



# Simplici-Tea & Crumpets

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07 November 2008

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



*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. ... from my Mission Statement.*

*Hello dear Ladies!*

You are hearing from me after one of the most eventful times in my life. For a time, it seemed that I would never get to do another issue of *Simplici-Tea&Crumpets!* I began one mid-September and eventually had to retire it. My family and our service to India will always be first ministries, but you already know that! Let me bring you up to date with a “Reader’s Digest” version of the past few months!

Late summer we had a couple of family meetings with calendars for the coming 18 months in hand; we’d scheduled some very exciting times, with plans to be in India until the end of January. Because of volatile political situations we left India safe, sound and with sorrow the end of September. This was not in our “schedule”, but LORD’s ways are not ours. A week later, I experienced a milestone! I turned *fif-tea* the last week of September! No trauma in that! I feel fabulous and my life is not what I planned, but praise the LORD for that too! His ways are higher than mine. Shortly after returning to United States, we took a trip to Guam, which turned out to be full of unexpected pleasures! We’d planned to join a mission church for a conference, going there from India, but due to circumstances, we traveled from USA. We fell in love with the dear ones in this church because their faith seemed so pure. I left with the deep sense once again that there is great privilege in serving God. It will never be a boring ride!

Upon re-entering the mainland USA, I called my mother as I always do, to learn that she was in the hospital and quite frail. Within days I arrived in Pennsylvania to be with my mother, to love her, to rejoice in our relationship. I am enjoying the cool fall weather, even the snow that arrived just after I came. After a few more days I will rejoin my family in Florida. From there, we will see what the LORD has for us together.

One more update: many of you know, my nephew was in a very serious auto accident. Seeing him this past week was very emotional. God surely gave him back to our family;

*Continued on page 2 ...*

## Brewing this month:

- **Abundance of my heart** ~ to catch you up this month!
- **Crumpets** ~ something to nibble on for a moment.
- **Political Pen** ~ cast down, but not forsaken!
- **Simplici-Tea *personified*** ~ a dessert for a crowd! Everyone will be thankful!
- **A book!**
- **Fif-Tea ~ I am!**

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though there are evidences of trauma, he is healing well and is meeting the challenges as they come. With a heart that will never forget, I thank you for praying for his life and healing. My family has a strong sense that answered prayer has kept Nelson with us.

Thankfulness is honoured this time of year; let us keep it in a place of prominence every day of our lives!

Thank you for being a part with my life!

In gratitude and love,

*Cindyann Rasquinha*

### Political Pen

(A feminine take)



The presidential election is over: we prayed. We voted. During the morning hours of election day I was thinking about Israel. God wanted to be their King; He would have been best for them, but the people wanted a king to rule over them. God gave His people Israel a king by the name of Saul and they were very happy. He was a fine king, but he was not God's best for the people. In time, things were no longer going well for Israel; they were oppressed and eventually broken over their sin. God heard the cries; He removed Saul and made David their king. As I meditated upon this story, I could not help but think of the parallels that exist to the United States today. Before the day ended, Barack Obama was named president elect.

My responsibility continues. I must remain faithful to pray for our country, for this man and not to fear. My confidence is in God; the Bible would remind us to be respectful to those in power and that no one takes power that God has not allowed. (Romans 13:1 **Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.**) Our future is not in the hands of Barack Obama, but in the hands of the God of the universe; He admonishes us to holiness and righteous-

ness; in this our country can be healed and blessed. ( II Chronicles 7:14 **If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. )**

The future of America remains up to us; if. This morning, the day after the election, I am very much at peace with our new president. We have, as a nation, sown bad seed. We cannot be surprised, but God is faithful. I need to be busy with the work that is mine to do, all in humility, in prayer, with an attitude of repentance and always with Thanksgiving, leaving the outcome to God, my Almighty Father and Saviour. His thoughts to me, after all, are very precious! (Psalm 139:17 **How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!**)

*Lord, Bless her still ...*



### Smile awhile ...

*There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.*

*Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."*



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This is the time of year when we are spending a bit more time or a lot more time in the kitchen! In the coming weeks I will add some recipes to the hospitality page for your enjoyment, and pictures too! Recently I added an unusual recipe having only three ingredients! Cranberry chicken (*above*); doesn't that sound like "Fall"? In today's issue, I am sharing a recipe that I believe originally came from **Taste of Home** magazine. A friend of mine made this for the harvest celebration and I was able to taste it! It seems very easy and serves many; very many, so plan your serving dish accordingly! If you are serving a crowd dessert this month, you might want to try this:

### Colossal Caramel Apple Trifle

- 1 package yellow cake mix (18.25 oz)
- 6 cups cold milk
- 3 packages instant vanilla pudding mix (3.4 oz)
- 1 teaspoon apple pie spice
- 1 jar (12.25 oz) caramel ice cream topping
- 1-1/2 cups chopped pecans (toasted)
- 2 cans (21 oz each) apple pie filling
- 2 cartons (16 oz) frozen whipped topping

1. Prepare and bake cake according to directions using two greased 9 inch cake pans. Cool for 10 minutes before removing to wire racks to cool completely.
2. Prepare pudding mix in a large bowl with apple pie spice for 2 minutes and then set aside for 2 minutes until soft set.
3. Cut one cake layer if necessary to fit in the bottom of 8 quart punch bowl. Poke holes in cake with a long wooden skewer; gradually pour 1/3 of the caramel topping over cake. Sprinkle with 1/2 of the pecans and spread half of the pudding mixture over that. Spoon one can of the pie filling over pudding; spread with one carton of the whipped topping.
4. Top with remaining cake and repeat layers. Drizzle with remaining caramel topping and sprinkle with remaining pecans. Refrigerate until serving. Yield: 42 (3/4 cup each)

*Felicia made a light version of this, using ingredients with less fat and sugar; it was delicious!*

**When** we were in Guam, Susana of Family Baptist Church made a dish for us that I'd consider to be a "treat dish", for special occasions only, but since we are heading into a season of special possibili-teas, you might want to add this to your repertoire. Have copies of this recipe on hand; it will save you time during an already busy time of year!

### Spinach & Shrimp Rigatoni in Cream Sauce

- 1-12 oz. pkg. of rigatoni or penne pasta (you can actually use any pasta you like...like fettuccini)
- 1-pint heavy cream (2 cups) If you want more sauce add an extra 1/2 pint of cream and adjust everything else.
- 1 stick butter
- 1/3 cup of grated Parmesan Cheese (fresh)
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- salt to taste

- 1 lb. shrimp (peeled and deveined) or more if you love shrimp
- Whole leaf spinach, as much as you want
- 1 cup grated mozzarella cheese ( or more if you like)

1. Cook pasta according to package directions. Better al dente (firm) because the whole dish will be baked in the oven. Drain and set aside.
2. Peel shrimp and devein. Set aside
3. Wash spinach and blanch in boiling water, drain, squeeze excess water (you can use frozen whole leaf spinach)
4. Melt butter over med. heat, add heavy cream, garlic powder, black pepper and bring to a slow boil and lower heat. Simmer for about 10 min. (stir often so mixture doesn't stick to bottom of pan and watch out because it might bubble over!!)
5. Add grated Parmesan cheese and stir until cheese is melted. Taste and add salt according to your taste. Turn off heat after 2 min. Stir in the raw shrimp into the sauce. (Don't worry, shrimp will cook when dish is placed in oven)
6. Evenly spread pasta in rectangular baking pan, pour cream sauce w/shrimp over pasta, as well as the spinach. Mix all ingredients making sure everything is coated with the cream, then spread out shrimp and spinach.
7. Spread mozzarella cheese over the top and bake in oven at 350 until cheese is golden, bubbling. Best eaten when hot with garlic bread.

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## **Crumpets:**

**... a little  
Something to  
Chew on!**

**Do The Next Thing** is a poem whose author does not seem to be known. (If you have read it and know who wrote it, I'd be thrilled to know!) Try reading it aloud; it will help you listen to the words!

### **Do The Next Thing**

*(author unknown)*

"At an old English parsonage down by the sea,  
there came in the twilight a message to me.  
Its quaint Saxon legend deeply engraven  
that, as it seems to me, teaching from heaven.  
And all through the hours the quiet words ring,  
like a low inspiration, 'Do the next thing.'

Many a questioning, many a fear,  
many a doubt hath its quieting here.  
Moment by moment, let down from heaven,  
time, opportunity, guidance are given.  
Fear not tomorrow, child of the King,  
trust that with Jesus, do the next thing.

Do it immediately, do it with prayer,  
do it reliantly, casting all care.  
Do it with reverence, tracing His hand,  
who placed it before thee with earnest command.  
Stayed on omnipotence, safe 'neath His wing,  
leave all resultings, do the next thing.

Looking to Jesus, ever serener,  
working or suffering be thy demeanor,  
in His dear presence, the rest of His calm,  
the light of His countenance, be thy psalm.  
Do the next thing."



*Gratitude to God should be as habitual as the reception of mercies is constant, as ardent as the number of them is great, as devout as the riches of divine grace and goodness is incomprehensible. -  
Simmons*



We often forget to "do good" until the opportunity is past; why not begin praying for the LORD to show you a family or some one that you and "yours" might be a blessing to over the coming holidays? If we all did this, these would be few, if anyone, alone and sad during this time of year.



Recently I watched a sweet movie with my mother and I would recommend it. It is called "Hidden Places" and it starred Shirley Jones.



FROM MY JOURNAL: Psalm 149:5 **Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.**

Some thoughts from a book about this verse: *How I long for my bed! Not that I may sleep -- I lie awake often and long! but to hold sweet communion with my God. What shall I render unto him for all his revelations and gifts to me? Were there no historical evidence of the truth of Christianity, were there no well established miracles, still I should believe that the religion propagated by the fishermen of Galilee is divine. The holy joy it brings to me must be from heaven. Do I write this boastingly, brother? Nay, it is with tears of humble gratitude that I tell of the goodness of the Lord.*  
~From a private letter from Bapa Padmanji, in "Feathers for Arrows," 1870. This is a book I must find, and read. CR

My journaling is very limited but I did begin about a year ago. As much as I love beautiful paper that

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might be inspirational to journaling I have chosen software to allow me to write with my computer. This has proven convenient for me and is lighter than carrying another book when we are *on the go*. One of the things I journal are the things that God shows me from His Word. I record His exhortations and encouragements, adding thoughts relevant to why I need it for my life. For those who use computers I am writing a review about several software whose purpose is for journaling, and beyond! (coming soon!)



### AN ANNOUNCEMENT!

I am pleased to share some news with you and would ask you to be in prayer about it. More than once, we have been asked to write a book about the ministry in India, but the time never *seemed* right. Recently it seemed a time to begin it and I was able to surprise my husband with a story about our work in India. Much to my delight and relief, he was pleased with it. With the book, I gave him an editorial privilege which was not an easy thing to do. If you write, you will understand. As I write from my mother's home in Pennsylvania we have not had sufficient time to complete the editing. We are in almost constant motion right now and when our family has time together, we just need to be "that" ~ which is together! During this editing time, the ministry continues growing and changing; we may have to add another chapter, ending with a recent story of God's visible love in drawing man toward Himself.



### Fif-tea!

#### Leaving a Legacy

When passing into a new decade of life, people often feel traumatized. I am about fifty days into my fifties and the biggest impression I have is that it is okay. Remember the *serenity prayer*? There are things we cannot change, nor should we worry about them. Where ever you are in your life you might think upon the legacy you will leave behind. The strength and quality of it will depend upon

what you have done with God's Word. Let me end this month by sharing some Scriptures with you that inspire and exhort me. Though I strive not to leave a legacy, I will. Might the truths I have learned from God's Word be reflected in my life.

- Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. Proverbs 27:23
- She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. Proverbs 31:12
- But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4
- That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Proverbs 26:7
- And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. Luke 2:37
- Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD. Proverbs 27:14
- How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! Psalm 139:17
- A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches. Proverbs 11:16

What are the verses most on your mind? I keep a stack of mine on 3 x 5 inch index cards ready to pull out and read when I have a few free minutes. This is a good tool to help stay focused and feed on God's thoughts for me.



*Today is always the last day I have to make a difference in this life and in the lives of those intertwined with mine. - Cindyann*

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