



News from the Blue Ridge

Claire & Lorin Cranford



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Family Events:

This month's family section is devoted to a tribute to the most wonderful wife God ever gave to a man -- Claire!!! On June 4 we celebrate our fifth wedding anniversary. These past five years have been the most wonderful of my entire life. Quite providentially God brought Claire into my life when I was determined to not risk myself in any close relationship. Her smile and charm have brightened my overly serious life time and time again during these years. God knew just what I needed to bring my life out of the depths of gloom into the brightness of enjoying life and always finding something to laugh about.

Our lives these past five years have taken twists and turns we never could have imagined -- a vacation trip to Europe to introduce Claire and Carrie to European friends, a honeymoon cruise in the Caribbean, trips to various cities all over the U.S., a wonderful blended family of children and grandchildren, a move from Texas to North Carolina! Not in our wildest fantasy could we have dreamed of the things the Lord has blessed us with. And now in the 'empty-nest' phase of our life together we are having more fun doing things together than should be legal!

AND we are still waiting to have our first fuss about some issue! To be sure, we have differences of view all the time, but God has blessed us with personalities able to talk through things until we both feel comfortable with a decision. Respect for each other's views and consulting with the other before decisions are made is basic. Our neighbors next door in the apartment must wonder at times with so much laughter and teasing vibrating through the walls separating the two apartments. Claire's vibrant personality has already established itself across the Gardner-Webb campus, at our church, and at the schools where she has taught.

The future is indeed bright. We take one day at a time and try to claim the most possible enjoyment from it. We marvel at how the Lord has laid out the path of our life together step-by-step, especially in the move to NC. As each new turn of the road becomes necessary the right path opens up to us as we wait on Him and let things fall into place naturally. No one knows the future but our experience has taught us to face it with confidence and anticipation in the Lord's leadership.



Claire and I continue to enjoy the absolutely scenic river walk, now on a daily basis. The beauty of God's creation along this path by the river is breathtaking, not to mention the cool shaded pathway even in the middle of a summer day. The pleasant sound

of the water cascading over the rocks in the river is a wonderfully calming, relaxing experience.

104 College Manor Drive
PO Box 1415
Boiling Springs, NC 28017-1415

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

---John Wooden

Ph: 704 434-5657

Fax: 704 434-5618

e-mail: cranford@shelby.net



University Happenings:

The first Saturday in May introduced Claire and me to a new tradition: a Derby Party. Because of so many Kentuckians on the GWU faculty, the tradition of a party celebrating the Kentucky Derby is continued in Boiling Springs, NC. Mary Alice Seals in the divinity school hosted the party of a dozen or so with a hamburger cookout etc. at her home. Gerald Keown, OT prof in the divinity school, is quite a hamburger chef. Being Texans Claire and I are still getting accustomed to these strange differences here, especially transplanted ones from outside NC. But it was a delightful time of fellowship, and even being intimidated to stand in reverence for the singing of "My Home Old Kentucky Home" -- a national anthem for some! We felt honored as 'double outsiders' (neither North Carolinians nor Kentuckians) to be invited.

Final exam week at GWU is somewhat different than SWBTS. With only three hour courses, one three hour exam time slot is devoted to each class time slot. Exams begin on Friday morning, take place all day Saturday and conclude Thursday afternoon. The Saturday test day came about -- so I'm told -- several years ago to keep students focused on exams through the week-end rather than drinking parties with friends before scattering for the summer at the end of final exam week! With student workers taking exams during this week, each professor is basically left to doing all the exam administering and grading. I think I've put in place an answer to that, starting next fall. Everything on campus shuts down except final exams during this week.

Right at the end of the spring semester the president called a news conference to announce the conclusion of the five year fund raising campaign a year early. The original goal was \$20 million and the campaign brought in \$33.5+ million in four years. One especially significant contribution was a million dollar plus gift by a publisher in San Francisco, CA, to endow a scholarship fund for male Afro-American students, especially from Cleveland County. This will enhance GWU's effort to reach out to minority students, which is already the highest percentage of enrollment for any non-black, private college in NC, at over 13% of GWU's enrollment. Some 94% of our 3,000 plus students receive financial aid in some form.

Summer school at GWU is a relaxed program of two five week terms beginning May 21 and concluding July 29 with a graduation ceremony. With only three hour courses, this means two hours of classes five days each week per term, and four hours two nights a week in the adult education G.O.A.L. program. With two classes in the first term and one in the second I'm looking forward to a less hectic summer.



Claire's Musings:

Well, I survived my first semester at Gardner-Webb. They seem to be tougher here than at Texas Women's Univ. or Univ. of North Texas. I had a lot of adjusting to do. I was very happy to make a "C" in Statistics, that was the class that I thought would finish me off. I made a "B" in Foundations of Curriculum, and "A" in Computer, P.E., and Curriculum Development (the M.A. course). I substituted all but one and one-half days of the break between semesters, but at least it gave me a little time to clean the house extra good. Now my schedule for the next five weeks is Adolescent Psychology 8:00-10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, and Chemistry 1:00-5:00 Monday through Thursday. I think I will enjoy Psychology, but Chemistry I'm not so sure about.

This past semester kept me extremely busy with classes and subbing, too. But, it was worth it because I learned so much. I think I learned more through subbing from Kindergarten through eighth grade than I did in college. It has been tough enough, just simply because kids enjoy taking advantage of substitutes. Through trial and error I caught on to a lot of their tricks and came up with some pretty good ideas of my own. Most of my time has been in middle school, which I liked the best. It toughened me up considerably and I eventually became "meaner" as time went on. One day when I would not give in to their demands, one young man said, "You don't know nothin' about this class". I took that as a compliment, even though that was not the way he meant it. The variety of personalities that I witnessed each day was really fascinating. It was interesting to watch the different ways that they tried to manipulate the class situations into getting what they wanted, which definitely had nothing to do with studying. All of this was the best learning situation that I could have asked for and it kept my life exciting, because I never knew what to expect. Now only if Chemistry can be that exciting.



First Term Summer School Class Schedule For Claire (C) and Lorin (L), May 21-June 23

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
8-10 am	C	C	C	C	C
10-12 am	L	L	L	L	L
1-4:50 pm	C	C	C	C	
6-10 pm		L		L	

Second Term Summer School Schedule, June 25-July 29

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
8-10 am	L C	L C	L C	L C	L C
10-12 am					
1-4:50 pm					
6-10 pm					



Lorin's Musings:

This month this column is devoted to the accomplishments of former students:

One delightfully satisfying experience was an opportunity at the end of the spring semester. In the university awards ceremony I had the privilege of presenting the university Greek award to **Jeremy Abshire**, one of our outstanding young Greek students. Jeremy is deciding between the GWU Divinity School and Mercer Divinity School; hopefully we will be able to see him through a MDiv program at GWU. His future is very, very bright. A part of his decision is to remain at GWU and work with me in a contract teaching basis on theological German and French in anticipation of a PhD program at Duke University.

Another exciting word came at the end of April from **Steve Harmon**, a former student at SWBTS. Steve has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Christian Theology in the Campbell University Divinity School at Buies Creek, NC. This school is another of the growing alternative divinity schools in a strong, vibrant Baptist university in NC. Claire and I are excitedly looking forward to having Steve and Naomi close enough to fellowship with. We praise God for leading them out of the disappointment of rejection at SWBTS into this most wonderful opportunity to impact lives in NC.

Exciting news came also from **Scott Hummel** of taking an OT position at LaTourneau College in Longview, TX. Our work together on 1 Maccabees in the PhD History Seminar has made a lasting difference. Also, **Joe Matos** begins work at Dallas Baptist University this fall. Congratulations to all of these with their newly found job opportunities.

The month of June brings another joy. **George Guthrie** and **Scott Duvall**, now NT professors in Baptist universities in Tenn and Ark see the release of their new textbook on interpretive procedure, *Biblical Greek Exegesis*, by Zondervan Press. The text grew out of the interpretive procedure developed in the PhD seminar on Critical Methodology at SWBTS. We wish them the very best in the 'birthing of this new baby'! I feel like a proud Grandpapa! George will also release in 98 the volume on Hebrews in the *NIV Application Commentary Series* by Zondervan.

Word comes from **David Capes** at Houston Baptist University of the release of a new book *The Footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land* by NMI Enterprises in Israel. Also, check out his web site www.blkbox.com/faithmatters regarding his weekly radio talk show "Faith Matters" on KKTL 97.1 FM in Houston. Also with teaching and being SW region NABPR president, David is making a difference.

Jon Campbell has his first article published in this month's issue of the SBC *Proclaim Magazine*.

One of the joyous experiences of teaching is to watch gifted students like these grow into first class biblical scholars and contribute to the field of biblical interpretation.

"It's a funny thing about life: If you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."

---W. Somerset Maugham