


Precious Moments

Everyone has something he or she values more than anything else. That treasure could be a material item such as a favorite piece of jewelry or an ideal such as religious freedom or equal rights. Still others might consider their greatest treasure in life to be a person—a family member or best friend. Even important events, such as a wedding day, an anticipated job promotion, or the birth of a child, are greatly treasured. However, I believe that life's greatest treasures are the collection of special moments experienced in a lifetime.

While many people would think of some the things listed as being important treasures, I believe that life also contains hidden treasures that are just as significant. These treasures are the small moments that come about without much significance but still make a difference. They are moments that one may not necessarily remember all his or her life, but they make life richer nevertheless.

These “hidden treasures” can be found anywhere and in any situation. The first time I held my nephew is a moment that I will always prize. I remember he was wearing a blue outfit and had a little knit hat and only his face was visible. It was such a precious moment to be able to cradle a newborn.

I discovered the true meaning of life's treasures on New Year's Day, 2008. My entire family--my parents, four brothers, sister, and sister-in-law—met at the airport in Saint Paul to say goodbye to my brother who was leaving for his second tour in Iraq. In the midst of the crazy excitement in the airport, we stood in a tight circle. It was the last time for over eight months that we would see my brother. Although it may not seem



significant, the memory of my family in the airport made me realize just how important the small moments in life really are.

Although a person may not remember all the special moments in his or her life, they are still important. It is the occurrence of the little things, the special moments, that truly make life rich. Most do not realize the weight of these hidden treasures and the joy they bring, but it is the small occasions that paint the picture of one's life. These moments may not be acknowledged, but they are treasures just the same.

