



News from the Blue Ridge



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Claire & Lorin Cranford
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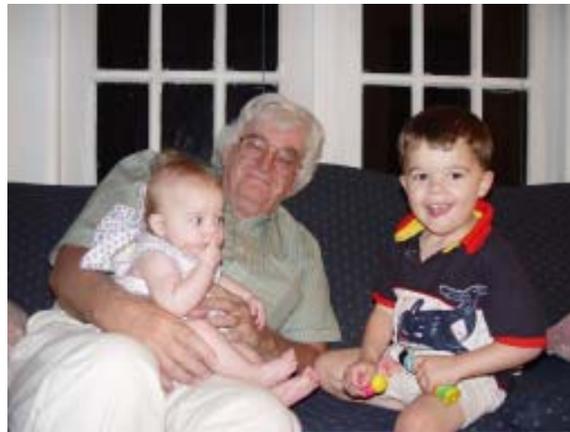


Family Events:

3,250 plus miles of driving in fourteen days! That was our 'vacation' trip to Texas. Although it sounds depressing, actually the trip was most enjoyable and fun. This extensive time that Claire and I spent driving in the car turned into some really quality time together where we could talk and be together. Our hectic regular schedules force us to work hard at having quality time with one another, so this provided us some large chunks of time together.

Additionally, the trip wasn't nearly as hard on my diabetic feet and arthritis as I had anticipated. When we arrived home on Wed., June 25, we were both very tired but my feet were in relatively good shape from the trip. We didn't rush when we were on the road, stopping about 4:30 in the afternoons for the night when traveling. The four basic stops -- Rockwall, Ft. Worth, Huntsville, Corpus Christi -- afforded us the chance of multiple day stays, thus making things easier. Two days were spent getting to Texas and three days coming home from Corpus Christi.

Most of all, the trip was a wonderful opportunity to visit family and friends, some of whom we hadn't seen in many years. My sister and I managed to get Claire on a horse to do some riding. The pictures of her on one of Lynelle and John's horses, Montana, reflect a 'true Texas cow-girl,' even with six-shooter in hand! Posting these pictures this fall at Cliffside Elementary School will be her warning to the kids to really 'walk the chalk-line.' One highlight of the trip was a wonderful time together with about two-dozen members of Springdale Baptist Church where I pastored from 1968 through 1974. We met at Angelos in Ft. Worth and had a wonderful time visiting and enjoying some of the finest Texas barbecue ever made! Spending some time with colleagues, Harry and Pat Hunt and David Kirkpatrick at SWBTS, as well as with David Balch at TCU, provided opportunity to renew friendships and catch up on things in the metroplex. Wednesday evening I spoke at the Ridgecrest Baptist Church where I was serving as interim pastor when we moved to NC in Dec. of 1997. These fine people have consistently prayed for Claire and me, especially during all the health problems I've had over the past two years. Time with Mike Brinkley, and with Dwaine and Eleanor Greene filled out our Ft. Worth stay. On our way from Huntsville to Corpus Christi we stopped in Austin and had lunch with Lyndia Slayton, a college friend from East Texas Baptist University in 1960-61. What a wonderful delight to get to spend some time with her after not having had contact in about forty years. Then, in Jackson, Miss., we met a



University Happenings:

When we arrived home on Wed., June 25, we turned around to attend the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting in Charlotte beginning on Thursday. I've not been able to attend such meetings in quite some time, so it was delightful to be able to go for at least some of the sessions. My bad feet gave me fits after the extensive walking and standing at the Thursday sessions and thus we didn't get to attend either Friday or Saturday. But the NC CBF meeting, the ABP banquet, and the evening CBF worship service on Thursday were wonderful. What a refreshing experience to be with Baptists who are not fussing and fighting about some issue, and who are focused on being true to the Gospel of Christ in living and ministry. These were truly uplifting and inspirational moments that brought to me renewed hope for the future of Baptists in the U.S. and in NC. Very capable leaders are guiding these groups and helping to keep us focused on the matters that

really count -- reaching out to a hurting and grieving world with the marvelous message of new life in Christ. My prayer and hope is that increasing numbers of Baptists, especially Southern Baptists, will realize the importance of these organizations and become supporters. Our world greatly needs a positive witness from Baptists these days.

former seminary student, Teresa Dickens, for lunch and a delightful visit.

Getting to visit with family was a major part of the visit. The weekend with my sister in Rockwall began things. Unfortunately, John was in NC, so we didn't get to see him. Father's Day supper with Chris, Charis and their four kids came next. Visits with Ruth and Billy Allen, and with Claire's two sisters and their families filled out much of the Ft. Worth time, as well as time with my stepmother, Nita, in Mineral Wells. The trip wound up in Corpus Christi with my brother and his wife. They're getting ready to build a retirement home in Hot Springs, Ark.; thus, we'll be able to see them a little easier. Of course, a major reason for the trip was to spend time with Anabeth and Andrew in Huntsville. It was pure Heaven to be with these little ones. Greg has just accepted a high school coaching job in Temple, TX, so they'll be moving the middle of July. New challenges for him and Jennifer.

So much could be said, but I'll not bore you with more details. We did, however, have an absolutely wonderful time. Even managed to get over to the Ft. Worth stockyards and buy a pair of genuine Texas cowboy boots at Leddy's.

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Claire's Musings:

July, 2003

Wow! This has been quite an exciting and exhausting month. The first weekend in June Angie, Clay, Taylor, and I went to visit Carrie and Daniel in Jacksonville, Florida. The trip going and coming back was fun, we even sang along with songs like "Purple People Eater". Clay and Taylor were good travelers and both were excited about their first trip to the beach. Daniel helped them build sand castles and Carrie and Daniel buried the kids in the sand. Daniel spent most of his time helping both kids to "surf." For little Taylor that meant sitting on his back while Daniel was lying on the board and catching waves. Clay learned to lie on the board and catch waves. Lots of new experiences. When Taylor got a taste of the salt water, she said the water tasted old. Daniel later helped the kids catch small perch in the pond behind their apartment. The morning we were leaving we went to the naval base and saw some of the planes on display. It was a fast and furious and fun weekend for all of us.

June 11 was my last workday at school and we were leaving the next day for a two-week vacation driving around Texas. The only way I had time to get ready for the trip and take care of things around the house was to not go to bed that night. It worked okay and I slept in the car. Our first overnight stay was in Little Rock, Arkansas and we had a breathtaking view out our motel room: a dumpster. Most of our long trip to Texas was perfect, cool and cloudy weather.

Our first visit was to Rockwall, Texas to see Lorin's sister, Lynelle (John was on a job in North Carolina). We had a wonderful time and I had the opportunity to catch up on some sleep. We ate at a quaint little restaurant called "The French Pear" and looked at antiques. Lynelle and I really enjoyed eating Blue Bell Vanilla Bean ice cream, which I have missed being able to get here. A real highlight (sort of) for me was riding their horse Montana. I am definitely not a horse person and was very nervous, but still enjoyed it. Actually, Lorin led the horse around for me, which was definitely for the best. It was such a momentous occasion we took lots of pictures complete with cowboy hat and a gun (unloaded, of course). When Lorin rode he looked much more professional because he was raised on a farm and ranch. We had a wonderful visit with Lynelle, but missed getting to see John.

Sunday, June 15th, we arrived at the Comfort Inn in Fort Worth (across the highway from a Cracker Barrel). It was perfect timing to get to spend Father's Day with oldest son Chris and Charis, and their four children Michael, Katie, Aaron, and Helen. We met at Salt Grass Restaurant and it was so busy that the service was slow, which was perfect, because we got to visit longer. The kids are really growing up fast. I got tickled because as I was talking to Chris an appetizer was delivered. By the time I turned around to get some there was almost nothing left. I forgot that when you eat with a family of four children you



Lorin's Musings:

The writers of the NT made use of the OT using interpretative methods current in their day, rather than with modern methods. The ancient Jewish **Pesher** (means 'explanation') and Peshru (means 'they explain') approach surfaces in both intertestamental Judaism and in the NT. The Habbakkuk Commentary (1QpHab) in the Dead Sea Scrolls is one of the clearest, lengthy examples. After quoting from each Hebrew text pericope of Hab. 1-2, there follows a formula that includes the word *pesher*, e.g., 'its interpretation is that...' (psrw 'sr). A thematic approach to pesher interpretation existed also in addition to the continuous pesharim; one common theme in ancient Jewish writings was Melchizedek. Scholars debate the extent of Hebrew pesharim that shows up in the NT. If *pesher* is strictly defined along the Dead Sea Scrolls patterns, then limited use of it can be demonstrated in the NT. Some, however, are convinced that the use catchwords in stringing together a series of OT texts in Rom. 3:10-18 represents a NT version of this approach to the OT. More common, though, is the Jewish *midrash* approach, which we will examine in next month's column. For a helpful discussion of the use of *pesher* at Qumran, see G.J. Brooke, "Pesharim," Dictionary of NT Background.

need to move fast. I had so much fun visiting with all of them, especially the kids, they are a lot of fun.

Monday we visited with a friend of Lorin's from TCU and then at lunchtime we visited with members of Springdale Baptist Church where Lorin was pastor at one time. It was a great time

of sharing memories with each other, not to mention delicious Texas BBQ at Angelos.

That afternoon we had a wonderful time visiting with my late husband's parents, Ruth and Billy, who are really like our parents. They came out to see us last summer and now they know why we love living in North Carolina. We were so fortunate that more of the family was able to come over for a time of family fun. Sue and Vance, Charles and George Anna, and Judy were there and there was just not enough time to catch

up on everything. We still managed to have fun anyway.

Tuesday we met at Cracker Barrel with another friend and then out to Perrin (where Lorin grew up) to visit with his step mom, Nita in the retirement home. She is such a sweet lady, one of those kind of people that is always thinking of others. I hope when I get her age that I can be just like her.

Tuesday evening we met Ruth and Billy at Luby's and had another wonderful visit. Because our meetings are on the run, I am so glad that they were able to come to North Carolina last summer. When people come to visit us we get to spend much more quality time together. That's a hint for those of you who would like to see the most beautiful mountains and see us, too. Y'all come.

To be continued next month

