



News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 4

Claire & Lorin Cranford
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Family Events:

What a pleasant surprise we had on Oct. 16. Calvin and Anne Smith, dear friends from Normandale Baptist Church in Fort Worth, dropped by for a brief visit. They were on vacation and came through the area. Although we didn't get to visit long enough, we had a delightful time catching up on kids, churches etc. They promised to come back again when they could spend more time. Their visit brought back very pleasant memories of the three times that I served as interim pastor of the congregation. We were delighted to learn first hand of the marvelous ways God is blessing this congregation.

Toward the end of October another wonderful blessing surfaced. I reestablished contact with one of the young people I had led to Christ and baptized when pastoring Springdale Church in Fort Worth in the early 1970s. Grady is an Army chaplain now serving in one of the Arab countries with the U.S. military. He has a wonderful ministry to our soldiers over there leading the US war on terrorism. Of special satisfaction is that Cranfordville.com is playing a role in all this. Because of security concerns etc. Grady wasn't able to take anything with him except his Greek NT and a couple of Bible study tools on this overseas assignment. Consequently, he has been using the materials from Cranfordville.com to help with sermon preparation for the weekly messages to the soldiers in the chapel services. Through him a large number of military chaplains in the middle east are now using materials from the web site to help them prepare sermons etc. I continue to be amazed at how God is using the web site to help others in their service to the Lord. The number of people using the materials continues to grow. From the end of August until the end of October over 3,200 people came into to site to download materials for class room use, for Sunday School use etc. About 70 megabytes of data are downloaded every three weeks from the site.

My health situation is slowly improving, although at times there are some 'steps backward' along with the forward steps. I'm getting somewhat adjusted to pricking my finger to measure the blood sugar levels several times a day. Since I began tracking it at the middle of October, the blood sugar levels have come down and now tend to be at the upper end of the acceptable ranges for different times of the day with some occasional spikes that are very high. The monitor I use can be connected to my computer to download the data for analysis and for sending to the doctor. This is quite helpful to be able to see long term patterns. Just looking at isolated readings doesn't provide a clear picture of the situation. Also, I have dropped about 8 pounds of weight from September to October. Quite a few more pounds need to go, but I'm making a start. The diabetic diet laid out for me by the folks at the Diabetes Center at Cleveland

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University Happenings:

One of the casualties of the health problems this year has been the annual trip to the national SBL/AAR meeting, this year in Denver, CO. I have regularly attended these meetings since the 1970s and enjoy thoroughly listening to the paper presentations, checking out the newest publications in the exhibit area, and, most of all, renewing friendships with former students now teaching and with colleagues from divinity schools and seminaries all over North America. This is a wonderful way to stay current in one's discipline and I deeply regret not being able to attend. Hopefully, next year.

The fall semester has been one of the more challenging ones of my career. With the massive number of doctor's appointments having to be worked into my schedule, I've had to miss more classes than I can ever remember in almost 30 years of teaching. Fortunately, the various doctors have been willing to work with me in setting up appointments to minimize missing class as much as possible. For that I'm very grateful. Also, I want to pay special tribute to Jenny Treadaway and Scott Henson, two advanced Greek students, who have filled in for me in the various Greek classes that I've had to miss. I'm extremely grateful for this caliber of students who can fill in the gap.

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Hospital is challenging but workable.

The earlier hormone shot to reduce the prostate gland and shut down the cancer is proving to be one of the bigger challenges. The so-called "menopausal" effects -- hot flashes, mood swings etc. -- happen daily and some times 'drive me crazy.' Hopefully, this is a sign that the shot is doing what the doctor intended. I'll know the first of December.

The feet pain and the tremors in my right arm and hand continue to be major problems with not much relief in sight, although the feet pain is slightly better than earlier. I began working with doctors at the Pain Clinic in Cleveland Hospital in October also to try to find some remedies for these along with the shoulder and back pain from the arthritis. We still have a long way to go here. The initial injections for the back pain were some of the most hurtful shots I've ever had in my life. Some improvement has resulted, although the tremor problem continues to grow. I suspect that pain at some level will be my constant companion the rest of my life. I'm beginning to learn from the doctors that the arthritis has caused significant damage to the disks in my spin. I see the pain specialist next at the end of November to begin a series of treatments, starting with an epidural therapy program designed to minimize the pain in my back and feet. Some more very painful injections, I fear.

Continue to pray for Claire and me as we tackle these health issues.



Claire's Musings:

Nov, 2001

Lorin has been going through some really rough times lately, but he is still hanging in there. On top of everything else he came down with a viral infection, too. It didn't seem possible that he could take any more medicine than he already was, but he did. Lorin and I realize that his/our problems are so insignificant in light of what is happening in the world, and we will get through this together.

Well, it's hard to believe that it is fall already. The leaves this year weren't as pretty as the past years, but still beautiful. Even my short drive to and from work is unbelievable. On clear fall days whenever I come to the top of a hill I can see the mountains in the distance. Most of the time I can't see the mountains because of all the trees. How great! Fall is such a wonderful time of year, my favorite and always has been. Driving home one afternoon I saw a hunter walking from his house to hunt in the woods. It just reminded me of how much in the country we are. I love it!



As much as I love my job I have still put in some long hours the first couple of months and have been very tired. Just as I was getting the hang of things and finally getting some help with shelving the books, along comes the Book Fair. It was hard getting dependable volunteer help, but there were a few mothers who spent many hours helping me. I couldn't have made it without them. The enthusiasm of the students was wonderful. I love it when they get excited about books. One student even asked to have a book gift-wrapped and he was very serious. I believe that some of the students learned some valuable lessons about buying things with their own money, mostly about taxes. It was fun and exciting, but exhausting and I was so happy when it was finished. I would much rather check out books for free than to collect money for the books.

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method. Note its rendering of James 3:3, "*We put a bit into the mouth of a horse to make it obey us, and we are able to make it go where we want.*"

With the development of these two translation methods, increasingly English Bible translations have adopted their own mixture of the two methods and thus create a middle ground between the two ends of the spectrum. The Revised Standard Version is dominantly Form Oriented, as its reading of James 3:3 indicates: "*If we put bits into the mouths of horses that they may obey us, we guide their whole bodies.*" The New Living Translation, on the other hand, is dominantly Content Oriented, "*We can make a large horse turn around and go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth.*"

Each type of translation has strengths for specific uses. For evangelistic tracts introducing Christianity to outsiders with no Christian background, the Content Oriented approach is the best. As well as for young people with little Christian understanding. For public worship a mildly Form Oriented translation with poetic rhythm is excellent for responsive readings.

Check <http://cranfordville.com/P-Trans-L.htm> for a classification of almost fifty English Bible translations. (1) = Form Oriented, (2) = Mixture, (3) = Content Oriented. Each translation makes its own contribution to our understanding of the Bible.



Lorin's Musings:

English Bible translation came alive during the twentieth century with a multitude of translations produced. As last month's column indicated, large numbers of translations for both Protestants and Roman Catholics were produced, especially after WWII. For some individuals this has been a curse in that it creates confusion about "which translation is the best." I could not count the number of times that question has been put to me over the past thirty years. My stock answer hasn't been satisfying to many of the questioners, "There is no answer to your question." Why?

With the emergence of contemporary translations in the second half of the twentieth century, English Bible translation has increasingly moved along two very distinct methods of doing translation: (1) Form Oriented and (2) Content Oriented. If you have the Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer, check <http://cranfordville.com/Translating.pdf> for a more detailed discussion. Let me explain these procedures.

The Form Oriented method by definition attempts to retain the grammar form of the original Hebrew or Greek text as a key to accurate reproduction of the ideas in the scripture text. Of course, total adherence to this is impossible because of the enormous differences in the way Hebrew or Greek expresses an idea in comparison to the way American English does. Note how James 3:3 would be 'literally' translated following this method totally: "*If but of horses bits into the mouths we place in order to obey them to us, and whole the body their we lead.*" This method is the older approach and the dominant method underneath most English translations that have the word "Standard" or "Version" in their title. One weakness of this approach is that its fog index, i.e., readability level, is usually at the doctoral level of reading skills. That means, it takes one with PhD levels of reading skills to clearly understand what is written in the translation text. A strength of this method is that it attempts to preserve the word sequence of the underlying Hebrew or Greek text as closely as possible. With the occasional short sentences in the biblical language text, this can be workable. But sentences in the Greek NT can frequently continue for fifteen to twenty lines, containing fifty to seventy-five words. The grammatical structure of such sentences, especially in the writings of Paul, can be extremely complex.

In short, the emphasis in this approach to Bible translation is to focus upon the form of the Hebrew or Greek sentences. The New American Standard Bible is one of the better highly form oriented translations. Note its rendering of James 3:3, "*Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well.*" Even though it claims in the Preface to be a 'literal' translation, such a claim is untrue. Only the so-called 'inter linear' text is a true literal translation, and these translations make no sense in English.

On the other end of the spectrum is the Content Oriented method. This approach realizes the difference in though expression between the biblical languages and American English, and concentrates on the faithful reproduction of the biblical ideas in a natural sentence expression in easy to understand English. The focus of this express is upon the reader and creating an English expression that is easily understood. The fog index for most translations using this method is about the sixth grade reading skills. The Good News for Modern Man (TEV) is an example of a translation following a highly content oriented