

Refior News Bulletin

October 10, 2010

Greetings from the happy Refiors.

MOLLY JEANNINE WHITE WAS BORN !!!

*Molly was born to Laura and Brian at 2:30 p.m. on June 7, 2010,
7 pounds 12 ounces, 20 inches long. Molly and Laura did well.*



This is a tad late for a birth announcement, but Molly deserves her “splash” in a Bulletin just as the other grandkids did in past years when they were born. Molly still keeps Laura busy and tired. Molly is #5 for Laura and Brian. At four months old she is full of smiles, giggles and those matchless baby sounds and expressions Molly is so sweet and pretty !

This ***Bulletin*** is the Refior update from ***February 26, 2009 to October 10, 2010***. This has been a very happy and God-blessed year and a half+. I will touch on some of the high points and give the current report of our loving family. July, 2010 marked the two year anniversary from the date of my fall and injuries and by God’s grace I am doing very well now. No more surgeries are scheduled, and I am walking. We are so very thankful to our loving God. Of course, I will always be indebted to Dr. Jeff Anglin who performed the various surgeries and who was God’s instrument to bring me to the point that I consider myself back to “normal” life (with some permanent limitations).

VIRGIN ISLANDS. Pam and I purchased the use of a condo at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands in 2009 (between surgeries). The condo overlooked the bay in St. Thomas where the cruise ships would enter. Even though I was not very mobile we had a fantastic time. The views were so special, and we had days of deep sweetness and special times to talk and dream and worship the Lord.

TRIP TO MYRTLE BEACH WITH GRANDSON DAVID. Our practice is to go on a week-long vacation with each grandchild who turns 10 (two digits). Nikki’s and Jon’s #2 son David turned 10 (he will reach age 11 next week) and he selected Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for his “10th birthday trip.” We had a splendid time at the beach, at a great amusement park (where there were so few people that David went on countless roller coasters), at Medieval Times, at various Ripley’s’ Believe It or Not museums, and we had lots of good old junk food. David was unusually patient with his Grandpa as I moved around so slowly [I had a motorized cart at the amusement park which allowed me to go full speed there].

4TH OF JULY EXTRAVAGANZAS. We have started a family tradition of gathering at the Lafayette farm over Independence Day and we try to make it a very special event for the family - especially the grandkids. Pam is the creative organizer. The activities and games (complete with prizes and ribbons) have included frog races, parades with prizes for the best decorations of bicycles, carts, tricycles and even a wheelchair, slip and slides, sidewalk chalk contests, blow up bouncer, dizzy spinning around a baseball bat, toilet paper wrapping of grandkids to create the best statue of liberty, crafts and games, and lots of food, fellowship and fun . . . and of course fireworks. All of us look forward to the next Extravaganza.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP. Last July and August Pam and I had the privilege of teaching a “marriage tune-up” class, which we held in what we call the “west wing” in the barn (new construction complete with high definition projector onto a huge movie screen. That was a blessed time. This Fall I am team-teaching with my son-in-law Jon a class for men entitled, “True Companions” intended to help men become terrific husbands.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GRANDKIDS. We enjoy participating in the activities of the grandkids. Some of their activities include: **Luke** (14 years old; 9th Grade)- wrestling and playing the tuba in the band, and serving as a Bible study leader; **David** (11 years old; 5th Grade) playing basketball, wrestling, soccer, piano and the trombone; **Stephen** (8 years old; 3rd Grade) wrestling camp, soccer, piano and catching frogs. **Karis** (7 years old; 2nd Grade) softball, soccer, piano, basketball, art class, and she loves being homeschooled. **Jocelyn** (4 years old; Preschool) soccer, dance, and twice this summer she was a flower girl in weddings. The twins, **Samuel**, and **Nathan** (3 years old) soccer, anything with a ball, playing outside, and being each other's best friend (and they successfully achieved potty training). **Molly** (4 months old and already 15 pounds) busy being sweet and keeping Laura sleep-deprived and a happy Mommy. All of the grandkids are doing great academically, physically and spiritually.

THE GREAT IOWA HAWKEYES. In January Iowa beat Georgia Tech 24-14 in the BCS Orange Bowl and finished the season ranked number 7 in the nation in the final poll. Iowa has an even stronger team this fall and this could again be a very special season for the Hawks. Also the Iowa Hawkeyes have been the NCAA National Wrestling Champs the last two years.

NIKKI & JONATHAN LAMBETH. **Nikki** and **Jon** have been married for more than sixteen years and are joyfully serving the Lord in Lafayette, Indiana. Jon is the principal of the elementary school of Faith Christian School. He also serves as a Deacon and is active in many other capacities at Faith Baptist Church. Nikki is deeply involved in the women's ministries at church. She was the coordinator for the first women's conference at church (which was a huge success), and she leads and teaches a women's Bible study. She continues her part-time work with French translation, she does some part-time grant writing work for Faith Ministries, and she excellently performs her major roles of being a wife and mother.

LAURA & BRIAN WHITE. **Laura** and **Brian** have been married more than 12 years and are joyfully serving the Lord in north Indianapolis. Brian is the Senior Pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel of North Indianapolis. After 5 years of study while ministering as a pastor, Brian received his Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in May. Laura ministers as a pastor's wife and she leads the women's ministries at church. Their church is healthy and growing and they are very excited about what the Lord is doing through the church there. Laura has become an excellent photographer. With five kids they had to get a van to hold seven. We truly do not know how they get it all done with homeschooling on top of the array of activities and work.

OUR 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. In March of this year we celebrated our **40th wedding anniversary.** We are so blessed that we are still on our honeymoon, wildly and passionately in love, and enjoying the fruits of deep friendship, unity, commitment, and mutual respect. On our actual anniversary we went to southern Indiana and stayed the weekend at the West Baden Springs Hotel in the French Lick area. It once was one of the magnificent resorts for the extremely rich until the Great Depression. It has been restored and is amazing. I was not yet very stable with my walking then so we postponed our "big" celebration trip until late August.

40TH ANNIVERSARY TRIP TO ALASKA. August 24 to September 7, 2010 was one of the most spectacular periods of our marriage. We went on an **Alaska voyage** that featured the first

week being in the interior of Alaska, and the second week going from port to port on a cruise ship. Our trip was unusually blessed. It was very, very common for us to hear from tour guides and others things such as, “You are really fortunate because we have only been able to see this twice this entire summer,” . . . “In all the years of doing tours, I have never seen so much wildlife or the wildlife coming so close” . . . “This is so unusual that you are able to see this” . . . “I have never seen this before,” etc. Among those rare things which the Lord blessed us with were seeing Mount McKinley (Denali) three times [it is usually socked in with clouds], seeing many Black Bears and Grizzly Bears, (including untamed grizzly bears coming within fifteen feet of us while we were in the safety of a bus), multiple Caribou coming right next to us, Wolves, Coyotes, many Humpback Whales, Beluga Whales, Killer Whales (Orca), Harbor Seals, Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Salmon fighting to swim up mountain streams, and other lesser critters. We enjoyed staying at two different lodges. We saw wonderful shows, panned for gold, took the tram ride high above Juneau, and went on jet boat rides and a number of tours and excursions. On the cruise ship we had a room with a balcony and we saw spectacular scenery right from our own room. Glacier Bay was breathtaking. The cruise ship had wonderful and unlimited food, of course. Our ship traveled from Whittier to Yakutat Bay, then to Glacier Bay, then to Skagway, then to Juneau, then to Ketchikan, then to Vancouver, where we boarded the bus that took us down to Seattle, and from there we flew home.

RECENT ACTIVITIES. Since coming back from Alaska I have been trying to dig out from under the piles of work. We took a trip up to Wisconsin for the wedding of our great niece, Rachel Pettit to Derrick. On the way back to Indiana we spent the day at Six Flags – Great America with Nikki’s three boys. Because of the time of year and the cool temperatures there were practically no lines so the kids (and us) got to go on roller coaster after roller coaster with practically no waiting. We enjoy attending the activities of our grandkids, including soccer (David, Stephen, Karis, Samuel, and Nathan), Luke’s marching band, school concerts and activities. And we still have our unusual, but fantastic living arrangement whereby we have two hometowns, being Warsaw, Indiana Monday through Thursday, and then Lafayette, Indiana Thursday evening until early Monday morning. We are active at Faith Baptist Church. I serve as a Deacon. Pam is involved with her mother, Shirley Petro, in the Community Bible study in Warsaw on Wednesdays. And we are a member of a Pleasant View Bible Church flock meeting (Warsaw) on Wednesday evenings (except when I am teaching a Faith Community Institute Class in Lafayette). Pam’s Mom continues to live on the other side of the lake from us in Warsaw. We enjoy getting together with Shirley regularly. I continue to serve as Chairman of the Board of Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries and we are now in the exciting process of working on some additional evangelistic films to be used locally and around the world. I am also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Warsaw Biblical Gardens. I have the opportunity to carry on a ministry of Biblical counseling as the Lord brings those opportunities. Of course, I am still working full-time as a lawyer (with offices in Warsaw and Lafayette), and Precious Pam continues to be the most magnificent wife in the history of the world.

OUR DAUGHTER NIKKI IS NOW 40 YEARS OLD. Precious Pam and I agree that it seems more significant and strange that Nikki and her husband Jon are forty years old, than it is that we are now in our sixties. As you know, time does race on (with Laura turning 35 this month).

So that pretty much brings you up to date about the Refior gang. We are joyful in the Lord and extremely blessed and happy in our marriage and in this life God gives us. The Lord graciously provides us with fruitful opportunities to serve Him. Here is the contact information for us as well as for Nikki and Laura. Attached are photographs which show some of what all we have been doing over the past year in a half. Please stay in touch. More information and pictures are available at www.refior.com.

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Sincerely with love,

Rafe & Pam

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