



SEEDS

June 2006

GOOD NEWS Associates

13730 15th Ave NE , A302, Seattle, WA 98125

www.goodnewsassoc.org

Making Fudge

by Nancy Dunaway McCormick

Guadalupe came by the house today. Her school was having a carnival and the children were asked to bring homemade fudge to sell to raise money. I cringed because I instinctively knew what her next comment was going to be. "Miss Nancy, will you help me make some fudge to take to the carnival?" I muttered to myself, anything but fudge God; a candy maker I am not! It's a fact. In all the years I have been cooking, I have made only one decent batch of fudge. Guadalupe had an incredible power of persuasion, and I found myself gathering my pocket book as we went out the door to the market. Lupae was confident that this would be the grandest fudge in all of Belize! Oh Lord, I mumbled, the pressure is on! Of course, I could find nothing in the kitchen with which to work, so everything was measured by guess and by golly. I looked at Lupae with pleading in my eyes and pain in my heart. She patted me, assuring me this fudge would not come between us. We cooked and we stirred following the procedures to the letter. I was beginning to feel confident as the aroma wafted about and fudge splattered all over me. We poured that candy in several pans, put it in the refrigerator to harden then sat down in great anticipation . . . waiting, waiting, waiting.

To make time move more quickly, we set about doing some homework. I drilled Lupae on spelling words and helped her read and re-read several stories. I noticed she was becoming fidgety. Thinking it was because of our candy project, I assured her the fudge would soon be done, but she stated she was not worried about the fudge. Lupae then began talking like an adult instead of a seven year-old child. She said her mommy wanted to borrow sixty dollars to pay their rent and then she quickly looked away. I was shocked and my heart was broken, not because she asked for money but because this little child was asked to do what a grown up should have done. Lupae could tell I was disturbed and she began to sob.

"God, help me find healing words, because I do not know what to say." I prayed. I sat quietly and held Lupae, stroking her head while I thought. It became clear to me that I simply



needed to speak truth. Lupae was mature for her age and would understand. “Lupae, I do not know if I can loan your mommy the money, but I do know this; if I decide I cannot do it, that does not mean you were a bad girl for asking me. Nothing will come in the way of our friendship. I also think it must be awfully hard on a seven year-old to make such grownup decisions.” After saying this, Miss Lupae melted into my lap and sobbed. We both sobbed. I then let her know she was a strong and courageous girl.

Well, that fudge never did set. I considered it to be a big flop, but Guadalupe looked at me with great delight as we worked together wrapping individual messy pieces in Saran Wrap. Guadalupe carried her fudge to the carnival that evening with great pride knowing that nothing would come between us, not even a bad case of fudge.

God, it has been a long while since I have seen Guadalupe. My heart aches when I think about all the things that could go wrong in her life. I have tried many times to reconnect with her when I travel back to Belize. I pray one day when she sees a piece of fudge she will remember the bond that was made between us as we stirred and giggled over chocolaty syrup. May we both continue to work and live in your peace as we experience your Light and Love. Amen.

Nancy McCormick , a GOOD NEWS Associate, has a ministry of music, speaking and chaplaincy. She is also a spiritual director, artist and writer. She is a recorded Friends minister in Wilmington Yearly Meeting. In all of her roles, Nancy brings the Presence of God to every situation.
She can be reached at: nancy@goodnewsassoc.org.



Mom's Fudge Recipe

½ can evaporated milk
2 ½ C of sugar
½ C butter

12 oz. chocolate chips
16 large marshmallows (cut up)
1 t vanilla

Mix all the above together in a saucepan. When it begins to boil, stir and time for 5 minutes. Stir throughout. Turn temperature down, but continue to boil. After 5 minutes take off heat and add 12 oz. chocolate chips and 1 t vanilla. Stir, then pour in greased pan.

P.S. Mom says if you boil more than 5 minutes it will get hard as a rock!

Making Fudge is excerpted from the new book and CD, *God is All Around* by Nancy Dunaway McCormick and Ellen Thomas. To listen to audio clips or to order your copy, please visit: www.goodnewsassoc.org/nancymc/bookcd.html

To subscribe or unsubscribe to *SEEDS*, click here:

www.goodnewsassoc.org/seeds.html