



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.

Incomprehensibili-Tea

Utter shock, this is not what I had planned for my life! How could my husband do this to me? I did not *sign up* to be taken to India. What about “*my*” children? How could he do this to us? You tell me that you are supposed to share the Good News with almost a billion people! (**How dramatic!**) Why not simply a city, or a state even? That would keep us busy for a life time. This was not “*good news*” to me. Mother’s Day of 1994 is a weekend I will never forget. “Then we must go”. Those were the words that came out of my mouth, despite a great many things that were in my mind. Fortunately I did not know what the next few years would hold; I did not know what this commitment would cost; what I did know is that I feared God and knew that my husband came to America to work toward the proverbial American dream. He would never forsake this to return to his people on a whim; my husband is not put together that way. These things I did know. All I had to give my husband, to give the Lord at this point was willingness. I packed my meager willingness and we were off. We went without my saying a great many things. I did not know what to say; the entire thing was incomprehensible! For years I heard preaching that you must either give or go. Never once it occurred to me that I would be ask to go; never one time. In my desperate searching for answers, for strength, the Lord gave me a verse to remind me that it is not His plan to ruin my life. Jeremiah 29:11 reminded me “*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*” By the time we left for India, “grace” had joined “willingness”.

There were “those” times that I could not (or would not) contain my feelings on this thing and then I blurted my thoughts out to my husband and then **he** had sufficient grace! One thing I never told him was that I thought his initial vision of offering hope for an entire country was a bit dramatic. I did have enough sense to “let that opinion alone”, but I never forgot it. In 2005, I began to be overwhelmed with light, realizing things I had never seen before! Gospel Light Baptist Mission India should continue until the Lord’s return and miracle of miracles, I realized what I was seeing was the very vision that my husband had seen 12 years earlier! Through the Mangalore Baptist Bible Institute, India can be evangelized; we have students coming from far places in India. We can reach a nation! Ladies, the thing I learned here is that we must support our husband’s life work, and not discourage him in his dreams. If we calculate the “God factor” into the equation we will see that all things are possible! (Matthew 19:26; Mark 10:27)

Each letter I will tell you how God has done a work in my life through this ministry; next time you hear how I experienced a sense of Heavenly Conestoga wagons encircling us, protecting His servants and the work that each has.

Rejoicing in the knowledge that He thinks peace toward me!

To learn more about the ministry the Lord has given us stewardship of, please visit www.BaptistMissionsIndia.com .

Daily Disciplines

If you have read the cover story about the [potter and the teacup](#), you will know that this teacup is me, though you might find resemblance to your own life. The area in my life most in need of reshaping is the refining of my daily disciplines, but God is not finished with me in this matter. At the end of most every day, I assess the day with a question; can I say that I have lived victoriously today? Many days, I sadly admit that I am weak, that I have not been faithful in matters of “Daily Disciplines.” Recently I posted a paper on my bulletin board; it encourages me to improve in my Christian walk. As I search my soul, I realize where I have grown, known victories and where I need to press on. This articles is called “7 Steps for Victorious Living” and is part of a web site that each in my family visits often; I think you would find it rich with nuggets to help you become stronger in the areas of your life that you struggle with.

7 Steps for Victorious Living by Pastor Kohl (www.fbbc.com)

1.Keep Your Heart

Proverbs 4:23 The word "keep" means "to walk guard" around. Do not let any type of sin conquer your heart. Keep them out. Some examples are found in Mark 7:21-23.

2. Watch For Your Soul

Hebrews 13:17 The soul of a righteous man can be vexed (worn down) by worldliness. II Peter 2:8. We need to watch out for the world, or it will get to us and wear it down. Other scriptures to study: I Peter 2:11, I Thessalonians 5:23.

3. Rule Your Spirit

Proverbs 25:28, 16:32 The spirit of man is their emotions and will. Emotions like rage, temper, anger, depression, etc. can ruin you if they control you. With God's help, control your emotions, don't let them control you.

4. Captivate Your Mind

II Corinthians 10:4-6 "Bring into captivity every thought." The human mind can only think about one thing at a time. Thus it is not impossible for God to control your mind. Yield your mind to the Holy Spirit each moment. Ask Him to take control.

5. Bring Your Body Into Subjection

I Corinthians 9:27 The appetites of the body are called "the flesh" in the scriptures. You can control your appetites, or they can control you. Appetites include: eating, drinking, sleeping, sexuality, nervous system (often triggers urges to smoke, drink, use drugs, etc.) The Lord can help you with this if you'll surrender your all to Christ - Galatians 5:16, 24-25.

6. Tame the Tongue

James 3:8 It is a sign of perfection if we can tame the tongue. (James 3:2) The tongue needs to be bridled. Its power for good or evil is awesome: James 3:5-6, Proverbs 18:21

7. Commune With the Holy Spirit

II Corinthians 13:14 The Holy Spirit is a real person. He is God. He lives inside of us as believers. Talk to Him. Have fellowship with Him. Get to know Him as real as you know God the Father and God the son.

Crumpets

(Featuring a selection of “tidbits” that have been a help or an amusement to me.)

- My pastor’s wife was sitting beside of me recently and as we sang “Love Lifted Me”, she bent toward me slightly to whisper that after her mother-in-law was saved, she loved this song, but always thought “they” were singing “*Love Lipton Tea!*” Yes, and I will join her in “Bringing in the Cheese”, which was my rendition of “*Bringing in the Sheaves!*”
- I will have a 17 year old this month; Lois recently wrote this thought to me in an email. I

was touched and thrilled. God surely did in our home what I could never have done: "To be honest, I hate the thought of leaving, even though I KNOW I am coming home to you and India. It is just so hard to leave here, so much harder to leave here India, the country) now than it is to leave America."

- "To continue in sin is to disgrace grace." Heard in a Worldwide mission's conference in Tennessee.

**Do you have a funny story from
a Sunday School class, a funny
answer from a child? If you do
please submit it for future "Crumpets"
(I may edit for brevity.)**

Recipe Selection

This month is Apricot Yogurt Cookies. This is a not-too-sweet delicious, healthy cookie!

Apricot Yogurt Cookies

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 cup old-fashioned oats
¾ cup dried, chopped apricots
½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 tablespoon slivered almonds
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
2/3 cup plain yogurt
3 tablespoons vegetable or canola oil

Combine flour, oats, apricots, brown sugar, almonds, baking powder and cinnamon. Stir in yogurt and oil, mixing well. Roll dough into 1-inch sized balls; place on lightly greased cookie sheet and flatten slightly.

Bake in a preheated 375° oven for about 15 minutes until edges are slightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool.

This is the perfect tea cookie if you are "watching". It can be made with brown sugar substitute too in order to lighten it even more. It is perfect because it tastes good too. Go ahead and double or triple it; it freezes well! You may also substitute a little more than 1/4 cup of honey for the brown sugar! Very versatile recipe; try using prunes or dates instead of the apricots! Cindyann



From the Abundance of My Heart

Frequently when I teach my daughters, the women in India or encourage women here in the United States, I lead with the "laws of the harvest". How exciting they are and point to the God of law and order. As fruit ripens in India, I recall the years of planting and watering, and those that labored beside us, many never having set foot in India. How thankful I am to them for serving with us before we saw any harvest at all, during the time of preparation. I look at the work in India as a garden; this is probably from my upbringing on a farm in Pennsylvania.

There is a harvest *always*! We are in the center of this work and I believe in the center of the Lord's will for our lives. We enjoy the fruit around us, those closest to us, but we look past them and think toward tomorrow. There are now more young buds than ever before and they need care to bring them to maturity. There is a harvest! The ground is good; it has been prepared! This is a good place for seed. In practical terms, the men, the pastors need supported. The believers need places of their own to worship. Training materials are needed. We have recently had a specific request from one of the pastors for a set of Betty Luken's flannel graph, which teaches Bible stories in a vivid and exciting way. He would use it to teach children and adults. This ministry is still relatively young; if you would like to be a part of the garden in India, please contact us through this website or through RasquinhaFamily@hotmail.com .

Don 't forget to look at the rest of the website, featuring a new series of articles on tranquility in the home!

If you know of a lady that would like to receive this newsletter, please ask her to email me at Simplici-TeaMe@Encouragements.us

Questions and Comments may be sent to AbundanceOfTheHeart@Encouragements.us .

If you would like to be removed from this mailing, simply send a note to NoThankYou@Encouragements.us .