



News from the Blue Ridge



Claire & Lorin Cranford

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Family Events:

☼ The middle of July continued our series of summer visitors. Greg and Jennifer were able to drive up from College Station, Texas on a fast vacation trip to see several different people. They arrived on Sunday afternoon, July 19 to spend Sunday and Monday with us before going on to Virginia to see Donald and Hallie, then college friends in Atlanta on the way back home. Although it was a short time, we had a most wonderful time together showing them around the Boiling Springs area on Sunday afternoon, eating at our Italian restaurant in BS Sunday evening, and then hiking all over Chimney Rock Monday after I finished teaching in the morning.

Greg and Claire were able to celebrate new teaching jobs together, for Greg also had accepted a teaching position the week before. Starting this fall he will teach high school math and coach the baseball and basketball teams at Allen Academy in College Station, a private school somewhat like Country Day school in Fort Worth. We had a neat time talking about the education world with all four of us teachers. Jennifer is teaching third grade at the Pebble Creek Elementary School in the College Station ISD. She has her own school web page that can be accessed through <http://pc.collegestation.isd.tenet.edu>. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

☼ The last weekend in July brought another delightful visit from Jon and Shanna Campbell. We relived days gone by when I used to meet Jon and his seminary sidekick Dan Marshall at Ralph's for breakfast in their student days at Southwestern. Jon is now a computer consultant for a company in Houston that installs the People Software systems in universities to keep track of records etc. on a centralized system. He is working for two months at Duke University helping the company convert the entire university system over to this program. Shanna is a computer consultant specializing the computer training. She flew up this weekend from their home outside Tyler, Tx and they drove down to spend Saturday with Claire and me. They are active in church life, and Jon just had an article published in Proclaim Magazine dealing with sermon preparation. What a wonderful time we had showing them around the campus and the area. One of the joys of teaching is to watch young people move into significant places of contribution to society and the Kingdom.

☼ We are looking forward to Donald, Hallie and the kids coming down the first weekend in August. Then Carrie arrives on Aug. 12 for a 6 day visit. With Claire's school starting classes on Aug. 17 and mine on Aug. 26 summer is just about over. It's been busy but oh so rewarding and enjoyable.



University Happenings:

Summer time in western NC means an unusually slow paced, laid back lifestyle. All around us one can notice the slower summer pace of living here in Boiling Springs. The second five week summer school term has allowed me the opportunity to enjoy some of this. Numerous faculty colleagues haven't been seen on campus since spring graduation the first of May. The GWU summer school program is a greatly scaled back curriculum of mainly core courses. Teaching in the summer means dealing with many students repeating courses in order to keep off academic probation, or else, to avoid losing some type of scholarship.

Additionally, faces around campus look much younger during summer. Churches and youth groups of various kinds lease out dorm space and conduct summer camps on campus. Toward the middle of July was the huge summer youth camp Crossroads. Busses and kids were everywhere! Parking spaces were at a premium and gotten only very early in the morning! One notices a lot of remodeling and new construction around the campus as well. The business school faculty has been counting the days until the move from the third floor of our building into the new building. Already offices on the third floor are flooded with boxes from either packing professors or others starting to move in. Every time I go to the copy room up there, the question comes on whether I'm going to move upstairs or not. With a nice office in the religion dept suite that has its own private bathroom, I don't plan on moving until retirement day. Although frustrating at times, new construction is a symbol of the good health the university is enjoying, and thus tolerable. Working in a growing and thriving institution is better than in one with declining enrollments, budgets and deteriorating facilities.



The demands of writing the new Greek grammar have kept my nose to the grindstone virtually every waking moment outside of the classroom this summer. The excitement to finally be putting together the concepts hammered out over the past two plus decades of teaching Koine Greek is very real. Also there is the excitement of venturing into a new domain of electronic publishing with the Adobe Pagemaker and Acrobat formats. To create a textbook where the length doesn't impact the price of the final product is exciting -- and dangerous!! Hopefully the students will benefit from a genuinely new approach to grasp this ancient language.

104 College Manor Drive
PO Box 1415
Boiling Springs, NC 28017-1415

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



☺ Claire's Musings:

This month has been something else with bad and good news. Some of you will remember one of my previous deaf students, Shelbi and her mom, Kodi. Kodi, was given two months to live due to cancer and she died just last week. Kodi's wedding present to me when Lorin and I married was to fix my hair for my wedding and she and Shelbi were there for me. Later Lorin married Kodi and Grant and I had the privilege of interpreting the wedding ceremony for Shelbi. It's not often that a person gets to stand next to the preacher and be a part of the wedding ceremony. Kodi will be missed greatly.

The good news is that my very good friend, Anita (whom I taught with at Snow Heights) is expecting her second child. I am so excited for her and I know that Breanna will be a good big sister. Between Anita and Nancy Sinclair, I have been able to keep up with what has been happening at Snow Heights and some of my friends that I miss. They are a part of what has made my transition here a little easier. What would any of us do without such good friends.

School has been so tough for me especially Statistics, Chemistry, and now Geology. It seems so strange to me that how can something be so hard, yet so enjoyable. I enjoyed the class lectures by excellent professors and even the homework. The bad part were the tests. I guess there's always a catch.

Well, now for more good news. I don't have to worry about the tough science classes. All I have to worry about is how to teach about 22 "tough" fourth graders. I have just been hired at James Love Elementary School in Shelby for fourth grade. I already love the principal, she is very, very nice. The first



????Claire's New School????

time I walked into the school after the interview at the administration building, she gave me a great big hug. She seems as happy for me to be there as I am happy to be there. New teachers start July 27, so it's already time for me to start getting ready. They have already given me some homework. I need to start reading some of the novels that the students will be working on during the year. It is exactly 7.2 miles from our house and, of course, a beautiful drive. It's that way here no matter which way you go around here. I'm still on "cloud 9", and of course, giggling. Poor Lorin, I don't know when I will be able to settle down. I was so discouraged for a while right after we moved here when I was told I would have to go back to school for more certification. As usual, God had it all planned out, but I don't have as much patience as I should have.

I will miss my drive to Gardner-Webb University. I learned that I needed to drive more slowly and on the lookout, especially in the early mornings. I never knew when I might see rabbits hopping across the road, or turtles, and one day I even saw a beaver sitting by the roadside. There is a small creek running next to the road, so it is such a natural habitat.



✌ Lorin's Musings:

One of the frustrations that seems to follow Baptists these days, no matter where they live, is the stupid actions of the national SBC leadership. Living in NC where one of the craziest one of them works doesn't help matters! At least, he's in the opposite end of the state and light years from GWU thinking.

Shortly after the Salt Lake City fiasco in June over "wifely submission" the following editorial cartoon appeared in the Charlotte Observer capturing the essence of the SBC actions. As a Baptist I was embarrassed by the convention action. It represents a horrible misinterpretation of the scripture and reveals an appalling lack of sensitivity to both the message and the spirit of Christ, not to mention plain ignorance of basic principles of biblical interpretation. The Haustafeln passages in Ephesians and Colossians are interpreted through the pagan eyes of ancient Platonic philosophy without ever seeing how radically Paul challenged that demeaning view of women with the Gospel message. These modern day leaders are making the same deplorable errors the early Church Fathers did in reinterpreting the Bible through Platonism.



The dignity and worth of the contributions of untold numbers of SBC women was spit upon in the name of biblical religion! The decades of devoted service that my mother gave to the Lord as a church leader and minister of music are dismissed as worthless by this action. Not to mention the work of numbers of Southern Baptist women deacons and ministers whom I've observed over the past decades. There has to be some irony in the fact that Southern Baptists made this decision in the capital city of a religious movement littered with the dark legacy of polygamy.

In a concern to strengthen the family, this action has played into the hands of Satan by exposing SBC superficiality and hypocrisy and will ultimately harm genuine family life and values far more than help. It reveals how out of touch with modern life, with biblical principles of justice and human value the SBC leaders are. No amount of SBC action is going to take American family life back into the 1700 and 1800s. Sensitive Christian women will never allow that to happen.

Repeatedly since the June action article after article has appeared in the Charlotte Observer exposing the wrongness of this resolution -- and forcing Baptist women to have to justify to others why they, in Heavens name, would want to be identified with a religious group taking such a stand. In fact, some large Baptist congregations in NC are now moving to disassociate themselves completely with the national SBC organization. Others will follow suit if such actions continue.

One of the first questions President White asked me last summer in the job interview was whether I supported full opportunity for women to serve in the life of the church. I gladly answered yes and take great pride in the positive stance of GWU affirming women in every capacity of Christian service.