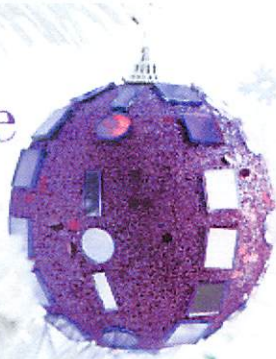


Daily
Treasure



*Touches of Christmas
Encouragement
with Sharon Betters*

We have a winner...



The winner of this week's
Touches of Christmas Encouragement book giveaway,
A Better Than Anything Christmas by Barbara Reaoch is...
Marcy, Congratulations!



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. We included the above video from last week in case you are just joining us.

“Christmas Grief Relief”

I'm so happy to welcome Glenna Marshall as this week's writer. When Christmas magnifies grief, make it a reason to rush into the hope and comfort of heaven.

Treasured in Him,
Sharon



No Funeral Pants in Heaven

It was before the pandemic when I bought the pants. We'd had a series of deaths in our small congregation. I didn't own anything really formal enough for a funeral, and I found myself standing at a rack of black slacks at the local JC Penney. I grabbed a pair, tried them on, and then wore them to three funerals in less than a month. They became my funeral pants.



I put them on again last fall for two funerals of church members who'd died of covid. I put them on again this spring when a church member lost her brother to a long illness.

Today, I reached to the back of my closet and pulled out my funeral pants. Paired them with a some heels that have seen better days and a flowy top. Grabbed a sweater since the weather has turned cool. Prayed for my husband as he prepared to preach the funeral for one of his closest friend's twin daughters, born prematurely this week. Two nights in a row this week, the phone has rung with calls from church members, both of whom lost adult children suddenly to death.

"How long, O Lord?" I have prayed. In the night while fighting with my own body and the pain that seems to rule. After phone calls that break your heart for the suffering of others. In my journal where everything pours out in a messy lament.

What are we really praying for when we cry out
"How long?"



Are we praying to an end of our present sufferings? Yes. Are we praying for life circumstances to change? Yes. Are we praying for physical or emotional or relational healing? Yes. Are we praying for everything that's wrong to be made right? Yes.

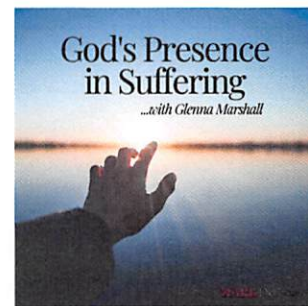
So really, when we're praying "How long, O Lord? we're praying, "Come quickly, Lord."

Because it's the return of Christ that will set everything to right. It's the return of Christ that will raise the dead in Him in glorious resurrection. It's the return of Christ that will finally defeat our last and final enemy—death.

We won't need funeral pants in heaven.

Glenna Marshall

As a writer, speaker, and musician, Glenna loves to point women to the Bible to see God's goodness in all of life. Hear more from Glenna on this Help & Hope Podcast: [God's Presence in Suffering](#).



Comments of Encouragement...

From Audry: The devotions on the Sons of Korah were a powerful reminder that God is so merciful and doesn't hold the generational sins against us. That we can break those patterns of sin and that God in his loving kindness can restore us and give us a purpose in his Kingdom work.

Touches of Christmas Encouragement



Someone has said that the Lord has already given to His people the means to accomplish His purposes, whatever those needs are. Is it possible He has given you the ability to help underwrite the production costs of **Daily Treasure** for 2022?

The Lord is using *Daily Treasure* to touch people over 369,000 times in one year! That's about 7 cents per touch!

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! Some giving ideas to prayerfully consider:

- Gather a group of friends who read *Daily Treasure* to underwrite a week or month.
- Commit to giving a monthly gift to underwrite a week or a month or a quarter or even a year!
- Commit to underwriting one day a month.
- Give a one time gift of any amount

For your gift of any size we will send you two copies of the *Treasures of Encouragement Daily Planner*, one for you and one for a friend. Give by December 15 to receive your planner before Christmas.

Give and Pay it Forward!

Where Will We Spend the Holidays This Year?

Barbara L'Italien

Daily Treasure Administrative Assistant



I loved my Memere; she taught me so much about hospitality!

The question, “Whose house do we go to this Christmas?” often creates tension and conflict. Early in our marriage my Memere (my mother-in-law) offered an answer that relieved the pressure of this question and created a treasured tradition that continues to this day. As her children married and



started families she acknowledged her “in-law” children also had families and traditions. Rather than pressure them to eat dinner at her house on Thanksgiving Day, Memere started the Sunday after Thanksgiving Italian dinner. All of her children, the in-laws, and grandchildren looked forward to gathering for

this festive dinner with her homemade pasta noodles, sauce, braciola , wedding soup, antipasti, and more... even if some were able to join her for a turkey dinner a few days before. After she passed away my husband and I continued in her footsteps and the Sunday after Thanksgiving we invite the family to our home for all the homemade Italian delights she served.

Her heart of kindness helped me, a mother of a large, growing family, to reduce some of the emotional and physical stress holidays can bring. Years ago we started to offer alternate “days” not just for Thanksgiving, but also for Christmas and Easter. My adult children have other obligations now – young children’s needs and another family to consider. Giving them this option relieves some of the pressure of the holidays. So even if the calendar “days” may not be the day we celebrate together, I smile because I know the Sunday after... is coming!

One recipe that is very special not only to this meal, but one I have shared at different events is her antipasti. It’s great for breakfast or brunch and it just looks special to serve.

Memere’s Antipasti

Navel oranges peeled and sliced into ½ slices (6/8 slices per orange)

Hard boiled eggs – 1 hard boiled egg is about 5/6 slices (Memere would said, add 1 TLBS vinegar to the boiling water so the egg yolks would be pretty yellow. IDK J)

Sliced from the deli counter:

Ham or Sliced pepperoni

American or Provolone Cheese

Salt, Pepper , Paprika

On a platter, places a single layer of orange slices.

Top with a trimmed slice of Ham or Pepperoni

Top with a trimmed slice of American or Provolone

Top with a slice of hard-boiled egg

I make two separate platters one with ham/American cheese that the young kids like better and one with Pepperoni and Provolone cheese for the adults.



You can cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until you are ready to serve.

When you are ready to serve to your guests, uncover the plastic wrap, season with a little salt, pepper and paprika and serve.

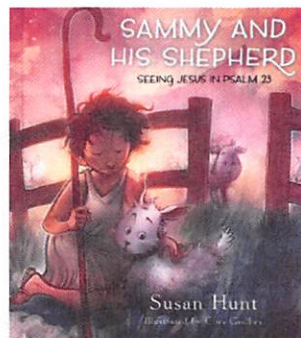
Week 2 ~ Touches of Daily Encouragement!



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, *Sammy and His Shepherd, Seeing Jesus in Psalm 23*, by *Susan Hunt*



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!

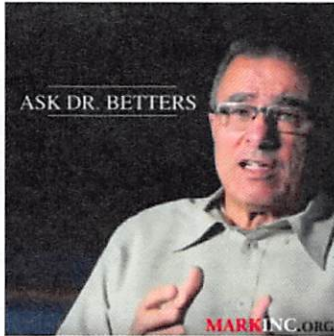
Daily Treasure



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

Tough Questions - Biblical Answers



Ask Dr. Better's is a topical video series where weekly Dr. Chuck F. Better answers your questions on suffering and the sovereignty of God. It is MARKINC's hope that Dr. Better's answers will reinforce that God is good and worthy of our trust even when life is difficult and when we struggle to understand Him.

Featured video: [How do I find hope in darkness?](#)



Comments of Encouragement...

From Laura: I LOVE Daily Treasure and they ALWAYS speak to me with the Truth of the Gospel! Our extended family is in a very hard place right now. Today, this spoke to my heart especially: "Be assured, though our lives are limited, every day the Lord gives us extreme blessings and we enjoy life in ways many cannot. We are grateful for His good gifts and we will never take them for granted. We live in a broken world. No matter what the prosperity preachers tell you, Scriptures teach rain falls on the good and the bad. Bad things happen to God's people. The difference is we do not walk these pathways alone. He sees and He provides what we need."

Did you miss last week?

If you joined us late for this special, Wednesday series, we will be adding a PDF copy for you here!



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.



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