

# *Refior News Bulletin*

January 22, 1996

Hello again from the wonderful state of Indiana. We count our blessings from the Lord as we consider what has happened over the past three months since the last **BULLETIN**. You will recall that the October 2, 1995 bulletin had the large headline, "Nikki is Pregnant !" Well, things are moving right along in that regard. Nikki is just 2½ months from her due date. But I am getting a little ahead of myself and I will come back later to that upcoming big event.

In October Laura turned 20, meaning that Pam and I no longer have a child in her teens. Laura has a grace, dignity and maturity beyond her years and we are very, very blessed to have our two fine daughters who love and serve the Lord. Upon Laura's birthday Pam and I did, however, have some tugs of the heart as we reflected the years when our girls were babies, then bouncing toddlers, then little girls, and then adolescents, then teens....and now they are both grown up. As you already know, it is one of life's truths...life moves on so very rapidly. (Because "life is but a breath" it is also a reminder of how important it is to obey the Lord and seek to serve Him now while there is still light.) Laura is thoroughly enjoying her studies in elementary education. She is very happy at Cedarville College. She had the honor and privilege of serving as Beth Russell's maid of honor for Beth's wedding to Jörg Fehlmann in November. At the special Christmas Eve service Laura lifted our hearts to the Lord as she sang a beautiful solo at church during the worship service.

Nikki sat for her masters examination in French literature. She completed two of the three portions and will finish the third portion next month. Nikki is looking forward to having that program completely finished. In addition to the flurry of activities relating to their responsibilities as students, as teachers' aides, and now with the baby coming, Nikki and Jon made the big move to become homeowners. They purchased a really neat home at the edge of Otterbein, Indiana which is rather close to the Purdue University campus. Much time was spent getting it cleaned up, painted, and fixed up for the big move. Pam went down on a couple of occasions to help with the painting since Nikki's pregnancy prohibited Nikki from being around those fumes. The Lord provided for Nikki and Jon to take advantage of an extremely small window of opportunity to get the mortgage financing through a special program. That will save them a considerable amount of money.

We had the warm and rich pleasure of having Nikki, Jon, and Laura all home for Thanksgiving. In fact, Nikki and Jon surprised us by arriving earlier than expected. One of our traditions is to put up the Christmas tree on Thanksgiving weekend. We learned of a new tree farm and we all went out there to cut down our Christmas tree.

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We found a beauty. All of us participated in decorating the tree and decorating the house for the Christmas season. That was wonderful and fun.

When I was driving my previous car my dear wife suggested that I put on deer whistles. I did not do that. We hit a deer with that car. When I obtained my present car my wise wife again asked me to put on deer whistles. I did not. I hit a deer with this car. In addition to no longer having any of those, "Ahhh...think of those deer as being Bambi" feelings, I finally wised up to listening to Pam's good advice and now I have deer whistles on my car. There are so many deer in the area where we live. It is really a danger and a nuisance.

Pam and I continue to have delightful times together now that we have our "empty nest." Pam often can accompany me on business trips and when I travel for Continuing Legal Education seminars. Long, long ago hotel rooms in various cities ceased to be glamorous, and they now represent to me one of the lonelier places to be. However, now that Pam is joining me, the dread of such travel has turned into high enjoyment. With Laura being home for her Christmas break Pam could not accompany me on a recent trip to Iowa for a trial. However, it turned out very nicely that the trial was in the same city that Steve and Jan Moore reside, so I had the privilege and enjoyment of spending some time with Steve, Jan, and their two lovely daughters. That was great.

Of course it is inevitable, but it finally arrived this year. Because Jonathan's parents live in Missouri and we live in Indiana, and both sets of parents desire to have Nikki and Jon (and in the future, their kids) come to visit, we had our first experience of "sharing" them at Christmas. Nikki and Jon traveled to be with Jon's family for Christmas day. However, we had a really wonderful time together as we scheduled one of our special Christmas family times to be the week before. Pam, Nikki, Laura, Jon, and I all traveled to downtown Chicago for a fun Christmas getaway. We went to a Broadway-style show, dined at wonderful restaurants, stayed at a beautiful downtown hotel, and simply had a marvelous time building memories together. There was a very uplifting and inspiring service at Pleasant View Bible Church on Christmas Eve. On Christmas day Pam, Laura, and I had our Christmas devotions, and then began our Christmas activities. Pam's parents, E.J. and Shirley Petro, joined us later in the morning. It was a very relaxing, fun, and loving time. Then later on Christmas day we all went over the E.J. and Shirley's house (they live right here in Warsaw). Pam's brother, Tim and his family came over from Fort Wayne and we had further Christmas celebrations. This really was one of our nicest Christmas seasons ever.

The next big event was the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas. The mighty Washington Huskies, rated 20th in the nation, were taking on my Iowa Hawkeyes. Word was, that Washington was insulted and upset that they were co-champions of the great Pacific 10 Conference, and yet they were only playing Iowa. I knew Iowa would win. I knew

Iowa was very talented. And sure enough, one of the greatest games in the history of college football took place on December 29, 1995, when the Iowa Hawkeyes absolutely dismantled, creamed, annihilated, and humiliated Washington by a score of 38 to 18. Actually the score does not indicate how overwhelmingly Iowa controlled the game. Iowa was ahead by more than 30 points in the fourth quarter before they substituted liberally and Washington scored a couple of late touchdowns. What fun. I have watched the video tape of that game a number of times with high satisfaction. [The final national rankings showed Iowa as #25 in the AP poll, #22 in the USA-Today/CNN poll, and #16 nationally in the Sargine computer rankings.]

Oh...concerning football, I had a really fun time with Randy Swanson during the football season. A friend and client of his had provided a couple of football tickets for the Notre Dame-Navy football game. Because I was in the Navy and because I consider Notre Dame to be one of the "home teams" I cheer for, I was very interested. Since it was football I would have been very interested no matter who was playing. Randy said that he thought the tickets were pretty good. *PRETTY GOOD ?!*...they were on the 50-yard line just a few rows up from the grass. I have never had that good of seats at a junior high or high school game. That was a blast.

Also on January 29, 1995 Laura took off to return to Cedarville College for her choir to get prepared for their trip the *EUROPE !* Here is Laura's brief account of her trip.

"The concert chorale had the opportunity to return to the Czech Republic again this year. We all returned to school 2½ days to practice before going overseas. A dense fog canceled our flight which began a two day ordeal to finally get us to Prague. In the end we all arrived safely and several people from the extra flights came to our concerts as a result to our mixup. Since I arrived two days late I was only in Prague for one full day. We had two concerts in St. Nicholas Cathedral and the Prague Baptist church. Then we drove to a wonderful, country town called Chesky Krumlov where we performed and enjoyed its beauty and quaintness. On Friday our bus crossed over the line into the beautiful and wealthier Austria. It was quite a stark contrast to the former Communistic country we had just left. We spent two days in Vienna touring and performing. The people there were so friendly and receptive. Please pray that with additional communication through mail, I might have a chance to further explain the gospel to several Czech children that I developed a friendship with. Although we had a shaky beginning, it was a wonderful week to get closer to friends, develop new Czech and Austrian friends, and depend even more on my Best Friend for His loving control. In Him, Laura."

We were happy to hear the report that Laura arrived safely back to Cedarville College following the trip to Europe. Laura bought some very special gifts for us there in the Czech Republic, and we will enjoy them for many years.

My Christmas present from Nikki and Jon was a set of tickets for Pam and me to the Iowa-Purdue basketball game January 3, 1996, to join Nikki and Jon. The four of us had a great time of fellowship but in the second half of the game began I went into a "funk" as Purdue clobbered my Hawkeyes. I was not a happy camper at that point. However, that was really a neat Christmas present and it was, as always, wonderful to spend time with the kids.

I was re-elected as a deacon of Pleasant View Bible Church. These have been important days for Pleasant View and there are many important days ahead. It is a high privilege to serve with the other leaders of our church as we seek to serve the Lord and help direct the local body in the ways that will lead to the highest obedience to God's great commands, to meaningful worship, to our people growing in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to establishing our priorities in light of eternity. I continue to be privileged to serve as chairman of the board of Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries which is under the leadership and direction of Rev. Al Buhler. With Hong Kong soon to be turned back to the dominion of Communist China there is only a short time to get the Gospel easily to that area. We recently authorized the translation of some of our evangelistic films into the Cantoneze language. We intend to provide masters to a contact there in Hong Kong so that the videos can be mass produced and widely distributed.

Many things continue on the same. I continue to talk of losing weight and getting back into shape. My hair continues to get thinner hair by hair. I continue to enjoy early morning basketball at 5:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays at the Pleasant View Bible Church gymnasium along with the greatest group of guys you would ever want to find (and I play fantasy games in my mind about some spectacular athletic move or shot from an era long gone). Pam is more radiant and beautiful than ever. She and I are hilariously and joyfully in love, and our relationship as lovers, buddies, co-laborers, and mutual encouragers presses on gloriously with added enrichment day by day. Pam and I love to teach our second-grade Sunday school class. We are in a very wonderful Wednesday evening church flock meeting in the Harold, Peaches, and Andy French home. Pam continues to be the bookkeeper for the law office, and I continue to enjoy the work and the clients of my law practice.

Pam, Laura, and I will be going to the Olympics this summer. We were fortunate to be able to obtain numerous tickets for excellent Olympic events. Tim and Barb Cash who live in Auburn, Georgia, graciously opened their home to us. We will look forward to that fellowship in addition to the thrill of the games themselves. We are becoming increasingly excited about that upcoming trip and joint experience.

Now let me return to this baby who is growing in Nikki's womb and is about to grace this planet. Because of an earlier ultrasound and the limitation of only one ultrasound within their insurance coverage, we do not know the gender of the baby. Nikki and Jon have selected names and are waiting until the baby's arrival before

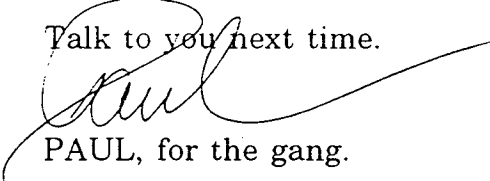
some final decorating plans will be put into place. (I suggested that the baby have the middle name "Refior" and if it is a boy to name him "Heeza" and if it's a girl to name her "Sheeza" so that the boy would be Heeza Refior Lambeth and if it's a girl it would be Sheeza Refior Lambeth. No one took me seriously but just in case I were serious, I was immediately told that those names were definitely unacceptable. Well, this will not be the first time that a good idea has been ignored.)

My dad and Betty are presently over in Israel. Those two keep "bopping" all over the world. I no longer ask them if they are planning any other trips. I have learned to ask them when their next trip will be and where in the world they are going.

I have been dictating this *Bulletin* as I sip some coffee and listen to some kids play ping-pong in the Holiday Inn South in Springfield, Ohio. We came over to Ohio to see Laura at Cedarville College this weekend. Pam, Laura, and her friend Jen are presently in the hotel room getting dressed for church. I will return shortly to put on my suit so we can all go off to church together. Laura is beautiful and is doing really great. It is always a high privilege to spend time with loved ones.

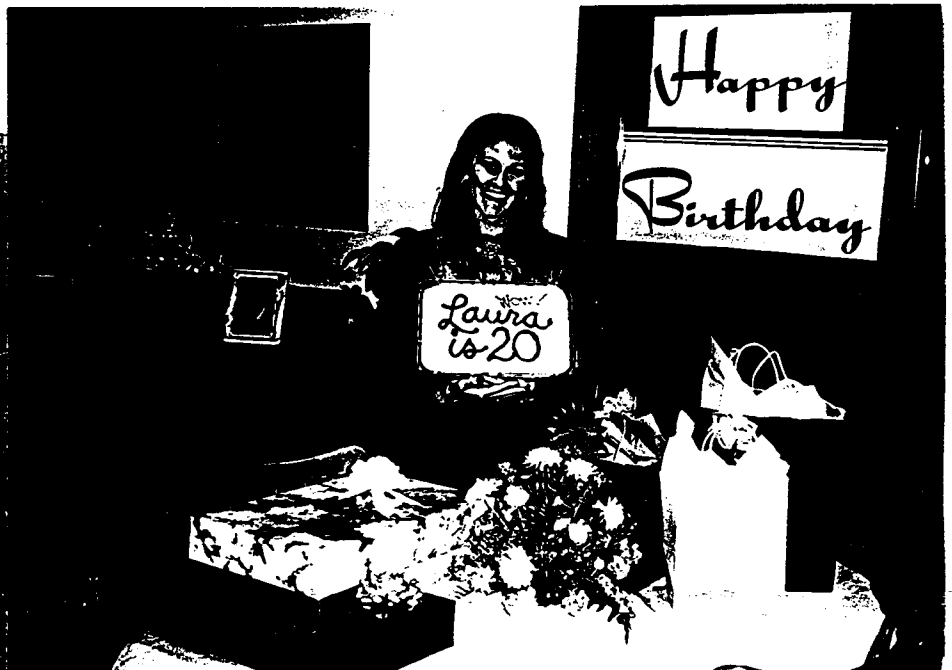
Please stay in touch. Come visit. If you have an E-mail address, could you send me a postcard with that E-mail address. The E-mail addresses for Laura, Nikki, and us appear at the bottom of page one of this *Bulletin*. Thanks.

Talk to you next time.

  
PAUL, for the gang.



Nikki's 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Laura's 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Nikki studying



BETH & LAURA



LAURA & CANDY



CUTTING OUR TREE

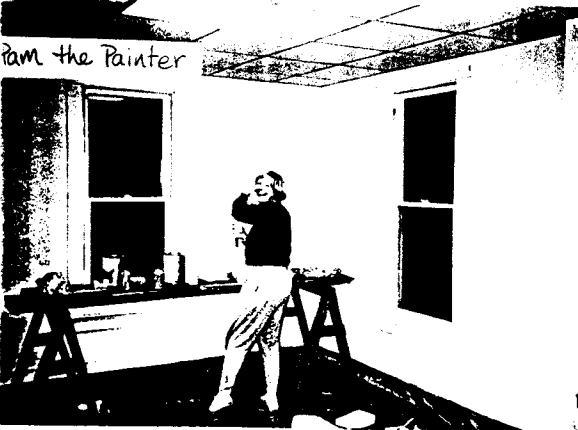


DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

NIKKI'S & JEN'S CHRISTMAS TREE BUSH



LAURA & NIKKI DECORATING



Pam the Painter



Madly in Love!