

Refior News Bulletin

March 22, 1995

Hello again from Paul and Pam Refior

We hope that this past four months has been great for you ... We have had a marvelous time indeed. The last *Bulletin* was sent right after Thanksgiving. I'm sure that many of you had tremendous family times over the holidays just as we did.

In early December Pam went with me on a business trip to Michigan. One of the outstanding aspects of the "empty nest" is that my precious Pam has more freedom to come along. Then in mid-December Pam, Laura and I flew down to Florida for a delightful vacation. We stayed at the *Caribbean Beach* which is a part of the Epcot Center complex. We had plenty of time to relax and we took in all of the Disney features, including Epcot Center, Magic Kingdom, MGM, and Pleasure Island. We also went to Sea World. That was a lot of fun. One of the more fascinating aspects of Sea World was the tank where you can pet and feed the swimming sting rays (their weapon had been removed). One day during the vacation Laura was talking about putting a temporary dye into her hair just for the fun of it. On a lark I said that I would dye my hair too, so long as it was the temporary type. We bought our hair products. Mine said that it would wash out after six washes. I figured I could wash my hair six times in two days. So here is the scene. Laura and I were at the mirror in the hotel room together. I didn't know what I was doing and I covered my head with the black gunk. When Laura looked over and saw that it was running down my face she gave me some immediate instruction and assistance. We had hearty belly laughs through it all. Then I had the experience of seeing myself with dark brown hair again ... no white hair showing. The ultimate laugh was on me, however. It did not wash out as advertised. Just last week, after three and a half months, the last part of the *purple tint* to my hair was cut out by my barber.

We saw in the Orlando newspaper that there was to be the grand opening of PLANET HOLLYWOOD at Pleasure Island. Laura and I decided to go over to see what we could see. They had the area roped off and we were behind a crowd of many hundreds of people. They had bleachers set up for part of the crowd. Laura and I were wondering if we would even be able to get in at all when part of the crowd simply broke through a fence. Since the crowd was on its way, we ducked under and ran to get a spot right up in the bleachers. It turned out to be a fun time for Laura and me as we watched a long parade of movie stars and TV celebrities walk down the center walkway to the stage. The temperatures in Florida were cool enough that we did not do any swimming even though the Caribbean Beach had beautiful pools and a lake. Our Florida trip was a very, very wonderful family time. We laughed together. One of the delightful aspects of that vacation is that we ended the vacation just in time to return to Warsaw and start our Christmas celebrations. Nikki and Jonathan came to Warsaw so we had everybody home for Christmas. One day - just like old times - Pam, Nikki and Laura took off for a day of shopping. Pam's folks helped to entertain Jonathan while the girls were away and while I was at work.

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We had a beautiful Christmas tree again this year ... but we had a little disaster with it. I came downstairs one morning only to find the tree on its side, with Christmas decorations and Christmas balls scattered over the family room, and three gallons of water soaked into our carpet. After our emergency clean up we had the blessing of decorating the tree a second time and I tied the tree to the wall with fish line.

On Christmas Eve my Dad and Betty arrived. We were able to have our Christmas celebration together with them on Christmas Eve and view their slides from their trip to Egypt. They left early Christmas morning to celebrate Christmas with Betty's daughter in Indianapolis.

It was so wonderful to have the family together on Christmas. It was particularly significant that Christmas was on Sunday this year. Because Christmas is such an important day to Believers of Jesus Christ, it was a perfect way to focus on the true meaning of Christmas as we went to a wonderful Christmas service together as a family. Laura sang a very beautiful solo as a part of the service. After church we went to Pam's parents' house and had a warm family gathering. Pam's brother, Tim, and his family were there as well. We missed Grandma Henricks this year. She could not make the trip from Kokomo. From there Tim and his crew left to go to Ann's mother's place and we went home where we had our own Christmas celebration. It was very relaxed and heart warming. We have a keen sense of what a high privilege it is to have all of the family together. We are blessed indeed.

After visiting us in Warsaw, Nikki and Jonathan traveled to Missouri to be with his family. Then they served as chaperons for the youth group from their church (Faith Baptist Church, West Lafayette, Indiana) on a snow skiing trip to Traverse City, Michigan. They had a blast. Because they had been at Traverse City for their honeymoon, the Christmas ski trip was especially fun and meaningful for them.

Even though Iowa's football team finished higher in the Big Ten standings than either Indiana or Purdue, Iowa was not invited this year to a bowl game. I still enjoyed football day and all of the other bowl games so very much. After Penn State won so decisively in the Rose Bowl to finish their season undefeated, I declared them to be national champions.

After Laura went back to college we resumed our "normal" life of Paul, Pam and Candy (our dog) filling the nest. January 19, 1995 was a significant day in two respects. First, it was the 20th anniversary of my decision to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior. It was in the front room of our trailer, in the middle of the night, while reading the Bible, that I settled my eternal destiny by calling upon Jesus Christ to save me. By faith in Jesus I was born again. That happened back in Iowa City during my last semester of law school. Second, Laura was in a terrible traffic accident on Jan. 19, 1995. Laura was scheduled to return to Warsaw to have her car worked on and to visit. We received that terrible call that parents hope they will never receive, namely, a call from the State Police saying that our Laura had been in a traffic accident (see diagram attached). The dispatcher stated that Laura had been in an accident, but that both she and her passenger, Kristi Krogel, were okay. I had asked to speak with Laura but they said that she was still at the scene of the accident. We immediately took off for Van Wert, Ohio. Pam and I did not say this to each other, but each of us independently envisioned at least a possibility that the State Police were withholding the full truth from us until after we would arrive in Ohio. It was a great relief when we were able to talk to Laura by telephone and to be assured that she and Kristi really were okay. When we arrived at the State Police Post we had an emotional rendezvous. We then loaded up their belongings and drove to the junk yard where the totalled car had been towed. We buried the blue Topaz in Ohio, but we brought the girls home - battered and whiplashed - but very alive. We will always thank our great God for His infinite protection

of the girls. After that weekend Pam and I drove Laura and Kristi back to Cedarville College traveling through snow both going and coming.

Last month Pam and I went over to Cedarville again to see Laura just before she left with the Cedarville Chorale to the Czech Federated Republic. That was a great opportunity for Laura and she had a very wonderful time. Laura's brief account of her trip is attached.

Near the end of February Pam traveled with me on a business trip to Florida (We pay the expenses for Pam on these business trips, of course.) It is such a wonderful blessing to be together in that way. I really hate going to lonely hotel rooms when I travel. When Pam can go along it is like a little piece of heaven to me.

Nikki and Jonathan are delightfully in love and very, very happy there in West Lafayette. They are extremely busy with their teaching responsibilities, classes, experiments, papers, etc., etc. We are pleased to see that Nikki and Jonathan remain very faithful and active at Faith Baptist Church even though they are under such time constraints. Sometimes you see young people withdraw from serving and ministering for the Lord while they are in preparation and schooling. God calls us to obey and to serve now, regardless of our station in life. Nikki and Jonathan are active in the puppet ministry, with their Sunday School class, and in various aspects of the music ministry of the church. Nikki even dusted off her baritone in preparation for playing in the orchestra. Nikki and Jonathan will be singing a duet in church in just a couple of weeks and they will be in the Passion Play at Easter time. Pam and I look forward to going down for both events.

This past quarter was an excellent quarter for Laura. She is very happy with the switch she made to the pre-law major. Laura was selected for the cast of *Much Ado About Nothing* and she is enjoying the rehearsals, even though they put her under additional time pressure. We are so very pleased to see the personal and spiritual growth of Laura there at Cedarville College. As parents we could do a commercial about Cedarville College. Laura will also be singing in church in the near future. Laura is scheduled to sing a solo at Pleasant View Bible Church on Easter Sunday.

Previously I bragged about the great Warsaw Tigers basketball team. Until the last week of the regular season they were ranked nationally by *USA Today*. *Sports Illustrated* called Warsaw the "No. 1 real high school basketball team in America." Warsaw spent a number of weeks ranked as the number one team in Indiana. They won two prestigious holiday tournaments and they were conference champs. But ... they simply crashed at the end of the season and were knocked out at the sectionals (despite all that talent). What a shame. I guess it's time to start cheering for next year. The team should really be talented and hopefully they learned lessons from their early exit in the tournament this year.

Earlier this month Nikki, Jonathan and Laura had their Spring break. They had one weekend that overlapped and they spent that weekend in Warsaw. That was great. They pulled off a delightful surprise. On Friday night they were over at Pam's parents' house. Unbeknownst to us, they made lasagna and other items for a surprise dinner on Saturday to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. They also created an anniversary game that is like Pictionary, with the topics being items from our personal dating and married history. On Saturday afternoon we went to get Laura's new (used) car. We sent Laura on home in that car and Pam and I went to wash Pam's car. When we arrived home Nikki, Laura and Jonathan had decorated the house with items from the past (e.g. our wedding pictures, Pam's wedding dress), various signs and other decorations. Furthermore, the dining room table was all decked out for a formal dinner. It was beautiful

indeed. Pam's parents came over and we had a delightful and delicious lasagna dinner together. Then we opened up our silver anniversary presents. After that we did the anniversary game. We laughed so much our smiling muscles hurt. It really was thoughtful and greatly appreciated.

My ... twenty-five years of marriage. I am happy to declare that Pam and I have always had an outstanding marriage and that our love is more profound than ever. Pam is the most important person in the world and the most fun person I have ever been with. If the Lord should tarry, I look forward to decades more of a great life together, until the day we step into heaven. In further celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary, we will be leaving this Friday for Phoenix. We have absolutely no schedule planned for our honeymoon in Phoenix. I do know that we will have a super time together as friends and lovers.

This month Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries held its annual banquet. It was such a beautiful, God-honoring event. I thank the Lord for Al and Norma Buhler and the tremendous individuals who serve the Lord faithfully on the board of LCEM. We are hoping to produce a new evangelistic film this year for further worldwide distribution.

I see the Lord's powerful hand of blessing and leading upon Pleasant View Bible Church. There is a true spirit of service and commitment among the Pastors and leaders, and the congregation itself. Please keep praying for real revival of God's people in America and around the world.

Our "European" daughter, Debbie Garrick, is resigning from UFM and will be returning to the States this summer. She is doing an outstanding job as the Administrator of Vienna Christian School. Later this year, she will be undertaking vital ministries with the National Institute for Learning Disabilities in Norfolk, VA. Please pray for a suitable replacement for Debbie in Vienna and an excellent start to her new ministries.

You probably all heard the big news that the Iowa Hawkeyes are again this year NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN WRESTLING. Furthermore, even though the rest of the Big Ten crashed in post-season basketball tournaments, my Iowa Hawkeyes are still alive in the NIT, having reached the elite eight so far, with their eyes on the NIT championship in the Big Apple. Go Hawks !

Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Paul and Pam Refior

Report from Laura:

Czech Republic Trip

After months of planning, practicing and praying, my choir at Cedarville, the concert chorale, finally ventured across the ocean to the Czech Rep. We loaded up early on Monday, Feb. 20th, and flew from Dayton to Chicago then to Prague. Our group consisted of fifty-two people including the director and his wife. Because of the six hour time difference, we arrived and immediately began our tour without having a night's sleep between Monday and Tuesday.

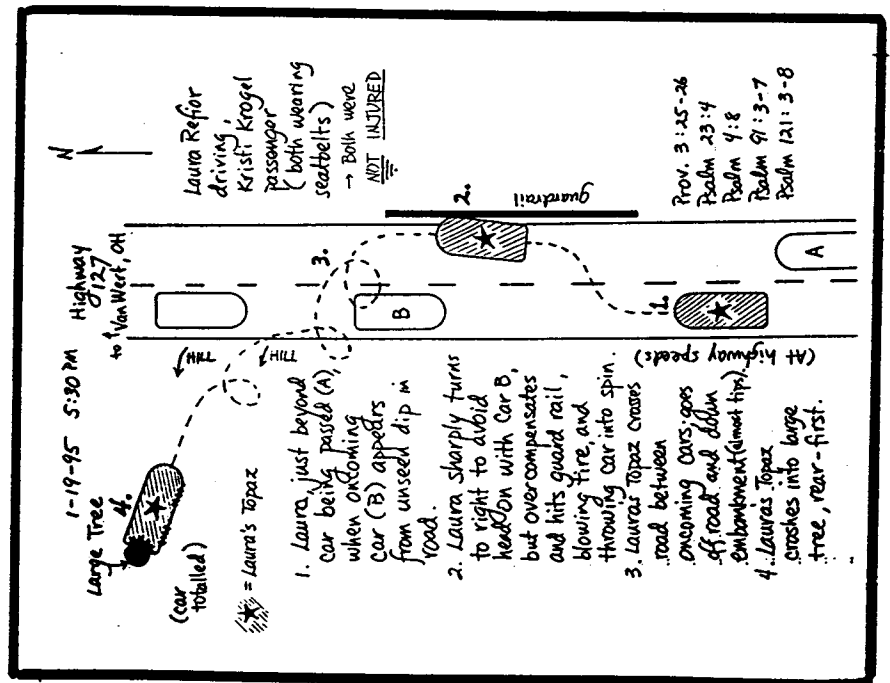
We had our own tour guide the whole trip, Carel. That was a great advantage to us as well as a great witnessing opportunity. We spent most of the mornings going on tours of the cathedrals, castles, monasteries, and caves. Czech Rep. is a beautiful country! Since I have never been to Europe before, seeing all of the history in every building and statue was amazing. In the evening, the chorale usually put on a concert. We performed in two beautiful cathedrals as well as a baptist church in Prague. Then at the end of the week, we travelled a few hours to Brno. There we performed in one cathedral and one baptist church. At both types of churches there were ministry opportunities. We were able to go out to eat with the children's choir from two of the cathedrals and really plant seeds in many lives. Then at the baptist churches we had the ministry of encouragement. Although, both times the people in the church encouraged me!

The Czech people have been through so much hardship over the years. It was evident everywhere. On the street there were no friendly smiles or greetings. But once you began to talk to them, they wanted something to fill that void. However, so many different ideas have been thrown at them over the years that many times they would just listen politely to the gospel but make no commitment. By the end of the week, many kids in the chorale were feeling very inadequate. But the last night that we were there God worked a miracle when one of the guys led the hotel desk clerk to the Lord.

That one week in the Czech Rep. was one that I'll never forget! Not only were closer friendships established within the chorale, but so many seeds were planted for Christ. I would appreciate your prayers in that area. Pray that God will bring someone to follow up and water those seeds. Thank you to all of you who prayed for my choir as we were over there. The prayers were evident through all of the opportunities that God gave us!

In Him,

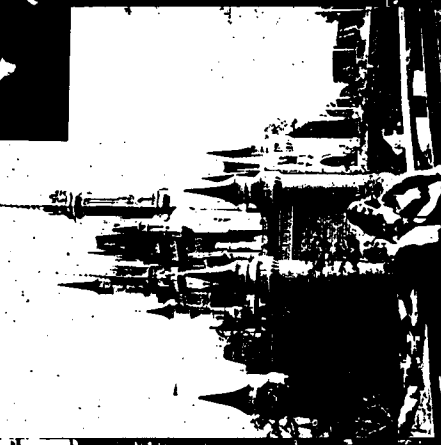
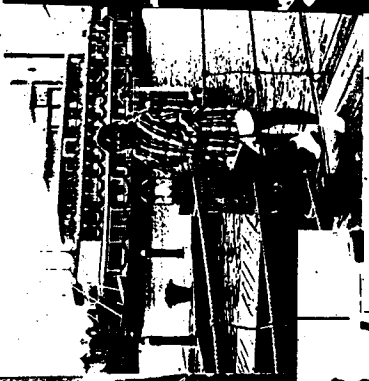
Laura Refior



Laura's accident →



Happy
Kitty



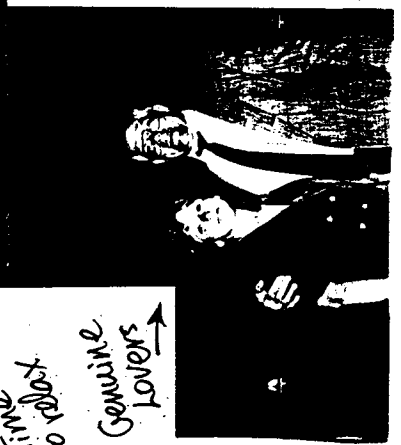
roller
coaster
Epcot
with famous
host



Epcot
O'HARE



The AMERICAN ADVENTURE

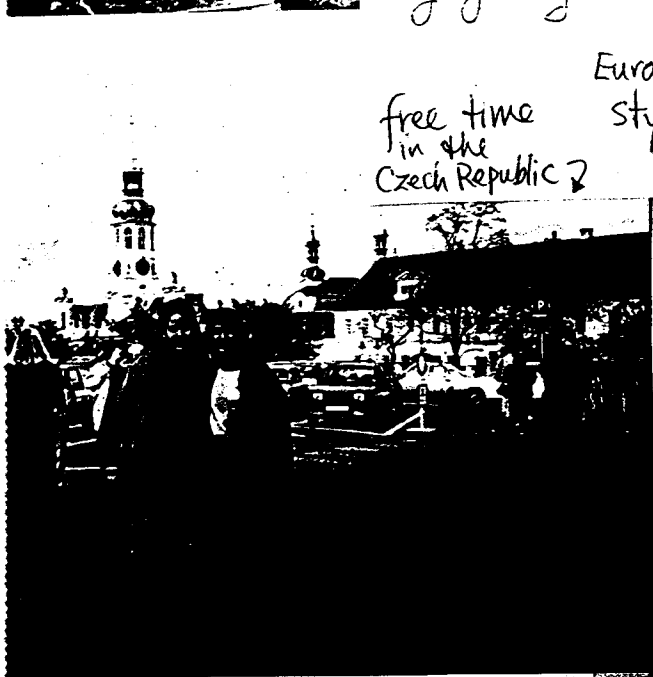


Time
to relax
Genuine
Lovers

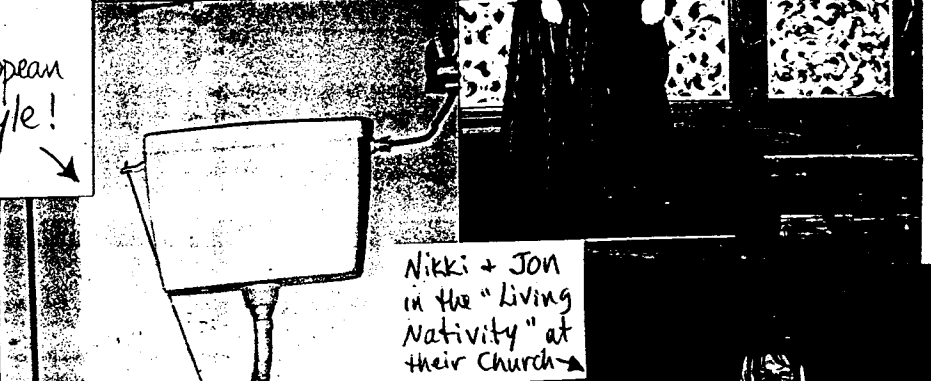




← Laura + Chorale Singing in Prague →



free time in the Czech Republic? European style! →



Nikki + Jon in the "Living Nativity" at their Church →



Laura + college buddies at Cedarville College →



fun in Florida

