Tam's Front Porch Ponderings

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Listen To Him And Enjoy This Day

As always, things didn't go quite as I had planned! The eve of the Last Day of School and I was preparing sweet treats for our staff Happy-tizer to celebrate Christmas Break. Let's just say I thought I was going to prepare them! I have been amazingly calm this Christmas season...it's scary! Usually I'm racing around like a chicken with my head cut off, but I have tried to focus on the words of a good friend, "the Lord knows what He's doing, enjoy this day He has given you!" and that's what my attitude was as I assembled the things I needed to cook and bake.

I reached for the Philadelphia cream cheese and placed it on the counter to warm to room temperature, next I lined up the Cool Whip and sour cream. I tugged the giant KitchenAid mixer across the counter and plugged it in, all I needed was the fruit cocktail, cherries and bananas and I would be ready to assemble my fruit salad. I hummed along with the song on the radio, ***"It's a marshmallow world that we live in..."*** and walked to the pantry for the rest of the ingredients. I looked on the first shelf where I keep the canned fruit, not there. "Okay", I **thought,** "I must have left it in the bag from the store with the wrapping paper". I closed the pantry door and headed across the house to Dylan's bedroom where I had wrapping paper and ribbons stored. I looked through each bag, no fruit cocktail or cherries. I stopped humming! "Have I lost my mind?", I thought, "I know I bought fruit cocktail and cherries!" I looked again...and again...and again! I stood up and took a deep breath, "No worries, we don't need fruit salad anyway", and I walked away with a smile on my face and a song in my heart.

The Philadelphia cream cheese, Cool Whip and sour cream went back into the refrigerator, I added the juicer to my KitchenAid mixer and prepared the make Spice Tea. "I better get everything together before I begin to mull my spices", I said out loud, "knowing my luck something will be missing". Sure enough, it was. My large can of pineapple juice had been mistakenly opened for breakfast. "No big deal", I smiled to myself, "weather is too hot for Spice Tea anyway", and I went to bed. I could finish what I needed to do if I got up early and I was about to lose my religion! I didn't want to crash and burn, so I just went to bed! See? Scary how calm I am right?

Friday morning, I jumped out of bed as soon as I heard Corky's truck leave the garage. I glanced at the clock, 5:15, I had plenty of time to make Graham Cracker Goodies. Everything went smoothly and before long the oven was a perfect 350 degrees and I placed my first pan in the oven for ***exactly*** twelve minutes. They came out beautiful! I popped the second and third pan into the oven and headed for the dryer to fold a load of towels. In just a few minutes I could smell something burning! I ran for the kitchen to see smoke rolling from the oven! "What on earth!", I squealed as I grabbed the burning trays and threw them towards the sink. It had only been five minutes! Why had they burned beyond recognition? I glanced at the oven thermometer I had hanging on the rack in the oven...425 degrees! The very reason I hung that thing was to keep an eye on the oven temp, my oven has a bad habit of varying temperature and I'm trying to hold off buying another stove. I had failed to check it before slipping the next two pans into the oven. I could have cried...but I didn't.

I sat down with a cup of coffee and watched as the sky begin to come alive in the East. My attempts to prepare Happy-tizers was nothing compared to Mary and Joseph's journey. A young girl, a virgin engaged to a young man, is told by an Angel she is with child! Talk about things not going as planned! What Faith these two young people had! The young man and woman travel miles and miles to a city to pay taxes and there, in a stable, Christ Our Lord was born! Mary had a good friend like I do, Elizabeth, who told her to listen to the Lord and she did! God knew what He was doing then just as He does now! All we have to do is listen to Him...and enjoy this day He has given us!

Merry Christmas and God Bless You in the New Year!

Tam

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 25

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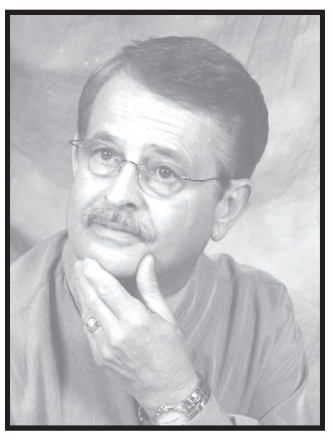

John Cox

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