



News from the Blue Ridge



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Family Events:

The trip to Texas during July proved to be a wonderful experience in many ways:

▶ It allowed us to see many family members and friends whom we had not see for over a year -- for which we're grateful.

▶ We visited with numerous friends who brought us up-to-date on things going on in their lives. Eighteen months can sometimes bring about significant changes in one's life.

▶ We visited my old homeplace and were absolutely thrilled to see the marvelous changes Tony and Tonya have made to it. Indeed, they have made it into a showcase ranch, just like a picture out of *Farm and Ranch* magazine. Daddy would be very proud of what has been accomplished.

▶ We saw many friends at Birdville Baptist Church on Wed. evening where Dwaine asked me to speak about the SBC, CBF, and our pilgrimage in NC. Also, we had some wonderful pie at Tippin's afterwards, as well as fellowship with Dwaine and Eleanor Greene, as well as with Jim and Juanita Kemp.

▶ I attended the funeral of Tommy Lea at Travis Ave. on Tues. morning and shared in the celebration of his home-going as his son Clif brought the funeral message. He fought a courageous battle against cancer over the past 4 1/2 yrs. and impacted many lives with his confidence and faith in the Lord.

▶ We enjoyed the family get-togethers on Mon and Tues evenings with the Allens, Baldwins and Harris'. These are special people who have welcomed me into their family with open arms.

▶ We got 'tanked-up' on Texas barbecue, especially at Cousin's where I not only enjoyed the company of SWBTS colleagues but had lunch with the 50-plus Miss Texas beauty pageant candidates!

▶ We revisited an old Mexican restaurant, Mi Charita Reyes, at dinner with Chris, Charis, Helen, and Aaron on Thurs evening. Tex-Mex cooking is something very special, and hard to find in NC.

▶ Greg, Claire, and I had a delightful time Sat on a wine-tasting tour of Messina Hof winery in College Station, while Jennifer was attending the baby shower of a long time friend. These transplanted Italians have developed an outstanding set of wines that are winning prizes all over the world.

▶ We convinced ourselves that one can really 'drive straight thru' from TX to NC in 17 hrs w/o completely killing oneself. Our delight in NC and in being home pushed us non-stop from College Station early Sun am to Boiling Springs late Sun pm.

▶ We know that Boiling Springs is truly home for always! It's a wonderful feeling to be home.



University Happenings:

July, in the midst of travels to Texas and Virginia, has seen advance on a number of writing projects.

First, the Greek grammar project is finally completed with the revisions and the setting up of hyperlinks to aid in navigating through the material. The CD-ROM version will be available about the middle of August. Although many additions are being planned as time passes, nothing satisfies like finishing the initial version. Several innovative aspects have been incorporated that will, hopefully, make it a worth-while contribution to the study of koine Greek.

Second, a number of additions have been incorporated into the web site Cranfordville. Most importantly, a new section entitled, *Resources for Spiritual Growth and Learning*, has been added. Quite a number of things are included now: sermons, Bible studies, lecture manuscripts, and links to scripture text analyses used in my GWU classes. I will add pages to these sections continually as time permits, although several are already available either in English or German and in either HTML or Adobe PDF formats. Beginning soon, a summary of the scripture passages for Sunday School lessons will appear with the urging of Dr. Don Williams.

Third, another interesting page is available at Cranfordville, *Things Cranford*. It's web links with the name Cranford connected to them. Check it out for some fun!

Cont. from Lorin's Mussions.

▶ you discover that you can get a sunburn through your car window.

▶ hot water now comes out of both taps.

▶ it's noon in July, kids are on summer vacation, and not one person is out on the streets.

▶ you actually burn your hand opening the car door.

▶ you break a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 am before work.

▶ no one would dream of putting vinyl upholstery in a car, or not having air conditioning.

▶ your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"

▶ you realize that asphalt has a liquid state.

Those who have lived in Texas understand the very hot climate that typically pervades the state during July and August.

Worth thinking about:

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." --Martin Luther



Claire's Musings:

What a fast and furious **Texas trip** we had. It was fun and difficult at the same time. We definitely had to rest when we got back home.

Eating was a lot of fun because we have missed Texas food. We especially enjoyed the Mexican food. Archie's Donut Shop still has the best donuts in the country (Ummmm!) And Blue Bell Ice Cream is hard to live without (especially Vanilla Bean) - I ate too much of that.

Tulsa, Oklahoma to see Bill and Beverly was the first stop. We enjoyed touring Tulsa and mostly just visiting. The next stop was Rockwall, Texas to see Lynelle and John. They just finished adding on to their house and it was fantastic. We attempted to see fireworks on the 4th and due to a glitch with the city fireworks, we missed it. But, I think we had even more fun because we talked and joked and laughed. That was probably one of the more memorable fireworks for me.

Monday we arrived at Ruth and Billy's. Lorin and I were able to visit with Anita (teacher friend from Snow Heights) and her family, including the new baby Travis Henry. That evening Angie and Brian hosted a family get-together cookout.

Tuesday was the hardest day, since it was filled with so much to do that was hard to fit it all in. That morning I was able to visit with Cynthia, Nancy, and Traci (and Angie) more of my teacher friends. It was great to be able to catch up on how all of them are doing. It brought back a lot of wonderful memories of special friends. That afternoon Lorin and I had a great visit with Nita, who seems to be feeling better. She is a very sweet lady. That evening at the Allen's was another family get-together. More good food and visiting with family that we had not seen for a while was great.

Wednesday morning gave us some extra time with Angie, Brian, and Clay at the park. That evening we went to Birdville Baptist where Lorin was to speak. I was disappointed to miss several of our friends that we were hoping to see. Going to Tippins with the Greene's and Kemp's made it much better.

It was so good to see Chris, Charis, Aaron, and Helen (although we missed seeing Michael and Katie who were at camp). It was hard to believe that it had been so long since I had seen my sisters. It just didn't seem like it had been that long ago. When we visited with Wanda I was amazed at how grown up Trudy was and how much April had changed (being a teenager now and not to mention much taller). Nancy is so happy now being a new grandmother. She and I both realize how special that is. Shauna is just as happy being a new mom and Grace is perfect, of course.

Our last stop was in College Station to visit with Greg and Jennifer. We had a tour of the A&M University and I was astounded over how huge it is. We took a tour of the Messina Hof Winery and that was something I had never done before. It was so interesting and I would love to do that again some day. I spent a lot of time on the drive to and from Texas crocheting while Lorin did most of the driving. I finished one baby blanket going and another coming back. That should get me ahead for a little while before more teacher's baby showers start up again. Sunday morning we left at 7:00 a.m. (Texas



Lorin's Musings:

From the Clay Road Baptist Church URL in Houston, TX, comes some humor that Texans in particular will enjoy:

It's so hot in Texas that...

- ▶ the birds have to use pot holders to pull worms out of the ground.
- ▶ the potatoes cook underground, and all you have to do to have lunch is to pull one out and add butter, salt and pepper.
- ▶ farmers are feeding the chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hard boiled eggs.

It's (usually) so dry in Texas that...

- ▶ the cows are giving evaporated milk.
- ▶ the trees are whistling for the dogs.
- ▶ a sad Texan once prayed, "I wish it would rain -- not so much for me, cuz I've seen it -- but for my 7-year-old."
- ▶ a visitor to Texas once asked, "Does it ever rain out here?" A rancher quickly answered, "yes, it does. Do you remember that part in the Bible where it rained for 40 days and 40 nights?" The visitor replied, "Yes, I'm familiar with Noah's flood." "Well," the rancher puffed up, "we got about two and a half inches of that."

You know you're in Texas when...

- ▶ you no longer associated bridges (or rivers) with water.
- ▶ you can say 110 degrees without fainting.
- ▶ you eat hot chilies to cool your mouth off.
- ▶ you can make instant sun tea.
- ▶ you learn that a seat belt makes a pretty good branding iron.
- ▶ the temperature drops below 95, you feel a bit chilly.
- ▶ you discover that in July, it takes only 2 fingers to drive your car.

Cont. on page 1:

Cont. from Claire's Musings:

time) and were so anxious to get home that we drove straight home.

There's no place like home. The entire trip was great, but it was difficult trying to see everyone. We tried to at least see or talk to the people who wrote us during this past year and a half and let us know how they were doing. As a wonderful result of this trip is that we have several who will be coming to visit us. I can't wait!

A week and a half later we made another **trip to Virginia** to see Donald, Hallie, and the kids. We all went to Pennsylvania and visited the Amish country, including an Amish village, which was so fascinating. I learned so much about that culture. Then we went to Maryland to visit Timothy (a former student of Lorin's at the Seminary) and Meei-ming Chen. They were such gracious hosts and made us feel at home. We enjoyed two real Chinese dinners - ummmmm!

This is an invitation to all of you - Please come to see us. When you visit us here in N.C. we get to spend more time together, plus the added benefit of cooler weather and beautiful mountains. We had a wonderful time visiting with everyone, but this trip made me appreciate N.C. that much more. It's great to be home!