

[View this email in your browser](#)



Treasures of Christmas Encouragement



Welcome to this special series which includes devotionals, Christmas traditions and recipes from our team and special guest Susan Hunt, a weekly book giveaway, and more.

“Christmas Grief Relief”

A Note from Sharon – *What will we do about Christmas?*

I’m one of those people who started preparing for the holidays, the day after Christmas. Deeply traditional and family oriented, I loved every minute of meal planning, finding the perfect gift, and decorating. Our Christmas Eve open house followed by joining our church family for worship met deep needs for community. On our way home from the hospital the night of our son Mark’s fatal car accident, I whispered to Chuck, “Christmas, what will we do about Christmas?” The loss of our sixteen-year-old son made celebrating

Christmas seem impossible. Now, our hearts ache to offer the help and hope we received to those who are struggling to just get through the holidays, let alone celebrate. Between now and Christmas, each Wednesday a guest writer or I will share a brief “*Christmas Grief Relief*” devotional with you. When grief makes Christmas feel impossible may these words strengthen you for the next moment. (For more grief relief, you can check out my book, [*Treasures in Darkness*](#).)



Sarah Didier Jefferson is this week’s guest writer and though she doesn’t mention Christmas, her words challenge us to taste and see that the Lord is good, even and especially when life turns upside down.

A Snow Globe Shaken

My mother was battling what doctors initially thought was a bacterial infection that she couldn’t seem to shake. I went by her house to take her some things she had requested and it was very obvious she needed immediate medical attention.

On the way to the emergency room all I could pray was, “Lord, I trust You. Lord, I trust You. I trust You.” A prayer of the overwhelmed. A prayer when there’s so much you could pray, all that surfaces is surrender to the One who holds it all.

When your world feels like a snow globe shaken and swirling about, what story will you tell? When you can’t see what God is up to, when you are being stripped bare of all you hold dear, right in those moments of uncertainty — who will you say that He is?



I wait for the Lord; I wait and put my hope in His word. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning — more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Psalm 130:5-6

The truth is, we can only put our hope in His word if we are regularly feasting on His word. These beautiful, hard stories in Scripture lead us to see our need for Jesus, while also inviting us to know the unchanging attributes of God.

In an age where digital access to Scripture is a few swipes away, I fear many of us are wandering around, guests of the banquet starving simply because we will not stop and fix ourselves a plate. Psalm 34:8 tells us to, “*Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the person who takes refuge in him!*” How can we develop an appetite for the things of God if we aren’t “tasting” the things of God?

When life swirls about with heartache and uncertainty, those dark and piercing hours of struggle, do not neglect your time in the Word. He will faithfully meet you there. But we must also develop the habit of looking back on God’s past faithfulness and allow it to fuel us in our current times. It is in the very darkest of days, the driest of deserts that I have seen God with such profound clarity.

Perhaps this is why in Psalm 55:6-8 David yearned for the desert saying:

If only I had wings like a dove! I would fly far away and be at rest. I would fly away and stay in the desert; I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm.

Psalm 55:6-8

While we would never choose the heartaches of this life, seeing Jesus in the midst of them all brings purpose to them all. Determine now that you will not miss the beauty of Jesus in your current hard. Allow the character of our unchanging God to be the storyline so that future generations might know and see the friend we have in Jesus.

Sarah Jefferson is a Daily Treasure Guest Writer. This devotional is adapted from her most recent contribution to the ***What She Said*** series. Click here to read all of [Sarah’s devotionals](#).

Comments of Encouragement...

From Debbie: I can't begin to tell what a blessing Daily Treasure has become to me! Knowing I have a kindred spirit with those that have lost a child means so much to me. The encouragement and past experiences shared here has been priceless. Thank you for not stepping around the hard places and sharing Truth from God's word for those of us who are searching for answers to life's hard questions! Losing my 36 year old daughter 5 years ago has been a journey that Noone wants to travel but Daily Treasures has been a friend to me! I share you with others every chance I get!

From LaRue: I author a Prayer/Devotion letter once a week to the sister-members of my Bible study and have used snippets from Barbaranne Kelly's recent posts on Philippians to bring encouragement from God's word to them. I do enjoy the different personalities you bring to the fore with this blog.

Touches of Christmas Encouragement



Have you ever fervently prayed for the Lord to send a treasure in the darkness, something, anything that reveals His love and presence? How did He answer? **Daily Treasure** subscribers often tell us how the devotional arrived at just the right moment. How these devotions have felt like a personal answer from

the Lord in response to their specific prayer or need they were facing.

I recently learned that **Daily Treasure** touches hearts over 369,000 times in one year! Imagine women across the world finding treasures in the **Daily Treasure** devotional at just that moment when they need an encouraging word, a reminder of God's promises, perhaps stumbling on it "by accident" or by a friend sharing it with them. Consider God's call for us to "pay it forward" when it comes to biblical encouragement:

He comforts and encourages us in every trouble so that we will be able to comfort and encourage those who are in any kind of trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:4 AMP

MARKINC is on a grand adventure of praying and asking the Lord to move His people to underwrite the cost to produce and offer this free 365 day online **Daily Treasure** devotional in 2022. Our tiny but mighty team is praying you

will “pray it forward” and “pay it forward” as an act of thankfulness and a desire to pass on to others the biblical encouragement offered through *Daily Treasure*.

We invite you to join us on this adventure of praying and watching God move people to support the ever-widening circle of touches that reach people all across the world. You can underwrite almost 1000 touches a day for \$62.50, over 6,000 to 7,000 touches in a week for \$437.12, over 30,000 touches in a month for about \$1800, and over 369,000 touches in a year for \$22,210.24!

For your gift of any size, we will send you two *Treasures of Encouragement Planners*, one for you and one to share with a friend. We were told by one subscriber that this planner was the perfect gift she wanted to share with a friend that does not have a personal relationship with Jesus. It’s a useful gift laced with Scripture and words of Biblical encouragement. If your donation is made by *December 15th*, you will have your planners before Christmas. You can give a one-time gift or you can set up a monthly recurring pledge. We look forward to watching God’s people respond to this need.

Give and Pay it Forward!

Know Your Why

Jane Anne Wilson
Daily Treasure Podcast Narrator



As the mother of four and now grandmother of four, I’m grateful for lessons learned when it comes to Christmas. Just as my parents tried to make Christmas “the most wonderful time of the year”, so do we. One year I decided to change things up and make different recipes. Wrong decision! My family



preferred the stability and comfort of the tried and true traditional dishes that they could always count on. Going back to those comfort foods the next year lessened my stress and stirred up those intangible family memories. Friends, know your why. It may change from year to year as our families grow, but keeping our eye on the reason we

are making this meal, or finding that gift, or traveling this distance shapes our attitude and may also change our “to do” list. If my “ why” is to bring the family together then I do not need to make the gourmet meal that Pinterest pictures are calling to me. In fact, I don’t even need to check Pinterest! I know what my family likes.

Here’s one of those recipes that my mother used to make and we still love.

Dill Dip Appetizer



2 cups sour cream
2 cups mayonnaise
1 Tablespoon parsley
1 Tablespoon minced onion
1 teaspoon season salt
1 teaspoon dill weed
Mix and chill.
Serve with cucumber, cauliflower, carrots, peppers, broccoli, etc.

Touches of Daily Encouragement!



Alisa shared... *"This is a hard season of life for me now! My friend introduced me to your daily message-I thank her so much for that! Thank you!"*

Invite a friend to subscribe to Daily Treasure!

Be a blessing to your friend as Alisa's was to her. Share the link below and invite your friend to subscribe to the **Daily Treasure** Devotional. Ask her to write your name and email in the comment section, “I was invited to subscribe by_____”. She will start to receive the **Daily Treasure** Devotional to her inbox, and both of you will be entered into this week’s special **Christmas Book Giveaway** drawing and have a chance to win, ***A Better Than Anything Christmas***, by **Barbara Reoach**.



Check next week's special, *Touches of Christmas Encouragement* enews to see if you won. The more friends who subscribe and mention that you invited them, the more opportunities to win! (Paying it forward... the following week, maybe your friend will invite a friend to subscribe). This is a fun way to help spread the word about *Daily Treasure* and we appreciate you participating.

My friend invited me to subscribe!



If you are encouraged by this special weekly enews, and are not sure if you are a subscriber to the *Daily Treasure* Devotional, click below to subscribe. You will begin to receive daily words of encouragement in your inbox and other resources to help turn your heart toward Jesus, as well as details on how to participate in the devotional *Book of the Month Giveaway*.

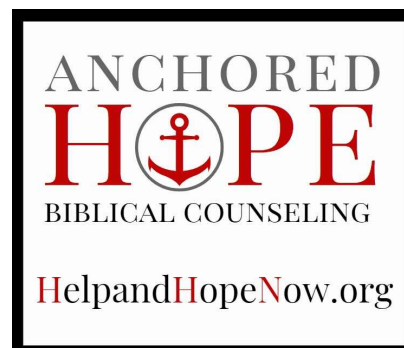
SUBSCRIBE

This Week's Ministry Spotlight

Anchored Hope Online Biblical Counseling Services

Because the holidays can be so painful and reveal unresolved conflicts, past hurts, hidden pain, and buried grief – LET OUR COUNSELORS HELP YOU WITH:

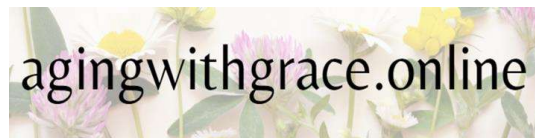
- Anxiety, Depression, Fear
- Abuse, Addiction, Anger, Domestic Violence
- Grief, Loneliness, Worry
- Relationships, Parenting, Marriage issues
- Identity, Eating Disorders, Self-Harm
- and more...



"The remarkable guidance and comfort my husband and I have gained from our gifted counselor at Anchored Hope is priceless. His ability to unearth and discover personality complexities, using biblical truth and wisdom gave us hope, fresh viewpoints for a stronger foundation and a

better balanced life. I highly recommend and encourage anyone seeking counseling to select a counselor that will best fit your personal situation, and the counseling team of Anchored Hope offers you that choice. You will be blessed by AH's biblical counseling guidance."

You are receiving this special edition of the *Touches of Christmas Encouragement* enews because you are subscribed to *Daily Treasure* or you have shared your email with Sharon at a speaking event. Feel free to unsubscribe below - no worries! Otherwise, look forward to next Wednesday's edition.



HELP & HOPE NOW!
MARKINC.ORG



Copyright © **|CURRENT_YEAR|* *|LIST:COMPANY|**, All rights reserved.
|IFNOT:ARCHIVE_PAGE|* *|LIST:DESCRIPTION|

MARKINC is a 501c3 Organization, Tax ID# 51-0355072

Our mailing address is:

|HTML:LIST_ADDRESS_HTML|* *|END:IF|

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or **unsubscribe** from this list.

|IF:REWARDS|* *|HTML:REWARDS|* *|END:IF|