



News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 4

Claire & Lorin Cranford
December 2001

Issue 12



Family Events:

Christmas 2001 is rapidly approaching! Another year is almost complete. And for us, what a year! A wild mixture of good and bad has characterized 2001.

First, the good. At the top of the list is the move of Carrie and Angie with their families to North Carolina from Texas. Claire and I had been dreaming of this day since our move four years ago. Although at times we weren't sure it would happen, in God's own timing their move took place. And it's been pure delight to have them now living within twenty minutes of us. We have the opportunity to share experiences together, and especially to share in those critical growing up moments of two of the ten grand-kids, Clay and Taylor.

Now the challenging issues. Of course, at the top of this list is the health issue for me. This year has brought the discovery of high blood pressure, diabetes, prostate cancer, and a potentially crippling arthritis condition. Consequently most of the year has been a struggle to try to find solutions to these problems. Thankfully, the blood pressure and glucose levels have been brought under control and seem to be within acceptable normal ranges. The damage done, especially by the diabetes, is one of the ongoing issues. The enormous pain in my feet, the arm tremors, and the severe back pain from the arthritis have yet to be solved. The cancer is contained to the prostate gland and surgery is now scheduled for Monday, Dec. 10, to remove the gland and the cancer. After a few weeks of recovery, I'm looking forward to being cancer free.

One of the blessings to come out of the health problems has been the countless numbers of encouraging words and assurances of prayer support that people from all over the world have given to me and Claire. These have come in verbal expression, cards and letters, and emails. So many people from US military chaplains in the Middle East to GWU students to churches and Christians from numerous demoninations around the world are regularly praying for my recovery. This is one of the most humbling and reassuring experiences of my sixty years of life on planet earth. God has indeed proven himself to be Immanuel (God with us) to Claire and me through this year. I can't imagine facing my problems in isolation from our Lord and His people. Because of this I'm very confident of victory over the cancer and the other problems, and I'm looking forward to a wonderful 2002 as a year of full health.



University Happenings:

With the close of the fall semester I will have been teaching at GWU for four years. Combined with the twenty four years plus of full time teaching at SWBTS, I have been trying to "stamp out ignorance" for almost thirty years at both the undergraduate and graduate levels of higher education. Several thousand students have passed through my classes giving me the opportunity to have some impact on their religious thinking. These students have come from many, many countries around the world as well as from the United States. Indeed, the Lord has brought the mission field to my feet and given me marvelous opportunity to train and exemplify the principles of Christianity to these students. Of particular satisfaction to me are the dozens of PhD students who now teach in universities around the world and pastor strategic churches that are making a real difference for the cause of Christ. Through them I have the opportunity of extending a witness to untold numbers of people. What a humbling reality!

Never in my wildest imagination as a young boy growing up in rural Perrin, Texas could I have dreamed of such an opportunity as this. Indeed, our Lord is a wonderful God who has rich blessings in store for those who seek his face and are open to his will and leadership. As I've said many times to various groups, Christianity is a marvelous adventure with exciting and challenging experiences around every corner of the journey. Then there's the mystery factor. God in his wisdom hasn't given his people a road map detailing their futures -- thank goodness! Faith and commitment to Him is central. One important aspect of this faith is to lay the future in His hands and then trust his leadership through each step of the journey. This way continual excitement and wonderful surprises await the obedience servant of Christ. I'm so grateful the Lord set things up this way!

in the beginning. It has been wonderful having the girls and their families here for a short while, but as life goes with its constant changes and surprises, Carrie and Daniel will be moving on to places unknown to any of us at this moment. I am so grateful for even the brief time together that we had. We have made so many wonderful memories together. We had some wonderful visits from Donald and Greg and families making more special memories. And more visits from friends scattered in different directions. Those are all moments to be treasured. We love having people come to visit us and the open invitation is still there.

Even with uncertain futures we have had so much to be thankful for. God has been very good to us and we are thankful for our families and friends. I hope that all of you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



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Claire's Musings:

Dec, 2001

It's hard to know where to begin with Lorin's health problems. He's just having a hard time, but hanging in there. Even just walking is becoming more and more difficult. Hopefully things will improve as he gets some of the procedures behind him.

Lorin and I have had wonderful support from family and friends for which we are so very grateful. He told me one story of going to the post office. His struggle to walk is so obvious that it is noticeable to others, including one 70-something year old lady who took his arm to help him walk. So much for macho. Now wouldn't that make a good picture, I'm sorry that I missed it.

I started having to take a little time off to help Lorin get to and from a few of his doctor appointments, so I gave in and finally told some of my friends at work. Of course, everyone is very understanding. Hopefully our principal will start having a substitute fill in for me. I dislike being out and the kids and teachers missing library time, especially for a possible extended period.

Carrie's husband, Daniel was just called by the draft board. He was in the Navy before and is considering going back in and making the Navy a career. They both seem happy with that choice and are hoping to visit new places.

Thanksgiving was very special this year with both girls and their families coming over for the day. When all of them are here laughter just fills the house. We have made so many wonderful memories over the years and we treasure all of them.

Angie, Carrie, and I went Christmas shopping together the first part of December and, of course, made more special memories. We started off checking out a big mall in Greenville, but the serious real shopping was at stores like Target, Wal-Mart, etc. I think we really did "shop till we dropped".

We had to move up our Christmas celebration to December 6, because of Lorin's possible surgery and not knowing exactly when Daniel would have to leave, not to mention Angie and Brian going to Texas for Christmas. The wonderful thing is our Christmas celebration doesn't have to be on a certain day of the year. We can celebrate any time that we are together. We had a marvelous time together savoring every special moment. Lorin needed to lie down on the couch later in the evening so Taylor (almost two) decided that his stomach would make a perfect table. She proceeded to put some of her toys on his stomach and play. It was so sweet and Lorin enjoyed that immensely.

It's hard to believe that we have now lived in North Carolina for four years. Of course, it is still just as beautiful to us as

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large items. All this is a backdrop for James' point of how the tongue controls our entire life, usually in a destructive manner.

Comparative study of translations, more than anything else, gets the reader to thinking about the ideas in a scripture passage, rather than being enslaved to individual words in the text. Then to assess how those different ideas in a passage hang together to create a flow of thought is the next step in the interpretative process -- something we will take a look at in the next issue.

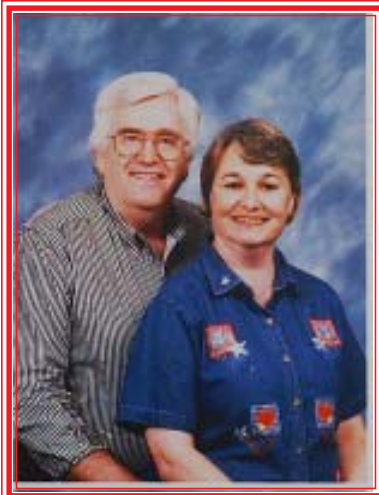


Lorin's Musings:

In this segment on translations, let's explore how to make use of the diversity of translations for Bible study purposes. At the heart is a comparative analysis of representative translations across the spectrum of translation methodology.

For those with the ability to read the Greek or the Hebrew of the original language texts, this use goes one direction. Returning to the James 3:3 illustration in the previous issue, see how they stack up when placed side by side:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| GNT. | ει δε των | NASB (FO) | NLT (Mixed) | TEV (CO) |
| ιπων | τους | "Now if we | We can make a | "We put a bit |
| χαλινους εις τα | put the bits | large horse | into the | mouth of a |
| σ τ ο' μ α τ α | into the turn around | mouth of a | horse to make | |
| βαλλομεν εις το | h o r s e s ' and go wher- | mouth of a | | |
| πειθεσθαι αυτους | mouths so ever we want | it obey us, | | |
| ημιν, και ολον το | that they may by means of a | and we are | | |
| σωμα αυτων | obey us, we small bit in its | able to make | | |
| μεταγομεν. | direct their mouth. | it go where | | |
| | entire body | we want." | | |
| | as well." | | | |



In this comparison, one concern is with the fidelity of each translation to the ideas in the original Greek expression. Our three translations above get good marks here. Next, readability is a concern. Here the NLT and the TEV on the Content Oriented side receive the higher marks. Then, following the prevalent translation principle of most natural equivalent expression, the TEV comes out on top. The criteria here are the least change of form coupled with the highest readability.

When one is only comparing translations and doesn't have the skills to read the Greek, a slightly different analysis is necessary. The goal is to gain maximum insights into the passage from comparative analysis of the translations. The first step is to notice translation differences, using the FO translation as a base of comparison. The NASB sets up an 'if' clause for the placing of bits in the mouths of horses, while the NLT and TEV make the placing of the bit either an agency expression ("by means of" in NLT), or the first main clause (TEV). All three assume the placing of a bit in a horse's mouth. Also the NASB has the plural 'horses' while the other two have the singular 'horse'. The NLT heightens the contrast with the expressions 'large horse' and 'small bit.'

The purpose of the bit in the NASB "so that they ..." is retained in the TEV "to make it..." but integrated into the NLT into the main clause as "go wherever we want." The NASB main clause "we direct their entire body as well" becomes the second main clause in the TEV "we are able to make it go where we want" and in the NLT "go wherever we want." From all three translations the Greek sentence makes the point of the bit exerting power over the horse under the guidance of the person controlling the bit. The NLT best brings out the contrast of a small item controlling a large item, which is the point of the Greek text. In the larger context of Jas 3:1-12 this verse is but one of three illustrations from nature of how small items control

