



News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 4

Claire & Lorin Cranford
September 2001

Issue 9



Family Events:

Health update 3. I hope you're getting as tired of reading these as I am of needing to write them! This one is the hardest one to write.

First the good news. After struggling all summer to find medicine that would control the high blood pressure problems without overwhelming me with side effects, the right combination of drugs in the beta-blocker category were found at the end of July. The Lebetalol and Triamt medicines have brought this health problem under control and the cardiologist gave me a good report last week. The blood pressure now is averaging about 130 over 80. The diuretic in the Triamt does keep me tethered to the bathroom somewhat, but is manageable.

Now for the bad news. Last Wednesday, Sept. 12, the report came back from the prostate exam done the week before. The news is cancer in the prostate, and possibly elsewhere. For those who read this with a medical background the Gleason score is 6 and the ABCD Staging System stage is B1 or T2b. For the rest of us, the cancer is a middle grade cancer that is growing but isn't an aggressively growing, fast spreading cancer. The diagram reflects an approximation of the T2b / B1 stage category and provides some visual understanding of the condition. This means that it is treatable and although very serious, not a death certificate.



The immediate actions that are already underway include a bone marrow test etc. scheduled for Friday, Sept. 21, to determine whether the cancer is contained in the prostate or whether it has spread. Also, I began hormonal therapy treatment (at \$1,800 per injection) last Thursday designed to rapidly shrink the severely enlarged prostate. No treatment of the prostate is possible in its present, enlarged condition.

Of course, long term treatment strategy will depend on where the cancer is. If contained in the prostate, then a radical prostatectomy will most likely be scheduled at the earliest opportunity -- around Thanksgiving at the earliest -- in order to surgically remove the cancerous gland. If the cancer has spread, then some form of radiation therapy, perhaps in combination with chemotherapy, will begin once treatment is possible.

This coming Monday I will sit down with Dr. Klein, the neurologist, and go over the details of the massive testing done during August and early September on my nervous system. This problem has caused me extreme pain in my feet along with occasional tremors in the hands and arms. Walking has become almost impossible at times because of this. I go into this appointment with apprehension, not knowing the source of all this, which is completely unrelated to the cancer problem. Hopefully, the diagnosis won't reveal another devastating health problem, and will indicate a good prognosis for healing and/or for controlling the problem. Keep us in your prayers!



University Happenings:

In the midst of the health struggles I have experienced from the Gardner-Webb University community unbelievable levels of concern, willingness to help, prayers etc. It has been overwhelming to me. Words can't begin to articulate the gratitude and appreciation that floods up from inside me. Students, faculty, and staff have gone out of their way to give words of support and encouragement. One couldn't hope for a better place to teach and minister.

Another word of gratitude needs to be said to many, many other people from literally all over the world who have called, sent emails (over 125 at last count), written notes etc. Assurances of prayer support and concern have given me immeasurable encouragement and confidence to face the upcoming battle with the cancer and the other health problems. Many of you have shared personal stories of triumph over cancer, especially prostate cancer, thus giving me enormous boosts of spirit. To know that churches and Christians in South America, Africa, Europe, the Orient, as well as all over the United States and Canada are praying for Claire and me on a sustained basis just 'blows my mind'. You have provided me a marvelous 'book of inspiration' to read repeatedly over the next several months when moments of discouragement hit me. What a wonderful God we serve who can bring all of us together around a common concern and need. I will be forever changed by just this alone.

I also rejoice in the encouraging health report that my dear friend Prof. Harry Hunt in Fort Worth, TX, received from his heart attack on Aug. 13. Harry and I share the common trait of workaholicism, so I know it will be as difficult for him as for me to learn to slow down and adjust to a reduced pace. Another encouraging word comes from Fort Worth about Prof. Dan Kent. After undergoing bypass surgery the first of August, Dan suffered a stroke from a blood clot. But he is recovering steadily and has a good prognosis. We're so grateful for God's healing and sustaining presence.

We all are still in a state of shock and disbelief over the terrorist attacks on our country this past week. That so much damage and loss of life could be inflicted so quickly seems impossible. Even in small town Boiling Springs students, faculty and staff members have been touched directly with family members injured or killed in either Washington or New York. Our nation has been forever changed by these events. I pray that voices of reason and commitment to justice rather than revenge will prevail in the coming days as our leaders determine how to respond to these attacks. God clearly tells us in His Word that revenge is none of our business as Christians; He alone handles that department. We are instead to be passionately committed to seeking justice as a mighty river. Only wisdom from God can keep these two distinct.

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](http://Cranfordville.com) at <http://Cranfordville.com>

Ph: 704 434-5657
Fax: 704 434-0472
lcranford@carolina.rr.com



Claire's Musings:

Sept, 2001

We had another wonderful month with a visit from Donald, Hallie, Brittany, Preston, and Trevor over the Labor Day weekend. It's about a seven hour drive from Virginia and I know it's not an easy drive with three little ones, but we were so glad they came. We mostly stayed around the house with Hallie, Angie, and I doing a little shopping at the outlet mall. Saturday evening Angie, Brian, Clay, and Taylor along with Carrie and Daniel came over and we had a hamburger cookout. The house was full of kids and grand-kids and it was perfect. It's always good for all of us to get the opportunity to spend time together. This gave the grandkids a chance to get reacquainted. What a fantastic holiday weekend.

On Labor Day evening Gardner-Webb University had fireworks. Lorin and I sat on our front porch and watched the fireworks. It was very enjoyable and the evening was so cool that I needed a sweater. Oh, how I love North Carolina.

Angie has just begun a new job teaching second grade in the Shelby school system and is excited about it. Everyone seems to be so nice and she will have an assistant. I think she will have a good year.

This is the latest on my new job as librarian at my school. At the end of the last school year my principal asked if I would consider taking the librarian position. Several librarians had retired last year in our district and there was a shortage. I was quite honored that he thought of me. I liked the idea, but the major obstacle is having to get a Masters Degree in Media Technology. Most of my classes can be taken on-line for which I am grateful. The closest colleges where I can take these courses are at least two hours away. I plan on beginning my classes during the spring semester. I knew it would be difficult trying to begin my classes at the same time I began my new job. I was right because there have been some very long hours at the school.

I really like my new job. After spending most of my life wishing to be just a homemaker, I have found a job that I really enjoy. I have the opportunity to teach each child in our elementary school (475 at last count). I have each class for 45 minutes a week. I read a short book or story at the beginning of each class, give a short lesson and then the children begin looking for their books. One of the hardest parts of my job is being in the middle of the library on my computer checking out the books and at the same time trying to be teacher and leading the class. It's not easy convincing the children to use a library (whisper) voice while they are milling about the room. At the same time they are asking me questions and needing my help. In other words it is the same as a mom's job (only for about 25 kids), needing eyes in the back of my head, needing extra hands, etc. It's difficult trying to watch the students in different parts of the library, help them find books, and keep the noise down. I learn so much each day and am getting better each day, including the computer. I am finally understanding the various computer tasks and becoming faster. The library is busy between classes also with kids coming by and wanting to check in and out more books. Another difficult task is trying to keep up with all the books that need to be shelved. I struggle each day trying to keep up and am constantly behind. At my age it is not easy getting up and down off the floor because a large part of the books are on low shelves.

After saying all of this, I still insist I love my job. I don't have to deal with EOG (End-of-Grade) testing, nor grades or parents, and I don't have to bring work home. I still get to teach

Continued in right column



Lorin's Musings:

In this second segment on Bible translation, we continue to take a look at the history of the English Bible. For one of the best articles on the internet dealing with this, one should read David Burke's article at the American Bible Society URL: <http://www.researchcenter.org/homeframe.htm>.

From the work of Tyndale (ca. 1492-1536), who was the first to work with the Greek text of the NT, to the completion of the Authorized Version or King James Version in 1611, some ten English translations were produced and circulated as a part of the Anglican revolt against Roman Catholicism. These included the Coverdale Bible (1535), Matthew's Bible (1537), the Great Bible (1539), the Bishops Bible (1568), and the Geneva Bible (1560). Of these, the Bishops Bible became the 'standard' and most popular of these translations, although it was largely based on Matthew's Bible and represented an updating of it. Matthew's Bible itself was a completion of the work begun by Tyndale and Coverdale was one of its primary translators. All of these translations depended primarily on the Latin Vulgate as the basis of translation.

Thus when King James I brought together the 47 translators mostly from the faculties of Oxford and Cambridge universities in the first year of his reign, several English translations were already widely used in England. These translators were instructed to use the Bishops Bible as a base line guide for their translation, although they were also free to consult the available Greek and Hebrew manuscripts, which weren't many. One of the objectives of this new translation was to "rise above the divisive polemics of the notes and prologues of these early translations by presenting a translation that did not engage in the kind of acrimony that had been common" (Burke, History). The goal was to produce an English translation that "would stand above all others and thus serve and unite all users of English" (Burke, History). For the first 50 years after its release in 1611 the KJV was often labeled the "Devil's Bible" because it represented significant breaks with several of the popular earlier English translations in its use of the English language. Puritan Protestants, especially in the American colonies, were among its most sever critics because of its differences from the Geneva Bible which they revered.

But over time from 1611 to 1881 the KJV became the dominant English translation with periodic updatings of the English expressions. A massive new revision for the British English speaking world was begun in 1881 and released in 1885. The American English revision of the British work was released in 1901 as the American Standard Version. This signaled a new day for the English Bible since from this point on there would be British English oriented translations and American English translations.

Continued from left column

(which I love), I make lesson plans and have work for the students but in my situation I can't expect them to do homework and return it. I love being able to help the teachers and students find the particular books and information they are looking for. It is great getting work with so many students in my school. It's the best job I have ever had and truly enjoy it.

Lorin's health has been up and down and he has been through so much already. I have had such long hours at work, I'm afraid I haven't been much help for him. He has given me a scare several times lately, but always bounces back. Keep him in your prayers.