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Security in a Time of Uncertainty

Those steamy hot days of summer are almost upon us. We have had so much rain lately that the ground will soon be acting as a sauna, releasing the moisture in response to the sun's radiant heat. Many people are trying to conserve as much energy as they can as the price of gas and electricity have become prohibitive. For some, tennis shoes, bicycles, motor scooters, motorcycles and public transportation has become a more common means of getting to and from work as their gas guzzling cars sit with empty tanks too expensive to drive. Automobile factories are laying off thousands of workers and car lots are full of low mileage trucks and SUV's. Summer vacations have either been shortened or cancelled altogether as families are cutting back on their spending. Housing markets are crumbling as prices are being driven down and huge inventories of homes are sitting empty. Some mortgage companies are reporting unbelievable losses to bad loans, and some are going bank-

rupt. Credit card debt is at an all time high, and people are dipping into their retirement plans to pay the bills. Prices of steel, wood, rice, corn, wheat, eggs, milk, bread and even spam have doubled or tripled in price over the last 12 months. As of late, just about the price of every commodity you can think of has appreciated to unheard of prices. The value of the American dollar has been in a steady downward spiral. Our self-indulgences and false securities have turned into a true-life nightmare with many unable to afford a car, their mortgage, groceries, or healthcare.

Even though we are living in times of uncertainty, we can be certain that the "things" we have acquired will not bring us the security that we are longing for in our inmost being. Deep in our soul we are all searching for that "one thing" that will bring us hope and peace as our world crumbles around us - the "one thing" that can't be taken from us no matter if we lose everything we have, the "one thing" that

can save us from the uncertainty of this world we live in. I can testify that there is only "one thing" that we all seek and yearn for. It is "our creator" and the love He has for us. It is "GOD" that our innermost being seeks. He is present to those whose eyes have been open by belief in His deity and plan of salvation for mankind, belief in the 666, the mark that separates us from His son Jesus Christ, the belief that Christ will return soon to separate the grain from the chaff and fulfill His promise to provide for the people of His church forever.

The time of Christ's return is unknown, but it is certain. We don't know the time or day of our own death, but it is certain. There is only one way to an eternal life after death of spiritual and physical joy, happiness and fulfillment and that is through Jesus, and that is certain.

If you are a true believer in Christ by your confessions and actions, then I consider you blessed and may the peace of Christ be with you

always. If you are not a believer, then I want you to consider where you're going to spend eternity. Death on this earth is certain. Eternity is certain. There is no other destination but heaven or hell. That is certain! The only way to escape the tragedy of hell and experience the beauty of heaven is through Christ. Be certain of where you have placed your security. Christ is waiting to accept you with open arms. He is everything you will ever need.

Be ever watchful and ready for the day you will meet our savior and king Jesus Christ, whether it is through His return, or the day you are taken from this life.

May the hope, peace and love of Christ be with you always.

Dr. Harold

Summertime Eats and Treats

Sizzling Pork Chops

Serves: 30 chops - divide to serve less, as needed.

Sauce:

Bring to a boil & let simmer:

1 ½ C water

2 sticks oleo

2 tsp salt

½ C white vinegar

4 ½ C brown sugar

40 oz. bottle catsup

2 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Grill chops 6 minutes on each side.

Dip chops in sauce and place in foil roaster pan.

Pour remaining sauce over chops.

Refrigerate overnight.

Bake in oven 325 degrees for 1 hour.

These are tender and tasty & so easy for a summer buffet.

Rhubarb UpsideDown Cake

5 C diced rhubarb

3 C min. marshmallows

1 pkg strawberry jello

1C sugar

Mix altogether and pour in 9x13 pan. Top with:

1 box white cake mix – mixed according to directions on box.

Bake at 350 for 1 hr.

** Do not use pudding cake mix**

Ice Cream Dessert

Cream together: ½ c butter

1 c brown sugar

Add: 1 small pkg flaked coconut

1 c chopped pecans

6 oz. pkg Rice Chex crushed coarsely

Spread half the mixture on bottom of 9x13 pan. Spread half gallon ice cream (vanilla) on top. Cover with rest of mixture and pat down. Put in freezer.

Finger-Lickin' Picnic Bars

Melt in large microwave bowl, stirring after each 45 seconds:

12 oz. butterscotch chips

1 C creamy peanut butter

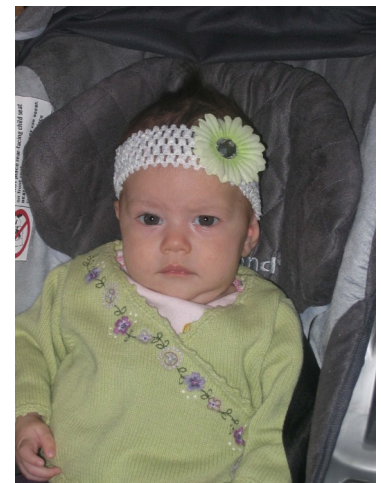
Stir until well blended and creamy.

Fold in 6 C Cocoa Krispie Cereal

Put in 9 X 13 greased dish. Cover with plastic wrap.

Refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Set out 5-10 minutes before cutting to serve bars.



Introducing Crystal Smith's New Daughter: Reagan Olivia

