That gave her some extra time to be with Brian and his family. Pam and I had a delightful drive out to Williamsburg. That is where we met with Laura. We stayed at the Kings Mill Resort. The facilities and restaurants in that resort were the best. We had a delightful time at Williamsburg and as a family. Brian was able to join us for part of our stay in Williamsburg. One special, relaxing morning I remember was getting up very early and going outside of our sliding glass doors which overlooked part of the PGA golf course. I had my Bible study and prayer time in that peaceful setting and then just pondered things while I carved on a wood dolphin I was creating. We participated in some of the historical presentations there at Williamsburg that we had not done even though we had been to Williamsburg so many times when we lived there. Next we

went into "Hampton Roads" [when we lived there they called the area "Tidewater," and I have no idea when or why they changed the name] and stayed at Founders Inn. Laura stayed again with the White family at that time. We have such fond memories of our Navy years in Virginia. Most significantly we built wonderful relationships with delightful people there. Our trip to Virginia Beach/Norfolk gave us the opportunity to be with these friends including an evening with our old mid-week Bible study in the home of Harry and Helen Brown. An extra surprise that night was the arrival of Helena and Debbie Garrick. Debbie had just flown in from Europe that very day. We had the opportunity to spend some additional wonderful time with Debbie, and then Helena joined us for a play at Founder's Inn as well. One day Laura and Brian joined us and we went to the beach. That certainly brought back wonderful memories. On Sunday we had the high privilege of being back in Tabernacle Church of Norfolk. After the service we were so happy to be able to have lunch with Jane and Lyle Trenchard along with Debbie. There was the added pleasure of touring the naval base and then spending a little time in the home of CAPT Ron Hunt. Ron is now serving as the senior judge for the entire circuit.

For Laura being in Indiana for her last summer home before being married, and Brian being in Virginia for his last summer home before being married, those kids really did not spend long periods of time without seeing each other ... although the longest period (three weeks) seemed like an eternity to Laura. The summer was highlighted by family times. We usually saw Nikki and her family about every two weeks (or as Pam would say, we got a "Luke-fix"). We had the pleasure of being together with all of Pam's relatives for a reunion at Uncle George and Aunt Carolyn's lovely place on the lake.

Laura went back to college earlier than previous years because of her involvement in the Campus Activities Board. They had an endurance-type bicycle trip that lasted five days and included biking in Annapolis, Maryland to Washington, D.C. and into Virginia. The trip also included sailing. This was a big quarter for Laura because she did her **student teaching**. It was a really great experience for Laura. She had the blessing of being with an outstanding cooperating teacher, Mrs. Debbie Johnson. Laura fell in love with her third graders and had a really tremendous experience. The evaluations and reports from her teaching reveal that Laura was most successful as a student teacher. Laura is getting ready to enter her second quarter and it will seem strange for her to be back in the regular classroom at college, and be in a somewhat "normal" college routine again.

As you would expect there have been countless decisions and details relating to wedding plans. Laura has been very gracious to include Pam in much of the fun. After a group of possible wedding dresses were selected, Laura invited me to see her model the dresses and then I actually saw her in the dress style which she chose. Laura is a gorgeous bride ! Laura's fiance, Brian, was hired by Heritage Christian Schools in Indianapolis to teach Bible and coach the JV basketball team. This past week we traveled down to Indianapolis to watch Brian coach his team to victory. Laura has applied to Heritage Christian School. That would be neat if they both could be teaching there together in Indianapolis.

Rather than teach Chemistry to Purdue University students again this fall, Jonathan was hired to set up the chemistry lab at the new Christian high school at Faith Baptist Church in Lafayette where Jonathan is a high school teacher now, while he continues to work on his PhD in Biochemistry. Nikki enjoys being home as a full-time mother, while also being successful in her *BeautyControl* sales. Nikki has received several awards for her achievements. She also is teaching French part-time. Nikki and Jonathan are really excellent parents and Pam and I enjoy watching them raise little Luke. Luke is a bundle of energy and just the cutest little kid ever. He is now more than 20 months old. And the only time that he stops is when he is asleep. He has an infectious smile and is a real charmer. He is very precocious (of course) and we get such a kick out of his talking. He can already identify letters of the alphabet and numbers.

There have been some very significant changes at Refior Law Office. After much prayer it was decided that I should return to being a sole practitioner. We are still in the midst of some of the changes related to that. Another big change was that Pam began working everyday at the office as the full-time receptionist. That was in addition to her duties as the bookkeeper. Just a week ago I hired a lady to work three days as the receptionist. Pam will be working the other two days as receptionist while continuing her bookkeeping responsibilities.

Pam and I continue to teach our wonderful second grade Sunday school class. The Lord is blessing the ministries of Lakeland Child Evangelism ministries locally and around the world.

My Iowa Hawkeyes started the football season like one of the best teams in the country. Unfortunately they had a mid-season lops. I am glad that they were selected for the Sun Bowl where they will be playing Arizona State. That will make December 31st extra special as we watch the Hawkeyes pounce upon #16 rated Wildcats. Go Hawks !

A most unexpected experience came Pam's way this fall. She received notice that she was to serve on *jury duty*. I assumed that she would be rejected because she is the wife of a lawyer. That was not the case. There were several times that she went to be a part of the jury pool. And one time she actually served on a jury throughout the entire trial and the decision. It was a great experience ... but I am personally glad it is now over. It was a once in a lifetime experience and Pam will certainly never forget it.

Because Pam's parents live here in town we have the blessing of getting together with them regularly. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving with Nikki and her family, Laura and Brian, Pam and I. We were all able to get together over at Pam's parent's house for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. One of our wonderful family traditions is to go out and cut down a Christmas tree the day after Thanksgiving. We had everyone together for that big event this year. Even little Luke helped us pick out just the right Christmas tree. Our tree and house were just beautiful.

We had the great experience of watching Nikki and Jonathan in their church's drama/musical the Sunday before Christmas. Jonathan had the lead role and even sang a solo. Nikki was also in the drama as the friend and eventual wife of Jonathan ("Jimmie" in the drama). It was tremendous.

Nikki, Jonathan and Luke were in Missouri on Christmas day. We enjoyed our Christmas with Laura, Pam's folks and Pam's brother, Tim, and his family. Then at the end of the month we will have Nikki and her family, along with Brian White, here at Warsaw for another Christmas celebration. *I just love this time of year !*

We trust that this *Bulletin* finds you healthy and well. As we celebrate the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our hearts desire and prayer is that each of you will draw close to the Lord and that this Christmas you will be mindful of the love of God in sending His Son Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul D. Refior

**Laura's and Brian's
Engagement Photo**