Simple Truths – Dollar Treasures – by Marcy Lytle

I have a small dried flower plant in a pot on my desk where I work. It's in the colors of bright orange, yellow and red and six-year old Augie gave it to me for Christmas. It's from the Dollar Tree. Of course, I have to set it out so he can see how much I "love" it, but guess what? I really do love it. It makes me smile every morning when I enter the kitchen and see it by my laptop. In fact, I've included this little potted plant in two stories this month!

Sometimes, the simpler things in life are the best, don't you agree? It's fun to live extravagantly for a day I suppose, but at the end of the day it's the joy of the moments that linger and enable us to crawl into bed at night with ease and good memories and peace.

I'm glad I didn't toss this gift or place it under a cabinet only to pull out when Augie came over. This terribly cheap potted plant has increased in value since it's been sitting there now for almost two months. I don't even know if Augie put thought into what he chose, but he did choose the colors that match my home décor. He's a pretty observant little boy, so I wouldn't be surprised if he didn't realize that.

In fact, all three of the kiddos gave us gifts this Christmas that are being used in my kitchen. A pretty saying on a piece of wood, some new tea towels, and this potted plant. These were some of my favorite gifts from the kids and it has been fun to watch their gift-giving evolve over the years as they age. They look and wait while we open our gifts, seeing what our reaction will be. I even caught 8 year old Ayla's look as she waited for her aunt "EE" to open her gift that Ayla so thoughtfully crafted for her.

These are simple things, but really priceless treasures. And it's not just because I'm a grandmother.

- Who isn't touched when a little kid picks one lone flower from a field and hands it to us?
- What wife isn't pleased when he rubs her tired feet?
- Who doesn't love a single red rose given out "for free" at restaurants this time of year?
- Why wouldn't we all be thrilled when that item on sale half-off on the day we need it?

I feel like for me personally, I can miss the simple things in life because I'm waiting out or hoping for those things I place value on like the next project in the house being completed, a faraway vacation around the corner, or next Christmas when we can decorate once again. I'm guilty of looking ahead to the next thing so much that I miss the present things in front of me, daily.

I can't miss this little plant. It's right in front of me on the corner of my desk. And when I open the blinds and the sun shines through, those fake flowers are illuminated so pretty! And through the blinds stands an expensive urn with real flowers that don't look any prettier.

The simplicity of a gift, the giver, the colors and the sun…all wrapped up in one.

Enjoy February, my friend…