

NEWS FROM ANNA

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(Candleholders Not Included)

AND SO WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR...A NEW DECADE

Happy New Year, dear readers!!

In celebration of the beginning of a new decade in this century that is still in its infancy, I've put together a special package of gifts to include: a journal handmade for you by me plus a special perpetual prayer book (also handmade) -- each day of the week you open another envelope in the book and remove the prayer note -- for that day you focus on that blessing in your life and the lives of others plus a special bookmark with the inscription DREAM VIVIDLY (not handmade). To enter the contest, go <http://www.booksbyanna.com/contest.html>. Drawing will be held on January 31st and winner will be notified by e-mail on Feb. 1st.

2009 ended on an exciting note for me when I was informed that two of my novels have been nominated for the coveted Reviewers Choice Award from Romantic Times magazine.

	
<p>4 stars from Romantic Times: "Schmidt's characters are witty, charming, mysterious and worth getting to know." —Patsy Glans Romantic Times</p>	<p>4 1/2 stars from Romantic Times: "Schmidt's top-notch story has a number of interesting characters -- and it's an intriguing look at life on a cranberry farm." -- Susan Mobley, Romantic Times</p>

**Order An Unexpected Suitor
Amazon**

**http://www.amazon.com/Unexpected-Suitor-Love-Inspired-Historical/dp/0373828217/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1253883137&sr=1-1
Barnes & Noble**

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/An-Unexpected-Suitor/Anna-Schmidt/e/9780373828210/?itm=21&usri=A>

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Barnes & Noble**

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Home-at-Last/Anna-Schmidt/e/9780373875450/?itm=9&usri=A>

***FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM ESSAYIST AND
COMMENTATOR, BEN STEIN***

***I received the following recently in an e-mail and thought it
was certainly worth passing along...***

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her 'How could God let something like this happen?' (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, 'I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?'



BEHIND ANNA'S GARDEN GATE...

One of the flowers most common in this area of Florida is the beautiful orchid. I recently attended an orchid auction where there were dozens of these beautiful plants for sale. I had a

wonderful time bidding for plants to brighten up our balcony and every day when I look at the incredible delicacy and intricacy of these flowers, I am reminded of God's care and artistry in creating all things here on earth - even us.

This last month has been filled with the festivities of the holidays. Now I feel refreshed and energized to begin this new year - this new decade. It's a little like a do-over - I can look back OR I can choose to look ahead. I'm a glass half-full kind of person - hope you are too! **ANNA**