



# News from the Blue Ridge

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## Family Events:

The first part of June brought a delightful time for Claire and me. Jim and Juanita Kemp from Birdville Church in Haltom City spent the night with us. They arrived on Wednesday just after lunch. The time flew by much too fast as we caught up on things back in Texas in the church and N. Richland Hills politics. We had the opportunity to show them around Boiling Springs, Shelby and the university -- even to go walking a ways on 'our river trail' in a light rain. Claire's heavy sales pitch on the advantages of living in NC had more appeal to Juanita than Jim, I'm afraid. I suspect we'll have to content ourselves with an occasional visit when Jim comes to Charlotte with NationsBank business. But it was a wonderful time of remembering friends and a very special church and Sunday School group back in Texas. We're ready for the next wave of BBC visitors! Who's going to be next?



always has mixed-blessings!

Quite naturally proud grandparents are going to share their most recent pictures of grandkids! So just indulge us a bit here! Brittany, Preston, and Trevor live in Virginia and we get to see them more often than the others. The move to NC has brought us closer to them, although it took us away from the others. Life

With the last full week of June came the chance to spend time with another grandson -- Clay. He brought his mom and dad -- Angie and Brian -- to NC on vacation to spend some time with Mimi and Grandpapa! They arrived about 5:30 pm Monday afternoon and stayed until Friday morning. Monday was a time of high excitement, and Friday of sadness. In between were fun days of visiting, playing, sight-seeing and just being together. Brian joined the club of NC enthusiasts along with Angie, Carrie and others who have come from Texas to visit. With the wrap-up of final exams, grades etc. for the first summer school term on Tuesday and the beginning the second summer term on Thursday, my time was somewhat limited. But still there were numerous opportunities to be together and enjoy one another. Plans are already underway for next summer and things to see and do!



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## University Happenings:



"You'll find 'Teaching Methods That Never Fail' under fiction."

All too often in the education business, the feeling expressed in the cartoon is very real! One of the ongoing goals is to find the most efficient way to get the students to grasp the subject matter of the course being

taught. One of the great challenges at GWU for me has been to find reasonable ways to get across the essence of the New Testament and the Hebrew Bible in the two three-hour required Bible courses in the core curriculum. Through a combination of differing learning activities in class along with some testing options and outside paper assignments, the materials seem to be coming through reasonably well. The first few times of going through the materials has been a sort of 'get acquainted' time, experimenting with several approaches to get a better sense of where the undergraduate student is educationally and what techniques work. This fall will begin the second phase of carefully cataloging the details of the subject fields within the time limits of the courses. From this, hopefully, will come a detailed study guide for the students to guide their exploration of the biblical materials.

The first five-week term of summer school is over as of June 22, with the second one beginning June 25. Six hours of teaching load the first term, but only three hours the second term! In reflecting back over an extremely busy five weeks, one memory stands out especially: I now know anew why I decided to become a New Testament professor rather than an Old Testament one! Trying to cover the entire Hebrew Bible in five weeks -- even with twice weekly four hour long classes -- is to attempt the utterly impossible. Both professor and students spent a lot of time trying to learn new material. Harry, I really do know that part one of the Bible exists -- in spite of your earlier accusations to the contrary!!! Indeed, the experience was a helpful learning experience for me, probably about as much as for the students. It has inspired me to plan to go back to my old Hebrew grammar texts and begin brushing up on my skills with the Hebrew language -- as well as want to extend those to learning Aramaic! Miracles still occur!

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### *Claire's Musings:*

I just finished another tough semester at Gardner-Webb. The Adolescent Psychology was okay and the Chemistry class was really interesting, but one of the hardest classes I have ever had. This and the Statistics class were the two hardest of all my classes at any of the universities I have attended. In Chemistry we talked about everything from how to make the atom bomb, or how to use acids to etch glass, to even learning about making moonshine. Out of our small class there were two people who had relatives previously in the moonshine business. One had an uncle in the business, and another one had a grandfather who made moonshine and the grandmother liked to sneak it "for cough medicine". There was one day in between the summer semesters and now I am enrolled in Geology. I'm excited about this class, because I think it will be interesting to learn about rocks and minerals.

Jim and Juanita Kemp, friends from our Texas Sunday school class, came for a short visit on their way through on vacation. It was so great getting to visit with friends and catch up on "back home" news. Of course, my favorite past-time here is walking the trail by the river, and I could not let good friends visit here without going for a walk. And we did, no matter how much it was raining. We just took our umbrellas. That is probably one of my favorite times to walk, the rain just makes it more beautiful. I love the rain here because of the beauty and the coolness. So when any of you come to visit be sure to bring your umbrella, because rain is no excuse to not go walking.

Angie, Brian, and Clay spent a few days with us on their vacation. We had a fantastic time, of course, but it was hard to concentrate on school, when they were so much more fun. I finished up my finals while they were here and then started my new class, but we still managed to spend a lot of great times together. We walked our trail (in the rain, of course) one time. Then another time Brian and Clay took water guns and blasted each other, and Angie and I, as we walked along the path. I guess that was the next best thing to walking in the rain, because some of us were almost as wet. One day we went to Chimney Rock, which is a beautiful area in the mountains with a lookout from which you can see for miles around. Lorin was not able to go with us, because he had to work on the only day we had off between classes. While the kids went up the mountain, I opted to stay and sit by the river. It was so beautiful, peaceful, relaxing, cool, and etc. Then I sat on a rocking chair in front of one of the many tourist shops lining the street at the base of the mountain. I was beginning to feel like I was one of the "local yokels" sittin' and watchin' the tourist go by. The kids got some wonderful pictures on the mountain.

There just wasn't enough time to do everything we wanted to do. I have started finding old barns and taking pictures of them for a collection. Angie and Brian like that, too, and we tried to find some time to get some pictures. We ran out of time, which means they will have to come back and next time we plan to take a day just for that. The last night we all tried to stay up as late as we could (including Clay) just to be together a little longer. Clay had just as much fun as the rest of us did



### *Lorin's Musings:*

I continue to be amazed by the TV weather people out here. All through the months of May and June there have been declarations about how unbearably hot the day would be when the temperature was going to reach 90 degrees with a 70% humidity! For us transplanted Texans we haven't yet experienced a hot day in NC! A 90 degree day seems pleasantly mild and very enjoyable--even a 95 degree day.

Also folks out here seem to be highly fearful of lightning. The TV weather reports have a feature that tracks the lightning strikes on the ground with radar by yellow strips for within the past hour, and red strips for longer periods. People I've discussed this with seem very nervous when thunderstorms involve lightning. I'm not sure why it seems to strike the ground out here more than Texas, but evidently it does.

Another one of the interesting aspects of life in NC is the way streets are named. When you drive out in the country-side especially, very frequently you will come to an intersection with the cross street named \*\* Church Road. With the proliferation of rural churches everywhere in the country, almost every one of them has the road on which they're located named after the church. Driving around the countryside outside Boiling Springs one comes across Beaver Dam Church Rd, Pleasant Mound Church Road, Flint Hill Church Rd. etc. -- literally dozens of them. During the time of visiting different churches while looking for a church home, we found it helpful. All we needed to know was the general location of a church. You drive to the area, find the right church road name, and eventually you'll wind up at the church! Quite different from Texas!

Speaking of churches. One difference we've noticed about NC Baptist churches is their inordinate dependence on the pastor to do everything. It reminds me of the attitudes toward the pastor I grew up with in the 1940s and 50s in rural Texas. Most Texas Baptist churches have moved away from these attitudes. Only in rare instances has this seemingly been the case among NC Baptists. Consequently, some of the pastors I've gotten acquainted with here are run ragged and have little time for family life. This is not good for them or the church!

### **COWPUNCHERS**



**"IT GOES ON THE FOOT NEAREST THE WINDOW"**

during their visit. I even went with Clay, Angie and Brian to see "Mulan." I think he really enjoyed his whole vacation being with his mom and dad. They are as happy a family as I could have ever hoped for our children to be and I am so very proud of them. The house is so quiet now; Lorin and I have had to do some real adjusting. We miss them already.