



News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 5

Claire & Lorin Cranford

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Family Events:

In addition to the school oriented projects outlined in the next column, I have begun working on several items around the house.

✿ Most delightful has been working in the flower beds around the house. Plans for work had to be postponed last fall because of the health problems. So I'm excited to be able once more to pick these back up and move them forward. A variety of day lilies have been planted in the front yard beds. They should provide some real color and beauty to the front yard. A new bed is being developed on the south side of the house; fresh mulch is being added to all the beds. I love working in the yard to make things grow!

🔧 The other major home project for the summer is the setting up of the workshop in the room at the back of the garage. Some power equipment has been purchased this spring that needs to be set up on special work benches; shelving needs to be created in order to get everything sorted out and organized. Hopefully this will allow the emptying of the last of the boxes moved from Texas in 1997! Daniel and Carrie helped me greatly in the winter by installing some shelving materials in the shop. Now my task is to complete the setup so that the tools will be more usable. Some progress has already been made toward this goal, and that just motivates me to get more done.

🔧 Claire has been patient with me in some promised 'honey-do' projects inside the house. Some electrical wiring in switches for mood lights in the kitchen is at the top of the list. Even with a new home like ours a whole host of changes and improvements always crop up as time goes by. With luck I can complete most of these by the beginning of the fall semester.

🩺 The health continues to improve gradually. One test on my hemoglobin came back better in the middle of May. Since the surgery in December, the count has been slightly below the normal range. But with this test it moved above the low end of the normal range. Also, the new orthotics are proving to be helpful in relieving some of the feet pain. It has taken about three weeks to get adjusted to them. At times considerable pain remains present, but at other times it is much less. Even with the detailed logging of health matters such as blood pressure, blood sugar levels etc., I'm still baffled by the swings in the feet pain. A few foods have been uncovered that cause trouble, and thus they will be avoided. I still need to trim off about ten to fifteen more pounds of weight and get down to about 210 to 215 in weight.



More than anything, however, is to slow down and get some rest. The afternoon naps and a little more sleep at night are integral parts of the daily routine this summer. Plus, just being out from under a lot of pressure and deadlines is very relaxing itself. It has taken me the first three weeks to begin to unwind.



University Happenings:

Summer 'freedom' has arrived, but turns out busier than the regular semesters! With the end of the spring semester on May 11, I have found myself extremely busy with a backlog of projects, although they are not high pressure activities like usually experienced during the regular semesters.

Religion 314 NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

Considerable time has been spent thus far getting the new course, Religion 314, in place for the fall semester. The class is close to maximum enrollment of 25 with a group of very talented students. I'm excited about the prospects of a delightful time with these young people in the fall. Several have already requested assignments for their presentations so that they can work on the materials during the summer. This course is providing me the opportunity to do some fresh research in a relatively new subject area. I'm finding this very stimulating and rewarding. The course room is located at <http://cranfordville.com/R314frame.htm>.



A second major project is the fourth edition of the Greek grammar. With the training I received this spring in programing with Adobe Acrobat, this new grammar will have audio clips providing pronunciation helps for reading Greek texts. Everything will be better integrated on the CD-ROM disk in the PDF format. Many new features will be incorporated, because of the experience now of using the materials in three successive years to teach the language. I'm excited about the usefulness of these new materials.



Numerous other projects -- such as three book reviews for the *Review & Expositor* theological journal, planning the new faculty orientation session on Aug. 12, completing several lecture manuscripts for the Religion 102, New Testament Survey, to be posted in the course room at Cranfordville.com, finally moving all my library books to the office at home in order to have them in one place -- remain to be done in the next couple of months. But, these are delightful activities for me that provide satisfaction without frustrating pressure.



Also, there's always work to be done with the computer equipment. Some new hardware is being added -- a 120 gig hard drive to one computer, a new, high speed CD-RW drive to another, etc. Probably a shift over to Windows XP operating system will be accomplished during the summer on at least three of the networked computers in the office at home, although the Linux system looks better all the time.

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Claire's Musings:

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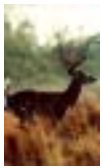
It's hard to believe that school is already out for the students and my last required day is Wednesday, June 5. The trouble is, though, I will have to go several times during the summer to wrap up the library duties. There has been a lot of paper work that has kept me from having the needed time to even clean up the library itself. Books are still lying around waiting to be shelved. Since every bit of paper work was new to me, it took me a longer time to finish it. I had to do extra research and questioning of others to figure out what I was supposed to do. Next year I should be whiz.



The end of school for the students was the usual. They were all hyper and bouncing off the walls. Luckily for me as the librarian I was able to avoid most of what the poor teachers were enduring in just trying to contain the kids for the last few days. As it goes each year, there were numerous fifth grade girls crying as they were leaving the school that they had attended for the last six years. Of course, the boys were too tough for that.



Right before the end of each year our principal has each of the classes work up a skit to go along with a music theme for that year. It's called May Day and this year's theme was "Patriotic." I took pictures with my camera and Lorin took pictures with the digital camera. We did a good job together and Lorin put the pictures on a CD disk and made a slide show. It was very good and the teachers at school enjoyed seeing the pictures. I hope to get to do the same thing next year taking pictures.



One day last week driving to work I saw four deer in a clearing in the woods. Oh, what a beautiful sight. It's still hard to believe that I have such a beautiful view everyday on the way to work and then extra special times like this. Usually I am just braking for squirrels or an occasional woodchuck.

When I finish up the required workdays at school I will already be halfway through my university class – Internet Organization, Design and Resource Discovery. So far it has been very interesting and I've learned a lot. I did panic, though, when over the Memorial weekend the university registration office accidentally knocked me off the class roster. I was unable to turn in my assignments for three days, but then it was taken care of. What a relief! In a five-week course, three days out seem major.

(individually to the church members). This is a more Pauline pattern.

By far the **Proem** most like the letters of Paul is **1 Pet. 1:3-12**, probably because Silas did the actual writing of the letter (5:12, Silas is the Greek spelling for the Latin Silvanus). The core element, "Blessed be God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," is very Pauline in tone. The emphasis upon salvation in the face of persecution in the expansion (vv. 3b-12) is developed in several ways in the body of the letter.



Lorin's Musings:

In a continuation of last month's emphasis upon the **Proem** section of the letters in the New Testament, we will focus on this section in the **General Letters** section of the NT.

Unlike the pattern in the letters of Paul where almost every Pauline letter contains a Proem, the seven General Letters plus Hebrews contains a Proem only in 2 John 4, 3 John 2-4, and 1 Peter 1:3-12.

Hebrews, James, 1 John, and Jude do not contain a Proem.

In part, this is due to the fact that Hebrews, James, and 1 John do not strictly follow a letter format. Hebrews and James are actually following an ancient Jewish sermon form and adding a letter element only superficially to the rest of the document: Hebrews adds a Conclusio (13:18-25) and James a Praescriptio (1:1). Jude, following the ancient letter pattern more consistently, omits only the Proem section - something not unheard-of in ancient letter form generally. 1 John uses only the Conclusio section of ancient letters; in place of the normal Praescriptio, a more formal Prologue begins the 'letter' in 1:1-4. This gives the document a much more formal tone with a less personal touch than usually characterized ancient letters. The document almost becomes a formal treatise in format, in the sense of an ancient philosophical tractate.

With the three Proema in 1 Peter, 2 John and 3 John, we find a pattern with much in common to Paul's letters and with ancient letters in general.

The **Proem in 3 John 2-4** is more like most ancient letters, that is, more Greek in its tones. It reads as follows: "**2Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in health; I know that it is well with your soul.** ³For I greatly rejoiced when some of the brethren arrived and testified to the truth of your life, as indeed you do follow the truth. ⁴No greater joy can I have than this, to hear that my children follow the truth."

The last part of the **core element** is actually better translated as "just as your soul prospers." The point of the prayer by the Elder is that Gaius would prosper in his health and life generally to the same degree that he is already prospering spiritually. This poses an intriguing issue: what would be the impact upon us if we prospered healthwise and generally to the same degree of spiritual health we already enjoyed? Would our health improve? Or, would it immediately deteriorate significantly? What about our general circumstance of prosperity? I suspect most of us would be shocked to realize the sorry state of our spiritual health, if it became the benchmark for the level of our physical health and general circumstance.

The level of Gaius' spiritual health was verified to the Elder by the testimony of fellow Christians. At the heart of this spiritual health was Gaius' consistency with the apostolic standard of Gospel truth (vv. 3-4). This stood in stark contrast to that of Diotrephes (vv. 9-11), whose manipulative control of the congregation was motivated by a 'love of being first' (v. 9), and became the source of problem. Some real lessons here!

The **Proem in 2 John 4** is shorter: "I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children following the truth, just as we have been commanded by the Father." This emphasis upon walking in divine truth becomes foundational to the two sections of the letter body: vv. 5-6, walking in love (collectively to the church, the Lady in v. 1); vv. 7-11, resisting corruptions of the Gospel