



# News from the Blue Ridge

Claire & Lorin Cranford



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## Family Events:

The first full weekend in Aug brought Don, Hallie and the three grandkids down for a visit from Fri through Sun, Aug 7-9. What a wonderful time we had showing them around. On Fri we went to Claire's school, James Love Elementary, and got to see her classroom and meet several teachers and the principal -- and catch some of the excitement Claire has about her new teaching position. Fri evening after dinner we, of course, had to go walking along the path by the Broad River!

Sat was the BIG day for sightseeing with a trip first to Chimney Rock, then to Linville Caverns, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Little Switzerland and a lot of spectacular scenery in between. God did some of his finest creative work in making this part of the world! At Chimney Rock we didn't go up on the mountain because of the danger to the small ones and having to watch them so closely. Instead, Grandpapa and Mimi took the three kids down to the mt. stream while mom and dad did some shopping in the village. Preston and I found a place for him to chunk at least 300 stones into the steam! Even Trevor got into it a bit, but big sister, Brittany, thought the rocks were too dirty to pick up!



Linville Caverns are a scaled down version of Carlsbad Caverns in NM, but a lot closer to us and quite interesting. Most spectacular, however, are the winding mountain roads coming up into the Blue Ridge Mts. Some of the overlooks along the Blue Ridge Parkway are absolutely unbelievable in their view.

Sunday School at our church in Shelby brought the trip to a close and the long 7 1/2 trip back home to Sterling, VA. Saying goodbye to these kids gets harder each time. Immediately we begin looking forward to the next visit.

That meant Wed, Aug 12, when Carrie arrived for a 7 day visit. Carrie's time seemed way too short and with not enough time to get everything packed into seven days. The daytimes on Thurs, Fri and Mon were Kiddo's and my opportunity to spend time together, since Mom was teaching school already. On Thursday we packed in a hike at King's Mt. Military Park, the site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle in 1780 that turned the tide against the British military in the colonies. Friday we did the high trail at Chimney Rock with some breathtaking views looking down over the valley, then went on to the Blue

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## University Happenings:

Summer school graduation at GWU on Aug 1 was an interesting and new kind of experience for me. Since SWBTS hasn't had summer school graduation for quite a number of years, getting ready to go to graduation in August seemed a bit strange. Yet the program was a most delightful experience with over 150 graduates in the undergraduate and graduate school programs. Those graduating in summer historically are mostly the students in the G.O.A.L. (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) program. The undergraduate program allows most to complete their program in a very intensive 24 month program of night school and weekend classes with credit given for job experience etc. after an associates degree. Most of these are enrolled in the R.N. degree program of the School of Nursing. It was gratifying to watch six or seven of these graduate who had been in one of my Bible courses either this spring or during one of the summer terms. Most of the M.A. degrees were related to the School of Education and are public school teachers and administrators completing an advanced degree program, although several were M.B.A. degrees from the Broyhill School of Business.

With a very short break in the first couple of weeks of August, activities for the fall semester cranked up. The orientation meeting of the G.O.A.L. program on Sat. Aug. 15, then the faculty retreat on Aug. 18-19. This retreat was at Bonclarken Camp Grounds about a hour west of Boiling Springs at the Presbyterian center. The Victorian style buildings nestled up in the mountains with lakes all around were delightful. This was a genuine retreat with a good blend of fun, information and inspiration. Causal dress, a lot of visiting to get acquainted with new colleagues, some absolutely hilarious skits by certain faculty members poking fun at colleagues and administrators, an inspiring sermon by the football coach -- these were but a few of the highlights of a wonderfully renewing two days to get us ready for the fall semester. The huge diversity of the faculty coupled with a genuine caring and respect for one another impresses me tremendously about GWU.

My classes for the fall semester are shaping up to be a good opportunity to impact some young lives. The first and second year Greek classes are MWF 8 & 10 and two OT intro courses 8 & 10:25 on TTh, plus the G.O.A.L. NT intro class on Tues evenings at Gaston Community College 8:10-10:25. This class has almost 40 enrolled! Most every afternoon will be free for research and writing on the two major projects of the moment: finishing the Greek grammar and an article for Review and Expositor Journal.

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**For all kinds of info about us as well as a HTM & a PDF copy of this newsletter, check out our homepage Cranfordville at <http://www.shelby.net/cranford/index.htm>**

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## Claire's Musings:

As usual things have been hectic, but fun, too. We had such a great time with Greg and Jennifer's visit. We really enjoy taking our guests to Chimney Rock and we all had so much fun. Greg and I, both, were able to celebrate our new teaching jobs. After their visit I went with my Geology class on a field trip to Linville Caverns. I learned so much on that trip, our professor was a tour guide there when he was a teenager. Since he is about my age, you can imagine how long ago that must have been. Then I had to drop my class, because I needed to start the last of July on a week of new-teacher meetings. Then, in the first part of August Donald, Hallie, and the kids came to visit us. I had another excuse to visit Linville Caverns again. We all had a wonderful time and were able to see some more new countryside. The time went by much too fast and when they left the house was much too quiet and lonesome. We had gotten a little used to two extra adults and three small children. I amazes me that we were able to find a place to sleep for all of them, and thank goodness the kids seemed to enjoy sleeping on pallets on the floor.

A couple of days later Carrie came for a six-day visit. It didn't seem quite fair that Lorin and Carrie were out having fun, while I was at school. They did some great sightseeing and I was really glad. Then on Saturday, Lorin had meetings, so Carrie and I did some things together. Carrie has turned into quite a photographer and is talking about taking a photography class. I'm sure that I must have been her inspiration, because I always enjoyed taking pictures when Carrie and Angie were growing up.

Well, I have survived the first two weeks of school. I have had to adjust to fourth graders and right now there are only 16 in my class. It's amazing, but every single time when I have to discipline a student for talking, or running, or whatever (and even though they are caught red handed with lots of witnesses), they always say they did not do it. Not one of the students have admitted to their guilt. Everyone has expressed their innocence and no one could admit they were wrong. Aren't kids funny? Last Friday one student got hurt in P.E. and his mouth was bleeding, and he started crying. At the same time another student was upset with me and threw a crying fit during class. And both were crying at the same time. Right after that another student threw up. I was certainly glad for the day's end. I'm assuming that will not be a typical day. I'm getting used to my class schedule and hope that things will calm down a little now. I look forward to P.E. at 1:00, because then I can take a bathroom break. It's awfully busy, but I like that. Already the fourth grade teacher, who is my mentor, is turning into a good friend. Carol and I will be traveling to Asheville in Nov. for a teachers' workshop on reading and writing. We're both looking forward to having a good time together.

When the hurricane came through North Carolina, both Angie and Carrie called to see if we were okay. I think they were surprised when we described our weather as hot and sunny and no rain at all. It sure made us feel good, that they were concerned about us. And besides, it was another good excuse

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## Lorin's Musings:

The Greek grammar project has moved along this summer like cold molasses! But it is steadily advancing toward final completion. The first year Greek students will get a surprise - a free textbook for the fall semester that will be handed to them on a computer diskette. The target completion date is now Thanksgiving for the production of the CD-ROM final product.

The excitement I feel is the opportunity to put into final product form the concepts and insights gleaned from teaching this subject for almost a quarter of a century. At the heart of the approach is the teaching of this ancient language around conceptual ideas which then are linked up to grammar forms and structures. Each lesson explores theme topics, i.e., the expression of joy and anger. How was this done in Koine Greek? The spellings of words, prepositional phrases, idioms etc. used to express these emotions are then introduced along with vocabulary covering these two basic human emotions. Through this the students identify both the similarities and the differences between the first century Greco-Roman world and late twentieth century American perspectives. Grammar is automatically linked to basic human concepts of reality.

Those readers of this newsletter familiar with the way Greek grammars are written traditionally will recognize some radical departures from the usual run-of-the-mill grammar. Hopefully this experiment can break some genuinely new ground along with dramatically increasing the student's comprehension of the first century thought world and how the Greek language became the vehicle for expressing those perspectives.

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### Continued from Claire's Musings

to talk to them. There are two main butterflies that I see here. One is black with a lot of beautiful yellow; the other is black with of blue. When I see one on the street that has died, I try to stop and get it. I just can't bring myself to kill one. I have decided that I should have a bumper sticker on my car that says, "I brake for butterflies".

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Ridge Parkway and worked our way south down to Ashville, NC, stopping at most every overlook for the scenery. Mt. Mitchell at 6684 ft elevation is the highest point in the U.S. east of the Mississippi River. The views from there were spectacular looking down on the tops of clouds floating between the mt. peaks. Sat was Carrie and Mom's day to spend together, since I had meetings at the university. Sunday after church we drove into downtown (out here 'uptown') Charlotte to get a feel for the city. Monday Carrie and I made the trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C. -- about a 4 hr drive -- and spent time at the Atlantic beaches there. We got the full range of experience, from the moutains to the ocean with beautiful countryside in between.

Claire and I have marvelled about how wonderful our summer has been with family and friends visiting us. All but Chris and Charis made it out among the kids; hopefully, they will get to next summer. Friends from Birdville Baptist Church and a former seminary student and his wife were sandwiched among kids. All of it has made for a wonderful first summer in NC!