



Family Events:

No, we really haven't fallen off the world. For the first time since we began the newsletter in January of 1998, we missed sending out a monthly issue. The reasons revolve mainly around a very packed schedule and health issues. Combining both of these led to having to rescuffle our priorities and some other responsibilities moved to the top of the list.

Hopefully, things are beginning to loosen up somewhat on the schedule side, and so we should be able to get back into the pattern of a monthly issue.

In a quick update on health, let me share several things that have developed since the last newsletter in September. After the extreme bout of vertigo in September that led to an ambulance trip to the emergency room at the hospital, I have continued to suffer almost constant problems with dizziness and nausea. Most of the time these sensations have been just below the surface and have been manageable. But on occasion they have flared up and the "merry-go-round" started spinning again -- although not to the extent that it did last September.

Over the past several weeks I have noticed a growing difficulty keeping my balance when walking or standing. I'm using the cane a lot more now. Added to that has been a growing

number of times when my eyes would suddenly go out of focus for a few seconds. With growing concern, I scheduled a visit to our family doctor the second week of February. His recommendation was to set up an appointment with an eye-ears-nose-throat specialist to run a series of tests. Many of the symptoms I've been having are pointing toward the possible presence of [Ménière's Disease](#). The tests will both check toward that and toward possible other conditions causing these symptoms. This disease is essentially the growing inability of the inner ear to enable both hearing and balance. Unchecked the inner ears eventually stop working, with deafness and complete loss of balance as the outcomes. I will meet with the specialist on March 8 to begin undergoing these tests.

Needless to say I hope to find some kind of resolution of these problems soon. They have come at the same time that blood sugar problems have started developing with the diabetes, along with increasing pain in the feet from the neuropathy. Life these days is very much like walking a tightrope and trying to keep everything balanced so that you don't fall off and hurt yourself. About the time you get one set of things balanced out, a new puff comes along causing a whole new approach to staying balanced.

Mostly I'm grateful to still be able to achieve some measure of balance and continue my life with a reasonable amount of constancy.

Academics:

The month of February has been filled with several interesting items. Perhaps one of the more satisfying ones has been the work on developing programming skills in web design using a new cutting edge technology called [Content Management Systems](#) (CMS). Over the coming months the appearance of Cranfordville.com will change with a lot of new features and a more professional look. This, as I learn the necessary skills to gradually convert over the 5,000 plus files that makeup the web site now.

The idea of CMS is to divide out web design into two distinct aspects: (1) creation of content, and (2) the management of that content on the web site. The second part is where CMS comes into the picture, as the diagram below illustrates. This

program is located on the web site server, rather than on the individual designer's computer. The program that I'm learning is called [Mambo systems](#). It's a Linux based open source software that Donald is using through his company, [Katalyst Solutions](#) to host Cranfordville.com now.

He is very patiently helping me learn how to use this rather complicated software. In the technology age we live in, I have done a two hour tutorial session so far with him in Sterling VA and me in Boiling Springs NC working on the same file displayed simultaneously on our computer screens in each location. Through Instant Messaging or phone call links we communicate verbally and in written form, while he walks me through the procedures step by step. For me, this is the really exciting part: to get to work this closely with one of my sons on a joint project, and to learn from him.

The first set of files to be generated thus far is a growing number of interactive php forms where students can turn in assignments, request make-up tests etc. To see these, go to <http://www.cranfordville.com/class/index.php>. Each time a request is made the student sees a popup screen confirming that his/her request has been transmitted. Also they receive an automatically generated confirmation email. This is greatly simplifying these academic procedures for my students, and for me as well!

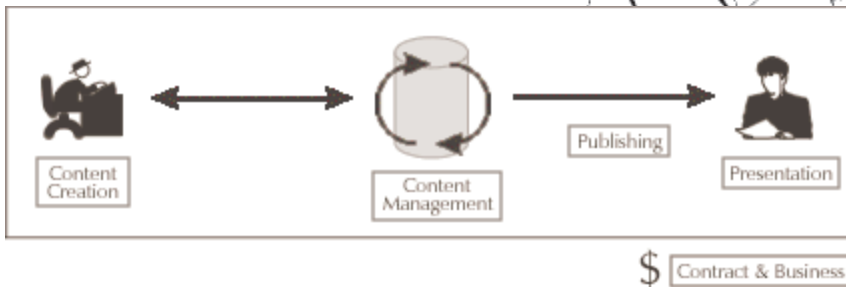


FIGURE: Content Management System Requirements



Claire's Musings:

March, 2005

We have been very busy lately and for the first time since beginning sending out our newsletters we have missed a few months. I had a major accomplishment by passing my PRAXIS exam, which completes my Masters of Library Science degree. Lorin was planning to attend some meetings in San Antonio, Texas when he discovered that my exam would be given in the same town on the same day (Saturday before Thanksgiving) that we would be there. It was great to get that behind me, which meant even less studying. I got the exciting results of the exam on Christmas Eve. What a wonderful relief! The trip was hectic and we could only visit some of the family quickly. The trip



Lorin's Musings:

In continuing our discussion of [the virtue lists](#) that show up in the letters of the New Testament we come to a list of virtues contained in Col. 3:12 (NRSV): "**As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.**"

In looking more closely at the five traits advocated here, several considerations become important. First, in the original Greek text, the sentence, in which verse 12 is found, runs through verse 14. Thus, verse 12 constitutes only the beginning part of what is being said. For a clear formatting of the sentence structure see my [Diagram of the Greek Text of Colossians](#) at Cranfordville.com.

The heart of Paul's admonition is for believers to "clothe themselves" [ἐνδύσασθε]. In literal terms the idea is to "get dressed." But how does a Christian "get dressed"?

One needs to look at the larger context of Col. 3:12 in order to set up a backdrop contextually for this admonition. The natural unit of text material here (=pericope) is usually understood as including [2:20 through 3:17](#). The United Bible Societies Greek New Testament labels these verses under the heading "The New Life in Christ." This is one of the major paraenetical sections of Colossians with the emphasis upon living the Christian life with a distinctive life-style.

The basis for the moral admonitions found in [2:20-3:17](#) is expressed in a couple of places. (1) 2:20a "If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world?" (NRSV). (2) 3:1a "if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above..." (NRSV). (3) 3:9b-10 "...seeing that you have **stripped off the old self** with its practices 3:10 and **have clothed yourselves with the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator" (NRSV).

In the first two passages one finds the language of the believer dying and being raised with Christ. In both verses the "if" clause is couched in an assumption of this (Greek first class conditional sentence). It is assumed that authentic believers have become participants in the death and resurrection of Christ. The enormous divine power and spiritual benefit of Christ's death on Calvary as demonstrated in His coming back to life on Easter Sunday have been made available to the believer through his/her identification with Christ's death and resurrection in conversion. The verbs in the Greek text

required a lot of driving (especially to and from here and Texas). Lorin drove almost the entire trip and I crocheted. We were glad to get home from such an exhausting trip.

Christmas was wonderful, because Brian, Clay, and Taylor spent Christmas with us, along with Carrie and Mark. It was wonderful to have family here. Of course, I had an opportunity to get some great pictures of Clay and Taylor. They are so very precious and we miss them so much. The great part is that we know they are where they need to be, surrounded by lots of supportive family.

Now that I don't have to study anymore, I am enjoying getting "my office" organized, with an emphasis on photography. I am also enjoying having part-time help in the school library. And, last but not least, I enjoy getting enough sleep now. Life is getting easier now!!

(Aorist tense) make it clear that this identification took place at the believer's own death and resurrection -- a spiritual transaction connected with being born again. Thus, one's conversion experience is described in terms of spiritual death and resurrection.

The third passage, 3:9b-10, uses language more closely related to the key admonition in 3:12 -- getting undressed and getting dressed. But these terms are conceptually linked to dying and being raised. To die spiritually is to "get undressed" [ἀπεκδυσόμενοι]. What is it that we take off? 3:9b says "our old self" [τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον]. The commitment to Christ (cf. 3:1-2) means a turning over of our old way of life to Christ in an act of death. We turn loose of it; we bury it in our commitments and attachment to it. Along with it is "its practices" [σὺν τοῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ], i.e., the old self's pattern of behavior.

But getting undressed is only the first step. We must get dressed [ἐνδύσόμενοι] also. With what? 3:10 says with **the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator**" (NRSV) [τὸν νέον τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτόν]. Here the language of "being raised with Christ" is linked to "getting dressed with the new self." We move out of death into life, but a life now oriented to Christ and endowed with His transforming presence and power. This new self is constantly being renewed -- revitalized [τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον] -- into a deeper experiential understanding of God and God's ways.

The nature of this new life is described in 3:1-4 -- "3:1 So if you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things** that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 3:2 Set **your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3:3 for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 3:4 When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory" (NRSV).

Out of this conceptual framework then the "getting undressed" segment is described with more detail in 3:5-11, and the "getting dressed" part in 3:12-17.

The foundational admonition in 3:12, "clothe yourselves," then means to begin a process (Present Imperative Greek verb) of incorporating the life of Christ into our way of living. Through His presence by the Holy Spirit our daily living and life are gradually transformed by the qualities and traits that He possesses.

More on this in next month's newsletter.