



# News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 4

*Claire & Lorin Cranford*

June 2001

Issue 6



## *Family Events:*

With last month's newsletter coming out late, this issue will cover the last couple of weeks of May, although a lot has happened during this period of time.

Not the least has been a series of medical tests for me to try to uncover a growing problem over the past several months: high blood pressure. I became concerned that something wasn't right when my dentist began noticing higher than normal blood pressure last fall during some visits for dental work. I hadn't been to my MD enough over the past three years for him to detect any patterns. During the winter and spring my energy levels began dropping so that by mid afternoon I would be exhausted. In April I began tracking my blood pressure with a morning and afternoon check, which further alarmed me since the averages remained steady at about 183 over 110. The second week of May the doctor put me on medication in order to begin bringing it down. Then on May 21 I underwent a Myoview Treadmill Stress Test, which turned out positive. Yet, the symptoms have continued, so the family doctor shifted the medication in order to bring the blood pressure down further and I have an appointment with a heart specialist on June 15. So at this point I'm just trying to cope with the rather powerful side-effects of the medication, and waiting until June 15. The side-effects are the greatest challenge at the moment: drowsiness, mild nausea, muscle ache, no energy etc. The Lotrel medicine seems to be gradually lowering the blood pressure, but with a price. Hopefully, nothing requiring surgery will be uncovered and the treatment can be without too much discomfort.

Getting older sometimes is the pits! As the 60th birthday comes up in November I find it increasingly difficult to "escape my genes." Health patterns in one's family will have significant impact on one's health, especially later on in life. I suspect this is at the heart of these blood pressure problems.

On a much, much brighter note: Lynelle and John spent Memorial Day weekend with us at the end of May and we had an absolutely wonderful time together. In addition to reliving old times, we showed them around our favorite places here. Of course, that included Chimney Rock and the mountains near us. There just wasn't enough time on their short trip. We enjoy being together immensely; it's just not possible often enough. Both they and we stay much too busy with work and too little time to 'smell the roses along the way.' But in those rare free moments we do have fun visiting with one another.



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## *University Happenings:*

The end of May saw the beginning of summer school. During the first five week term, May 24 through June 26, I'm teaching a couple of sections of New Testament survey: one in the day program on campus and the other in the G.O.A.L. program at our Statesville, NC, campus. The three hour round-trip drive every Tuesday and Thursday evenings up there is challenging, but the class of about 20 students is stimulating and enjoyable to teach.

As in past summers I'm experimenting with the use of multimedia in the teaching of both these sections. The class on campus in Boiling Springs meets in a multi-media class room in Hamrick Hall so that the course is being taught directly off the web site at Cranfordville.com. The students seem to enjoy this approach, since it allows me to easily do updates, project pictures of places and things involved in NT study etc. I'm able to stay in closer contact with the students with this additional link outside of class time through the internet.

The class at Statesville is a bit more challenging, but for the first time I'm able to reduplicate most of the multimedia aspects of the class through a special setup. I added a rather powerful IBM Thinkpad notebook computer to my 'collection' in May. By transferring the approximately 50 megabytes of data from Cranfordville to the computer hard drive, I'm able to project about 90% of the course materials to the students in the class room through the use of the university's projector that hooks up to the computer. GWU will move in to a brand new facility in Statesville later on this summer, which will have multimedia class rooms hooked up to the internet. But, our present facility doesn't have such available. Thus this setup that I'm using is the next best thing. It will also serve well on the Boiling Springs campus in the class rooms without the multi-media connections.

I'm really looking forward to June 27 and taking off the rest of the summer for some rest, as well as to catch up on some writing projects. Hopefully, the health problems won't interfere too much with that goal.

## **Continued from Lorin's Musings:**

printed Greek texts have emerged as the foundation of virtually every contemporary Bible translation: the United Bible Societies Greek Text (now in the 4th revised edition) and the Nestle-Aland Greek text (now in its 27th edition). In both these Greek NTs special structures at the bottom of each page allow the scholar to make quick comparisons of the variety of wordings that show up from comparing the different manuscripts, and then come to a conclusion about the most likely original wording of the text of the New Testament. This is the very serious goal of this discipline: to know exactly what was originally written by the NT writers.

**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](http://Cranfordville.cjb.net) at <http://Cranfordville.cjb.net>**

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## Claire's Musings:

June 2001

The North Carolina mountains are even more beautiful now that the girls and their families are living here. I know that when I look toward the mountains that one family lives on this side and the other lives just on the other side. The best part of all is knowing how happy they all are. They are living in a place which they have always dreamed of and Lorin and I are just fortunate to have been sent to this place. Life is wonderful!

The last weekend in May Lorin's sister and brother-in-law, Lynelle and John from Texas came to visit us. They are such fun people to be around and we shared a lot of laughter. We went to eat at our favorite Japanese restaurant which has great entertainment. And naturally we took them to the mountains and Chimney Rock. We love showing off the beautiful Carolina mountains to our visitors. The weather cooperated with perfect weather, cool and gorgeous. They didn't get to stay near long enough and I hope they will be able to come back soon so we can show them more of our perfect countryside.

School will finally be out for the teachers June 6 and we will start back July 31. I hope to enjoy every moment of this summer especially with kids and grandkids. I am looking forward also to Lorin taking off half the summer. He has not taken off any time for the last few years. He just works too hard, but he is also getting to that age that he needs to relax more and enjoy life. With kids popping in and out now and so much more laughter around the house maybe he will enjoy taking time away from work.

Age is beginning to creep up on us and faster than we had anticipated. I didn't think I would be getting this tired until retirement time. That time is still too far away. Lorin has not been feeling well lately and his blood pressure has been too high. He has already gone to the doctor for a stress test (with encouraging results) and now is waiting to see a heart specialist. Many of the men in his family had fatal heart attacks by the time they were Lorin's age now. I am thankful that Lorin is finally going to the doctor and having things checked out. Right now it seems that his blood pressure medicine is making him feel bad, too. Keep him in your prayers.

My "late in life" teaching career has been interesting, to say the least and never mundane. It seems that each year I am never sure what I will be teaching the next year. I am so thankful that I am able to work with some special teachers who are also good friends. Well, it seems that my principal wants me to be the librarian of our school next year. In our district several librarians have retired at the same time, and that is creating an acute shortage. It made me feel good that he thought I could do the job and requested me. The hardest part is that I will have to get a Major in Media Technology and I have five years to complete that. I had started a Reading degree in Texas and then we moved. It seems that the closest colleges that I can get the Media degree are at least two hours or more away. Hopefully most of my classes can be taken online. It still will be hard.

The best part is that I wouldn't have to deal much with the EOG testing and all the extra jobs that teachers have. I would be teaching kindergarten through fifth grade which fulfills my love of teaching, but also being the librarian. It ought to be very interesting and I told my principal that I would at least give it a try for one year and do my best. The teachers are excited that I will be working with their classes and those who know me know that I will work well with the students and with them. Wow! It never gets dull!



## Lorin's Musings:

Beginning with this issue we will explore some issues related to biblical interpretation. Over the years of preaching and teaching I have become concerned that we have far too little understanding of the scripture texts. And this in part, because so many don't know how to go about figuring out what the biblical texts are trying to say. Hopefully these articles can help open up the text to the Bible reader.

The first issue to tackle is called Textual Criticism. This scary term to many actually designates a procedure that every serious student of scripture should appreciate and know something about. For the New Testament, the procedure involves the careful examination of every available ancient manuscript containing some or all of the text of the NT that was written in a form of ancient Greek called Koine Greek. Why is this necessary? Primarily because no original copy of any of the 27 books in the New Testament has survived over time. The wording of our English translations of the NT is based on later generations of copies of the books of the NT, none of which gets within a century of the original writings. In fact, the first known copies of the entire NT go back no closer than 300 years of the first century.

The study of these ancient manuscripts has exploded in the last 100 years because, through extensive archaeological exploration, almost all of the 5,000 plus NT manuscripts have become known to us in this time.



Prior to 1800 barely a dozen ancient manuscripts of the Greek text of the NT were known to exist and all of these were copies made during the Middle Ages, over a 1,000 years after the writing of the original documents. In western Christianity the Bible that was universally used from the 400s on was the Latin translation of the Bible called the Vulgate. Not until the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s did Christians in the west begin to be interested in knowing the exact wording of the books of the NT. But it would be another 300 plus years before significant advancements could be made.

The new translations that began showing up in Protestant Christianity, e.g., the Luther Bible in German, the Bishop's Bible in English, were generally based on a printed Greek text of the New Testament called the Textus Receptus, as well as mostly the Latin Vulgate. The limitation of this Greek text was that it was based on less than a dozen very late Greek manuscripts of the NT, none of which contained the entire text of the NT. The scholar Erasmus who first produced this Greek text in the early 1500s had to reconstruct portions of the last verses of the book of Revelation by translating the Latin Vulgate back into Greek.

During the 1800s and 1900s textual criticism exploded in growth, and provided the foundation for modern Bible translations throughout the western world into several hundred languages. Gradually by the end of the twentieth century two

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