



News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 3

Claire & Lorin Cranford

July 2000

Issue 7



Family Events:

June has been that wonderful time of visiting with family that we had hoped it would be.

Angie, Brian, Clay and Taylor arrived on **June 8** and we packed in a busy four days until Brian had to fly back home on Monday. My work schedule prevented me from being able to do as much as I wanted, but Claire had total time to devote to a trip into the mountains, shopping etc.

Sunday noon, **June 11**, Chris, Charis and the four grand-kids arrived to spend the night on their way to DC. We cooked hamburgers on the grill for lunch and later that afternoon headed for the river to let the kids go swimming. Monday was somewhat a sad day with Chris's family leaving for DC and Brian flying back home. More pictures of their visit are in the Photo Album section of Cranfordville.



But we still had Angie, Clay and Taylor who were here until July 1. The following days proved to be absolutely wonderful with the sounds of little ones around our normally very quiet house. For Claire especially it has been next to Heaven itself! See in Cranfordville the Photo Album under Taylor and Clay for pictures of them during the visit.

On Wed., **June 14**, Mike and Kathy Brannon from CA arrived to spend the night. They have been making an extended trip to marry off a daughter in PA, visit Mike's relatives along the NC coast where his mother was raised. Then they stopped by to visit us. In reflecting back, I believe this is more time together for Mike and me since the early 1950s when we were kids. We had a wonderful time catching up on one another's families and reliving some wonderful days in the past. They have both recently retired and built a new home in the mountains outside Bakersfield CA, and are enjoying life with less stress and rigid schedule. More pictures of their visit are in the Photo Album section of Cranfordville.

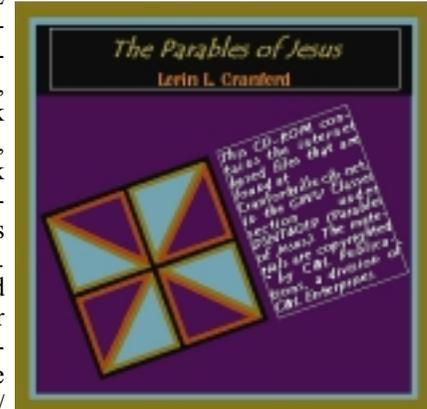


Then on **June 22** Carrie arrived from Ft. Worth to spend four days with us. These were days packed full of activities for the three girls, as Claire describes in her column. With writing



University Happenings:

Finally, the CD-ROM version of **The Parables of Jesus** has been released and now is available for purchase. It is the initial release of C&L Publications. The entire project -- production of the manuscript, design of the CD disk label and case jacket, burbing of the disk with the files, duplication of the CDs -- was completed in house. We're quite pleased with the outcome. For details go to C&L Enterprises home page (<http://clenterprises.domainvalet.com/>), and click on C&L Publications.



Next up with be the massive revision of the **Beginning Greek Grammar** on CD-ROM, which C&L Publications will release at the end of July.

deadlines staring at me, I didn't get to go with them on their day trips. They managed to travel to several places. Angie and Carrie took Clay to one of our very special places, Chimney Rock, for a day of hiking the trails -- a very special time for the two girls to be together. Claire treasured every second of the time doing all that she possibly could to spend time together. The evenings were special with everyone here at the house -- playing games, putting puzzles together, watching movies, sitting out on the deck watching the stars etc. Of course, a lot of the activities were planned around the two grandkids. The sound of laughter permeated our house during these days and was indeed a wonderful sound. Taking Carrie to the airport on Tuesday for the trip back home was a difficult task for both Claire and me.



On Friday, **June 30**, Brian arrived with Jay and Suzanne from Texas to retrieve his family. They got packed up and left headed west about noon Saturday. The house became deafeningly quiet Sat afternoon. It's going to take a while for Claire and I to adjust back to the old routine of just the two of us.

105 Twin Lake Drive
Shelby, NC 28152-0660

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 at <http://Cranfordville.cjb.net>

Ph: 704 434-5657
Fax: 704 434-5618
e-mail: cranford@shelby.net



Claire's Musings:

The **first Sunday in June** Lorin and I went to our special Broad River Greenway. We've taken many walks there and it's only five minutes away.

The river walk is beautiful and now they have added a children's play area and a log cabin. That Sunday we went to the log cabin to hear a storyteller, Cherokee Freeman Owle. He told such interesting stories of the Cherokee Indians and some of their history. I could have listened to him for hours.

The last day of school for me was **June 5**, which gave me two days to get ready for lots of special visitors. Angie, Brian, Clay (5 years old) and Taylor (5 months old) came first. Clay has grown since we last saw him and is ready for kindergarten. Taylor was precious, of course. She was as good a baby as she was cute. They both provided constant entertainment. We did as much as we could because Brian only had 4 days. We went to Linville Falls which requires some hiking, but the view of the falls is spectacular and well worth the hike. I kept up pretty good with them and I wasn't even carrying the baby. If I had I don't think I would have made it too well. We went to Blowing Rock, which is a fun shopping area for tourists. One of the restaurants in Shelby is a Japanese restaurant full of entertainment in which the chef cooks in front of the patrons. Clay loved that because not only was the chef entertaining, but also funny. It was hard to let Brian go back, but he was gracious enough to let his family stay with us for three glorious weeks.

Sunday Chris and Charis came through with Michael, Katie, Aaron, and Helen for a quick visit. We had just enough time to go to our special riverwalk and the kids got to swim. Along with hamburgers on the grill we had a great visit.

That **first full week** Clay was able to go to Vacation Bible School. It gave Clay some other children to make friends with, besides being with just adults all the time. Mike and Kathy came by for a quick visit and they were so much fun. They were traveling in their camper and having a great time themselves.

On **Thursday** of the following week (June 22) Carrie flew in and we had four days together. Again, we tried to cram in everything we could, including a requested trip to the Japanese restaurant. One day Carrie, Angie, and Clay went hiking to Chimney Rock (one of our favorite spots to take out-of-town guests). I volunteered to stay at home with Taylor, which was great fun. I also knew I couldn't keep up them, because they were too full of energy. We went back to Blowing Rock, which is always fun. It was hard to believe, but we were actually cool part of the time and Carrie even put on a sweatshirt for a while. We went to Lake Lure (a beautiful swim area surrounded by mountains) to swim, but got rained out, so we headed back to our riverwalk to swim.

Friday, June 30 Brian, along with good friends Jay and Suzanne came and then on Saturday afternoon everyone (and I do mean everyone) left for a camping trip through Cherokee country, Nashville, and then onto Dangerfield in Texas for the 4th of July. It was so hard to let them go and Lorin and I both had to go through some withdrawal pains. I'm thankful, though, that I at least have four more weeks until school starts. I have so many wonderful memories of being with family, doing all we could during the day and playing games in the evening, occasionally sitting out under the stars at night in very cool weather, and of course, the main thing we always do together - lots of laughter. I could not have imagined it could have been so perfect. I have so much to be thankful for.



Lorin's Musings:

In the Charlotte Observer on June 17, Ken Garfield, the religion editor, very succinctly summarized the point of the SBC

national convention the past week with the heading "Do Southern Baptists sow division with doctrine?" He accurately expressed an insightful perspective with his lead question in the article, "Is the Southern Baptist Convention godly or goofy?" The point was persuasively made that the actions at the convention more than anything else are making Southern Baptists the butt of jokes among millions who believe differently. Sadly his as-

assessment is true. In the wrong headed quest to be the white knight saviors of American society the SBC is



condemning itself to the trashheap of religious irrelevance and rejection by spiritually sensitive people.

It defies reason to comprehend how the claim is made that these actions are "standing up for the truth of the Bible." Nothing could be further from the truth! The SBC doesn't believe the Bible, it believes what it believes about the Bible -- a huge difference! Now after the new creedal stance, the Bible is more important than Jesus, and only the ordained male preacher has sense enough to correctly interpret it. The Bible becomes a billy-club to batter others with. This mindset comes straight out of a romanticized view of nineteenth century America and, ironically, is based on the humanistic rationalism from a century or so earlier, originating in Europe. With a mythological view of life, it falls prey to late twentieth century materialism and culturally provincial blindness. All this mess is now bundled up in a creedal statement and called biblical! The Nazi era in Germany should be studied carefully, since very similar religious thinking helped bring Hitler to power.

Wow! A textbook case for how to twist the precious truths of God's revelation to sinful humanity. God's judgment will certainly begin falling on such in the coming years, as He focuses on other groups to get His message out to a dying world. How sad! Satan has won a major victory! Hopefully as time passes the folks in the pew will realize the brainwashing being perpetrated on them and rise up in rejection of this nonsense! Unfortunately many have already become fed up with this SBC mess and are joining a rapidly growing exodus from Baptist life. More and more Baptist churches are dropping the name Baptist, and especially the adjective Southern in embarrassment over the image the SBC has created. Only God's powerful moving can turn this around into a positive direction!