



News from the Blue Ridge

Claire & Lorin Cranford



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Issue 6



Family Events:

May has begun my summer vacation! Something I'm profoundly grateful for. Graduation for the spring semester on May 10 signaled the end of academic responsibilities until the middle of August. The month of May has largely been spent in unwinding and learning to relax again. Over the years I've noticed a pattern each May. The first couple of weeks after the end of the semester I go through a 'melt-down' process emotionally and physically. The high level pressure during the semester is suddenly gone and a dramatic transition into a more relaxed, less stressful routine begins.

With the health monitoring I've done over the past two plus years, I have noticed the effects of it medically. The blood pressure first surges upward at the beginning of May, then begins dropping dramatically toward the end of the month as my body moves into a more relaxed pace. This pattern has shown up consistently on the blood pressure charts for three years now. Yes, I do have twice daily blood pressure charts since April of 2001, along with a host of other data recorded each day.

On the down side of this pattern, the relaxed pace creates real challenges for controlling my weight, which has increased somewhat each May for these three years. Also the blood sugar averages tend to shoot up, especially in connection with the increase in weight. All of this has underscored emphatically to me how important a pro-active approach to health management is. I'm learning now to anticipate these trends and to take strong measures by way of diet and exercise in counteracting the negative patterns.

During June 12 - 24, Claire and I will be visiting friends and relatives in Texas. Mostly, we're anxious to see Anabeth Lee, the newest granddaughter. This will be only the second vacation trip back to Texas, since we moved to North Carolina in December of 1997. We can be reached via Claire's cell phone at 704-472-5553. Our travel plans are as follows:



Thurs - Fri, June 12-13: on the road to Texas from NC via I-20

Fri - Sun, 13-15:

Rockwall, TX, with John and Lynelle Yingling

Phone: 972-771-9985

Sun - Wed, 15-18:

Fort Worth, TX, at the Comfort Inn (4850 N. Freeway)

Phone: 817-834-8001

Thurs - Sat, 19-21:

Huntsville, TX, with Greg and Jennifer Cranford

Phone: 936-294-9884

Sat - Mon, 21-23:

Corpus Christi, TX, with Bill & Beverly Cranford

Phone: 361-985-9656

Mon- Tues, 23-24: on the road from Texas to NC.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone and renewing friendships.

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For all kinds of info about us as well as a PDF copy and an expanded HTML version of this newsletter, check out our homepage [Cranfordville](http://cranfordville.com) at <http://cranfordville.com>

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University Happenings:

I can't remember when I've been so glad to see a semester come to an end! Perhaps my age is catching up with me. The final two weeks of the semester with the grading of papers and exams were thoroughly exhausting. So much so that I only made the undergraduate commencement services on May 10 before becoming so ill that I had to head home immediately and go straight to bed.

The semester turned into an extremely busy one for me with an eighteen hour teaching load and the six week LIR James course on top of that. This is the absolutely last semester that I ever intend to get so loaded down with teaching responsibilities. No more overload teaching for me! Apart from some emergency situation that requires it.

The courses that I taught this spring were enjoyable -- NT survey (three sections), along with first, second and advanced levels of Greek -- but they were very demanding and time consuming. I've intentionally turned down requests to teach in summer school in order to have time for rest and renewal.

I'm looking forward to the fall semester with the lightest teaching load since I have been at GWU. Twelve hours of course work - Greek 101, Greek 201 and two sections of Religion 311 - will seem like semi-retirement teaching. The religion course is particularly exciting for a couple of reasons. First, it's a brand new course for me to teach. Thus there's the excitement of tackling something new and different. Second, it's a study of the Synoptic Gospels. I've done extensive study and writing on the NT gospels over the years and will have the opportunity to share some of that insight with students as I try to help them not only make sense of these NT documents but also develop interpretative strategies for understanding them. Another exciting aspect for the fall is the smaller number of students that will be in my classes. I've never aspired to 'teach the masses' in hugely big classes. Instead, my preference has always been for small classes of a dozen or so students where a lot of interaction with students is possible. This fall will give me the best opportunity for that interaction since coming to GWU.

One thing this free summer is providing me is the opportunity to update and expand the computer software used in research and writing. Already this summer I've begun developing skills with the use of the [Bookwhere v. 4.2](#) software. It has the ability to do bibliographic searches over the internet at almost 2,000 libraries around the world in order to track down references. I then export these edited searches into either the [Nota Bene Ididem database](#), or using [Citation 8.0](#) into a text file. One result already has been the posting of a thousand plus listing on the [Sermon on the Mount](#) in the [Bibliography](#) section of [Cranfordville.com](#). The software took less than five minutes to generate the listing. The editing of the html file to eliminate duplications took longer. But still what a boon to researchers! I'm looking forward to using this software more and more.



Claire's Musings:

June, 2003

At the end of each school year our school has a program called May Day in which each class puts on a skit pantomiming to songs. We always have it outside and huge crowds sit on the hillside. It's a big day and students and teachers all work very hard to prepare for the program. I took about 150 pictures and Lorin put the program on a CD in a slide show for some of the pictures. I was quite happy with the results. I continue to have more and more fun taking pictures.

Each year about March many school districts conduct a

reading competition. I read all of our Jr. Book Challenge library books (15) when our students are getting ready for the district competition. Since I love to read, I enjoy reading the books in hopes of helping our students. One of the books this year was *Love, Ruby Lavender* by Deborah Wiles. Mrs. Wiles came to one of our local bookstores for a reading and author-signing event. I enjoyed immensely listening to her read from her book and talk a little about her life experiences from which she gained insights into



her books. The event was made even better because four girls from our school were also there and they all had their copies signed by the author and it gave me the opportunity to get some pictures that I will be able to use next year in the library. She also signed our school's two library copies, so now we have something special in the library.

This year we started what I hope will become a yearly



tradition. The top three students of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade with the highest Accelerated Reading points were picked and Lorin and I thought it would be a good idea to have a hamburger cookout at our house. We got a volleyball set and a crochet set in hopes of good weather. We were very fortunate and the weather was perfect. We asked Angie, Clay, and Taylor over, too, and everyone had a fun time. The kids had so much fun playing volleyball that they didn't even want to stop to eat the hamburgers. We all had so much fun that next year I think we should invite the top four students, instead of just the three in each grade. The top readers are usually some of the best man-



Lorin's Musings:

In this month's study of NT interpretation we will take a look at how the Old Testament is used in the letters of the New Testament. Two distinct kinds of uses of the OT show up: (1) allusions and (2) 'citations.'

First, **OT allusions.** Often the NT letter writer employed ideas and images found in the OT but did not attempt to quote directly or extensively from an OT scripture text either in the Hebrew or the Greek. While the possibility of some 250 quotations from the OT exist, some 2,500 plus allusions can be identified. NT writers followed patterns that other ancient Jewish writers, such as at Qumran, used. The language, vocabulary and thought patterns of the OT were deeply embedded in the mindset of the NT writers and they naturally made extensive use of this as they penned their ideas into letters. Thus 1 Peter 2 makes use of the OT themes of the priesthood and the temple. Additionally, implicit midrashic use of the OT -- an ancient Jewish pattern of interpreting the OT -- shows up in the NT, e.g., in the images in the book of Revelation. A detailed listing of these can be found in the marginal notes of the 27th edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek text of the NT. For a detailed discussion of this topic see Mark Taylor's PhD seminar paper done for me at Cranfordville.com/Nt-hdt.htm under Interpretative Procedures.

Second, **OT citations.** The OT text in this instance is quoted or paraphrased. Thus a more direct connection with the written text of the OT can be detected. Some 150 plus instances of this is found in the NT letters. The Pentateuch, Psalms and Isaiah are the three major sources of OT quotation.

Several issues surface here. Which OT text did the NT writer use? Hebrew or Greek? Although the OT was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic, before the beginning of the Christian era a Greek translation was made called the Septuagint (LXX). NT writers mostly quote from the LXX but sometimes the OT quote comes from a Hebrew version of the text and the NT writer translates it into Greek. Often quoting from memory the NT writers typically do not reproduce the OT text word by word. Determining the precise nature of the text being used is the first challenge. Then the interpretation often made of the OT text becomes the next challenge. Their use of the OT texts would seldom hold up under the spotlight of modern interpretative approaches. Instead, the NT writers used methods current in their day, especially the two dominate Jewish scribal methods called Peshet and Midrashic exegesis. More about these methods next month.

What can we learn from this? The Bible for the NT writers was the OT. It was God's message. Yet, their interpretative use of it sometimes challenges us both positively and negatively. Most importantly they saw the anticipation of Christ in the OT. Thus we would do well to spend time studying the OT.

nered kids in school and hard workers. About a third of this group were teachers' children.

It seems as though all I talked about is school, but that's just about all I seem to do, except for the Master's classes. This next month I can tell about our trip to Texas. One thing for sure is that we will spend a great deal of the time driving from place to place, which makes me tired just thinking about it.