



News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 4

Claire & Lorin Cranford
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Family Events:

On the health front the news is mostly good. Thus far, I've undergone three separate tests of my heart and the only thing that has turned up is a thickening of the heart muscle indicating a long term presence of high blood pressure to some extent. That's the wonderful news that I've been hoping for during this ordeal. No real danger of heart attack or stroke appears to be present.

Of course, the other aspect is that I still have no indication of the source of the high blood pressure with the accompanying health problems. This is the frustrating part. I'm more than ready to find out the source of whatever the problem is and then solve it. The doctor still has me taking the Lotrel medicine with its frequent severe side effects. I go back to the heart specialist next week. I'm not quite sure where we go at this point; I should find out next week.

On a more positive note. We are delighting in having Angie and Brian so close by. They are gradually getting settled in at their home in Forest City and Kelley Floors is launching its first big contract in NC next week. With the schedule rather flexible for both Claire and Angie during the summer weeks, Angie comes over often during the day so that she and Claire can do things together. I get to play with grandkids more often that way. The two girls are especially enjoying working on photo albums through the Creative Moments system that Claire has gotten into. They are creating some fantastic albums on various themes.

Clay is taking swimming lessons at Gardner-Webb through one of the university's community programs and enjoying every minute of it. It's rather 'neat' for a first grader to go to school where Grandpapa teaches. Monday and Wednesday evenings are a special time for him at the university swimming pool.

Carrie and Daniel are able to make it to Boiling Springs fairly often so that we are all together. They are increasingly talking about relocating closer to Boiling Springs, so we may very well have more opportunities to do things together.

We are especially looking for Greg and Jennifer's visit in a couple of weeks. Andrew has grown so much. We're anxious to get reacquainted with him. Some big get-togethers with everyone are planned while they're here. Taylor and Andrew are just three weeks apart in age, so we're anxious to get them together. Having family together increasingly is making NC even more delightful for us.

You may want to check out the Photo Album section in Cranfordville.com. Quite a large number of new photos have been added covering the trip to Texas in June, as well as Brian and Angie's experiences thus far in North Carolina. Claire took tons of pictures on the trip to Texas and of the kids around the house. They're quite interesting. Check them out by going to <http://cranfordville.cjb.net>, then click on the camera in the left column.



University Happenings:

As of June 26 summer school was over for me. Although teaching the New Testament to the two classes was enjoyable, the side-effects from the medicine kept me feeling horrible most all the time as I tried to teach the classes both on campus in the mornings and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Statesville campus. I was especially impressed with the quality of the GOAL students at Statesville. They were one of the best, if not the best, class of adult students that I've taught since coming to Gardner-Webb some 3 1/2 years ago. The level of interest in learning was much higher than usual, as well as the academic quality of their work on tests and writing assignments. This kind of student makes teaching particularly delightful.

One experiment this summer that worked far better than anticipated was the use of a newly purchased IBM Notebook computer hooked up to a projector. Until the university moves into the new facilities later this summer in Statesville, no multimedia class room was available. In order to be able to utilize the massive material on the NT available at Cranfordville for teaching the course, I reproduced the web site on the hard drive of the computer. This way I could project over 90% of the materials on a large screen at the front of the class in order to illustrate the materials being covered during the class sessions. Graphic images etc. have been created on the web site not only for the students to use in their studies, but they are also designed for use in the classroom in order to make the issues easier to understand. The results of the experiment were very positive. What the students experienced during the class sessions could be reproduced on their own at any time day or night by simply going into the course room on the web site.

Each time I teach one of the survey courses on either the NT or the OT, I use the opportunity for updating and expanding the course room at Cranfordville.com. One of the projects begun during summer school was the expansion of the page providing an overview of the life of Christ. The direct link to the page is <http://cranfordville.com/Christot.htm>. Underneath the summary page is a duplicate page listing the various pericopes from the four gospels that plug in at certain points during Jesus' earthly life. A growing number of the pericopes contain hyperlinks enabling the Bible student to simply click on aspects of the pericope listing for studies of the passage, as well as the NRSV English translation and the Greek text of the passage. In very clear and often times dramatic fashion the different perspectives of the four gospels in telling the story of Jesus become evident. By a simple click of the computer mouse the scripture text comes up for reading and analysis. At a quick glance the double and triple tradition material comes up in parallel columns enabling instant comparison of the different gospel accounts of the same episode in Jesus' life. Much work remains, but it should be a helpful tool for study.

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Claire's Musings:

June 2001

As soon as I got home from my last school day for the summer vacation it was time to leave for our trip to Texas to attend two weddings.

Angie, Brian, Clay, and Taylor picked me up for our drive to Texas, which is about a 17-hour drive. We were all excited and ready to go.

We drove straight through, taking turns driving. Angie and Brian did most of the driving and I did some. Actually, it was not too bad because we could sleep part of the time. Angie and Brian had a fantastic idea in driving overnight, because Clay (6) and Taylor (16 months) slept a great deal of the time. The kids are good travelers. Occasional stops especially at McDonalds help.

We stayed with Ruth and Billy (parents-in-law) in Fort Worth. Angie and Brian had a lot of running around to do and I enjoyed just getting to relax and spend more time with Ruth and Billy. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up on visiting, because it has quite a while since we have had time to spend together.

The two weddings were on June 9, which was also Angie's birthday. My niece Trudy's wedding was at 11:00 on the other side of Fort Worth. We attended the wedding and most of the reception, but didn't get to visit long enough. Then we made a mad dash back to our side of town for Brian's sister's wedding. My part in the wedding was to take Taylor after she walked down the aisle. Of course, she and Clay were precious. There was only one small glitch. As Taylor passed by the bride's mother her dress caught on the mother's bracelet. It was really stuck and we finally had to rip the dress from the bracelet. The bride's mother was great, she never even panicked. Fortunately no one seemed to notice, except Angie who was up front as a bride's maid. She heard the "R-I-P!!".

Both weddings were beautiful and we visited with lots of family. That night Brian planned a surprise birthday party for Angie at Risky's BBQ in the Fort Worth Stockyards. She was truly surprised and we had fun with friends and family. Sunday after church and lunch we headed back home. This time we stopped overnight and rested some. It was fun, but it was certainly great to be back home in North Carolina.

Angie and I have been having a lot of fun scrapbooking. She loves to take pictures as much as I do and we both have so many pictures that we have a long way to catch up with our albums. It's more fun when we can work together and get ideas from each other. Clay is even enjoying this and he does quite well.

Lorin has still been feeling bad, sometimes from his blood pressure medicine. His latest tests this past week showed nothing, which is a relief, but at the same time something is wrong and he still feels bad. I wasn't even sure if I should go to Texas, because I was concerned about him. Keep Lorin in your prayers.

brothers and sisters^a. But the footnotes reflect the literal reading.

Such footnotes are quite useful for the serious Bible student is better understanding the meaning of the text. One should always check the translation Preface for insight here.



Lorin's Musings:

As we continue to take a look at the interpretative discipline called Textual Criticism, the question arises: How does this impact the English translation that I use for Bible study?

The answer, of course, depends upon which English translation is being used. Different Bible translation teams take different approaches to handling the variations of readings that exist in the Greek manuscripts to the NT.

For example, the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is based on the corrected third edition of the UBS Greek New Testament (cf. To the Reader, page xix), with some occasional variations. In this most recent translation, the Greek text critical apparatus is reflected in footnotes appearing at the point in the NT passage where variation takes place. Alternative manuscript readings will be introduced by the phrase *Other ancient authorities read* and then followed by an English translation of the most likely alternative reading. An illustration of this is found in James 1:17. The printed text reads *variation or shadow due to change*^c. But footnote ^c directs the reader to the alternative expression *variation due to a shadow of turning*.

A second way the Greek text is handled in the NRSV is to insert a footnote when legitimate alternative meanings exist in the underlying Greek text. In such instances, the NRSV footnote will begin with the word *Or*, to be followed by an English expression of the alternative meaning. In James 3:18 the printed text reads *is sown in peace for^f those who make peace*. But footnote ^f directs the reader to the alternative expression *by*. This creates the reading *is sown in peace by those who make peace*. The underlying Greek participle phrase τοῖς ποιουσιν εἰρήνην can be either the indirect object of the verb, thus rendering the translation as *for those making peace* or it can be the agency producing the verb action resulting in the expression *by those making peace*. The printed text rendering will reflect the NRSV translators judgment as to the preferred understanding, but in a desire to be honest with the reader, the alternative reading is listed in a footnote.

The third way in which the Greek text is treated by the NRSV translators is in footnotes that begin with the abbreviation *Gk*. Here the most literal rendering of the Greek text is listed, since inclusion in the translation text would violate the translation principles being followed. In the NRSV this most often shows up in one of two kinds of situations. (1) The Greek can make much more extension use of pronouns than is possible in English. To translate the Greek literalistically would produce so many pronouns that the English reader would quickly loose track of who is meant by all the he's, she's, them's etc. Thus the NRSV frequently inserts the antecedent of the pronoun instead of the pronoun for clarity's sake. For example in James 5:20 the Greek reads *his soul* as is reflected by footnote ^b, while the printed text reads *the sinner's soul*. This clarifies that the soul being saved is that of the sinner, not of the one leading the sinner to repentance, since both individuals are points of reference in the sentence. (2) The other pattern reflected by the NRSV is more controversial. With the translation guidelines mandating the use of inclusive language, the NRSV typically translates the less gender specific language inclusively. Most often this surfaces in vocative case expressions. For example in James 5:7, 9, 12, 19 the Greek expression ἀδελφοί (μου) is translated as *beloved^{b,d}*, *my beloved^b*, and *My*