

# Simplici-Tea & Crumpets

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*Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. Psalm 66:16 ... a deeply held conviction that we make our lives harder than they have to be. ... An excerpt from my Mission Statement.*

This is what is brewing this month:

**The Tea's Pot ~ Nativi-Tea ~ a recipe for Nut Rolls and I am going to share a recipe that I have long kept secret ~ and "Crumpets" We will be brief since we are all have so much to do, but I wanted to make sure we had time for a small tête-à-tête! Thank you for taking time to visit with me. We'll begin at *The Tea's Pot!***



## *Chatting at the Tea's Pot*

Did you ever just see something written and you were inspired? For many years I have been passing a small tea shop called Tea's Pot. Never giving it much thought I brushed it aside thinking that once again a sign carelessly done. It struck me recently as I read the sign aloud, that there just may be some real creativi-tea there! Just think about it, several ways! I like it! Christmas in India; here we are. This is the third consecutive Christmas we will celebrate here and it is really wonderful. The wonder of the truth of the nativity is new. Each year is another opportunity to introduce people to Emmanuel; many will come to a special service here too, that would not otherwise come. For me the highlight will be when our young men, as wise men, bow and sing in Kannada the song, "Emmanuel", as they worship the Christ child with gold, frankincense and myrrh. It is especially beautiful because I have watched these young men grow into faith since they were children. Almost like watching my own children. We have our own traditions here.

After the candle light portion of the service we have a lovely fellowship where everyone brings some of their own Christmas sweets to share. Our part in the tradition has become the trays and trays of brownies we serve, fixing enough for everyone, since it is an American sweet.



## *The “Nativi-Tea”*

*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 1:17*

(The Story that is **all Christmas**; Luke’s account in chapter 2, and will be read in homes all over the world on Christmas morning! May God be glorified in your home by this reading too!)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these

things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Though this word, nativity, is not unique to the Christmas story, it has become synonymous with it and is where it is most often used and understood as a reference by practically the whole world. It originates from a Latin word meaning *birth or origin: birth or origin, especially the place, process, or circumstances of being born*. I would say that it has come to refer to the “birth of all births”! The Nativity *is* Jesus Christ! We think of this night of nights as being so quiet, but it was likely not. I am reminded of a small poem about this night.

***And in His manger laid,  
The hope and glory of all lands  
Is come to the world's aid.  
No peaceful home upon His cradle smiled,  
Guests rudely went and came where slept the royal Child. Kebel***

Not everyone went through the town loudly and irreverently; there were shepherds abiding in the fields by night. This is where the Good News was heralded by angels! It was not a silent night, but it was a holy night!

Bethlehem was crowded because of people coming in as required for the census, which would be the preliminary to the taxing. It was likely very loud and as we know, there was no room in the inn. We are reminded that this was no accident that our Saviour should be born in lowly conditions; Scripture tells us many times and in many ways that He did not come as we would think a King should. *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:* Philippians 2:7 and His coming is foretold in a favorite chapter in Isaiah. Chapter 53, verse 2 tells us that “*when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*” Surely if you would look at a person born in a stable today you would think that person would be destined to being a servant. Servant yes, but so much more. Our everything.

From a human perspective, it is very difficult to let others think poorly of us, particularly when we know they have the wrong perspective. From a human perspective, I also remember my mother reminding me not to worry, that it would “all come out in the wash”. She was right and one day every one will know the truth and every knee should bow. I would encourage you to bow your knee every day you have the strength and ability to do it. He called us “friends”, but Jesus Christ is still God and worthy of worship, delights in worship.

Recently India was reminiscing how we used to read a story from a Christmas book every night before Christmas and then on Christmas we’d read the actual story in Luke. This particular tradition ended one night minutes before we were to read our little book; we had a house fire on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1999. After India finished her story about this

Christmas memory, I reminded her that I found this book in the ashes and that I still have it. Another book did not burn that night. In our dining room, I had an oak rocker that I had rocked my children in beside of an oak tea cart. Both pieces burned beyond recognition as did everything else in the room as this was the room that burned the hottest. Lying on top of the ashes was my Bible that had been on the tea cart. It was slightly singed and a bit dirty on the cover, but it did not burn. I have this Book and this story for my girls too. Lives change but God's Word, His compassions fail not!

This Christmas I will make a pot of special spiced tea and we will read the Christmas story and talk of the wonder of it all. It will be a memory and a tradition. Each year as we grow in our faith, God may reveal new and deeper truths to us, helping us to love and serve Him better and with more willingness. I am really looking forward to this time, because as my daughters get older and more involved with ministry, they share such truths that I am encouraged in my own faith. Yesterday one of them mentioned that sometimes people do not understand how serious they are about holiness and their ministry work. Oh my; maybe I needed reminding too. Praise God! They want to spend their lives, not save them. God's grace is upon our lives this Christmas; who could want for more? Nativi-Tea. An origin or birth. God has always been gracious and longsuffering, but the Nativity is the event that made it available to the whole world!

## *My Gift to You!*



Recipes that can become family traditions.  
Nut Rolls and Christmas Tea.

### **Nut Rolls**

(Recipe from Bobby Payne)

6 cups flour  
5 tablespoons sugar  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk, scalded and cooled to lukewarm  
2 envelopes yeast  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pint sour cream  
3 beaten eggs  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pound melted butter

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm milk.  
Add everything else, mixing well.  
Divide dough into 6 equal pieces.  
Roll; spread with filling and roll up.  
Three will fit on a greased baking pan.

Let rise 1 hour; bake at 350° for 25 – 30 minutes.

Midway through the baking, brush tops with margarine.

### FILLING FOR NUT ROLLS:

2 pounds walnuts, finely ground  
1 can sweetened condensed milk  
1 stick margarine  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
Pinch salt  
1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups sugar  
Approx. 1 cup hot water to thin mixture for spreading

One final note: These are good, glazed; and pretty too.

There are many variations of this recipe; this one is delicious and has yielded the most consistent results over the years. Bobby Payne is the son of a long time friend of my mother's and ours too!

The second recipe I will share is one that I am often asked for because I serve it all year. I usually respond by offering a small pouch of the tea as a gift; well. Here it is.

*Enjoy!*

## Spiced Tea

*By Cindyann*

2 pounds good quality tea, Assam,  
English Breakfast or another good black  
tea.

$\frac{3}{4}$  cups finely grated, dried orange peel

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup finely grated, dried lemon peel

10 medium cinnamon sticks, crushed

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup whole cloves

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped crystallized ginger

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  -2 tablespoons grated nutmeg

Combine all ingredients; store in airtight  
container, or freeze if it will not be used  
within a couple of months. To make a  
smaller recipe, here are the  
measurements.

8 ounces good quality tea

A scant quarter cup of dried orange peel

2 Tablespoons finely grated lemon peel

3 medium cinnamon sticks, crushed

A scant quarter cup of whole cloves

2 Tablespoons chopped crystallized  
ginger

$\frac{1}{2}$  Tablespoon grated nutmeg.

For brewing, use a teaspoon per cup and  
allow to steep about 5 minutes; serve  
with sweetener of your choice, with milk  
or not!

Were we in America, I would serve our traditional Piperade Pie for Christmas breakfast, which has 3 kinds of sweet peppers in it, and is so much more than a typical quiche. Something to look forward to! Our family prefers a simple brunch for Christmas here; after the long days prior to Christmas, we enjoy simplicity and ease in fresh vegetable omelets, fruit salad and this year, nut rolls. Looking forward to a quiet and truly blessed Christmas day, just the four of us part of the day, anyway! We miss loved ones but count it a blessing to have ones we miss, wherever they are. For me, this is southwestern Pennsylvania. Everyone, but me, will gather at the farm for Christmas. My sister, Amy or my mother will make the nut rolls, but there will be no spiced tea. This is a new and Rasquinha Family tradition!

## *Crumpets in December* (including a little scandal this month)

*They gave him a manger for a cradle, a carpenter's bench for a pulpit, thorns for a crown, and a cross for a throne. He took them and made them the very glory of his career.* Orchard



*God has two dwellings; one in heaven and the other in meek and thankful hearts.* Walton  
(That's Christmas!)



**Land that I Love:** We can visit and share tea, but the conversation need not always be gentle. Our country is changing and apathy is a great reason; we think we will always be the strongest nation on earth. Not if we continue allowing ungodly practices in the land we call home. We are heading toward losing the comforts that God gave to us, the very comforts that allow us to commune as friends in beautiful surroundings. These freedoms are unheard of in many countries and may become extinct in America. We need to begin praying about how the Lord would have us to participate in our civil government. Complacency hurts our faith and our nation. We do not want to know these things; they make us uncomfortable, but I think we need to be informed. Here is a taste of what is going on in America, a land made strong by the God of the Bible. A fragment of an article written by Dennis Prager, who is Jewish. I have copied the entire article on the [web](#). I want to add that while I am not thrilled with some of his phraseology I think this is an important article.

### **America, Not Keith Ellison, decides what book a congressman takes his oath on**

***By Dennis Prager - Tuesday, November 28, 2006***

Keith Ellison, D-Minn., the first Muslim elected to the United States Congress, has announced that he will not take his oath of office on the Bible, but on the bible of Islam, the Koran.

He should not be allowed to do so -- not because of any American hostility to the Koran, but because the act undermines American civilization.

First, it is an act of hubris that perfectly exemplifies multiculturalist activism -- my culture trumps America's culture. What Ellison and his Muslim and leftist supporters are saying is that it is of no consequence what America holds as its holiest book; all that matters is what any individual holds to be his holiest book.

Forgive me, but America should not give a hoot what Keith Ellison's favorite book is. Insofar as a member of Congress taking an oath to serve America and uphold its values is concerned, America is interested in only one book, the Bible. If you are incapable of taking an oath on that book, don't serve in Congress. In your personal life, we will fight for your right to prefer any other book. We will even fight for your right to publish cartoons mocking our Bible. But, Mr. Ellison, America, not you, decides on what book its public servants take their oath.

This is very unpleasant copy for a Christmas letter, but we must remain vigilant or become so or we will lose the land that we have always expected to leave as a heritage to our children.

**In closing, I do rejoice, because we know the end of our life if we have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ so deeply that our lives have changed by His dwelling within us! Emmanuel ~ God with us. Might Christmas be very personal to you this month and might we make a difference in the world next year, if Grace allows. See you next year!**

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.* The Revelation 14:13

*Love from Cindyann... Bye now.*



**Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone that you think might enjoy it and copy it for someone that does not have a computer, perhaps a senior lady that loves the Lord!**

I always enjoy hearing from you. You may contact me at [Cindyann@Encouragements.us](mailto:Cindyann@Encouragements.us)

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