



# Touchstones

Touchstones
Ministry Updates
The God Dance Update
Web site & Newsletter

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**Special points of interest:**

- Redesigned web site
- Redesigned newsletter
- Possible publication of "The God Dance"
- Uganda Mission
- Beacon on the Hill update

## *"David, You Need Fifty-Cents"*

When my son Jonathan was little—probably around 4-years-old—I had a difficult time getting him to listen to me. After trying several methods of punishment, I decided to try something I read in a story by a missionary in India. He had a similar problem with his son and decided what he needed was not punishment, but training. Since they lived in an area prone to cobra snake attacks, it was imperative that his son obey him immediately. He began training him to drop to the ground at his command and crawl to him without question. He made it a fun exercise for the boy and usually rewarded him when he did well. One day the time came when it was

not a game anymore, but a life and death situation. The father saw a cobra ready to strike his son while he was playing in the yard near their home. He called the boys name, commanded him to drop to the ground and crawl to him immediately. The boy responded just as he had been trained and it saved his life. I shared this story with Jonathan told him we would play games like this to help him learn to obey me immediately. Although we didn't have to worry about cobra attacks, there were other equally dangerous situations that a 4-year-old boy could get into, which would require him to listen and obey me instantly. It worked and he became more obedient and trusting of my

judgment as he grew older.

During most of my Christian life I believed God was a bit judgmental. Let me explain. It didn't bother me; I just thought he was standing ready to judge and punish me or anyone else who didn't obey him. I accepted this doctrine and believed it to be the nature of God. In order to avoid punishment, I did my best not to make mistakes and if I did I quickly repented so as not to be judged too harshly, or even worse, miss out on heaven. I've always known that God was my heavenly father, but I had never really related to him as my daddy, or as Jesus said, my "Abba [Father](#)." However, when I became



## Cover Story Continued

a parent my view of God started to change—not overnight mind you—but it began to change nonetheless. Now Jonathan is almost 15-years-old and my view of God has radically changed from when he was that 4-year-old boy. I see God more like a parent teaching and training his children to hear and obey his voice. Yes, I did have to discipline my son when he was young; but I've come to realize the object of the discipline was always to love not to punish him. Just like the missionary father, I understood there may be times when he would need to trust and obey me without question to avoid danger or possibly even death. My heavenly Father understands this concept even better than I do. His objective is always to love me. He has been revealing this to me in very interesting ways lately.

Not long ago, I was in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to hear John Eldredge speak about his latest book, "Walking with God." The concept of walking with God and hearing him speak is not

new to me, but it is refreshing to hear of others experiencing God in the same way. While sitting there listening to John talk about hearing God and obeying him in even the little things, I was reminded of an experience I had recently. The weather was finally getting warmer and the long anticipated time had come to get the motorcycle back on the road. Since moving here to North Carolina I have had to transfer license plates and titles on two vehicles. Based on that information I knew about how much it would cost to do the same for the motorcycle. I had a paycheck for \$307.50 and so I went to the bank to get some cash. I needed cash since I didn't have the checkbook and the tag office only takes cash or checks. I decided to get \$150.00 and put the balance of \$157.50 in the bank. However, while filling out the deposit slip I had a strong urge to write in the "less cash received" section \$150.50. This was such a strong urge that I had to remind myself I only intended to get \$150.00 even. I forced myself to write zeros

there instead of fifty cents, got my cash and went to the tag office to complete the paperwork. After the clerk finished putting everything into the computer, she put the paperwork on the counter for me to sign and said, "That will be one hundred-fifty dollars and sixty cents." I patted my pockets to see if I had any change—none. I told her I would go check my vehicle to see if I had any there. I went out and looked and all I had was a dime. When I saw the dime that's when God spoke and said, "David, I tried to tell you, you needed fifty cents." During my trip to the bank and back again God spoke to me about his love and how he wants me to hear him even in the little things. He showed me how this was the same kind of training I used with Jonathan when he was little. After this lesson I prayed, "Father, help me to hear and obey your voice without question, even in the little things, so whenever something big comes along—such as a cobra ready to strike—I will hear you and obey. Amen."

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*David's Touchstone:  
Heart shaped rock he  
found in 2004*

**God spoke and said, "David, I tried to tell you, you needed fifty cents."**

## Ministry Updates

It has been fourteen

do it. God has certainly

when men share a part of

It has been fourteen months since God moved us and Rescued Heart Ministries to the mountains. Much has changed in that time. For one, we went from having nothing, such as jobs or a place to live, to having all those things and more. It has been an interesting time. God spoke to me in advance of our move and asked me, “David, are you ready for the unexpected?” There have been many unexpected things since we began this journey. I never thought I would be a Pastor at a church, nor did I think I would be going to school full-time and be paid to

do it. God has certainly brought the unexpected to us and continues to do so everyday. On May 23, I went to Greensboro, NC for a gathering of ministry leaders who are living and ministering in redemptive communities and sharing the message of “Wild at Heart.” It was an awesome and powerful experience. The purpose of the gathering was to build relationships and alliances between ministries in North and South Carolina and Virginia. Not only did we accomplish the beginning of that goal, but we also experienced the power of God’s Spirit that comes

when men share a part of their story. It was refreshing to hear stories that, although different, are similar to mine—a common thread of redemption, rescue and ultimately freedom! We have not seen the full work of Rescued Heart Ministries manifest yet and at times I feel like it is not happening fast enough. However, God is building alliances with men in this area and I know the manifestation of the vision God gave me in 2004 will come soon. Pray for us as we continue to build the ministry and work toward this goal.



## *“The God Dance”*

David recently submitted his book, “The God Dance” to a publisher for review. Although it isn’t quite finished yet, they told him to send what he had, which is nine chapters. When done, the book will be fifteen chapters or so. We are very excited about it and are believing it will be published soon. In advance of publication, David has set up a web

site at [www.thegoddance.com](http://www.thegoddance.com) where you will be able to read samples from the book, get information about publication and once it is published, purchase copies as they become available. This book is a result of God speaking the words “The God Dance” to David while he was listening to “Mere Christianity” by C.S. Lewis on CD. After

God spoke those words to him, he began to see the story playing like a movie in his head. The God Dance is a story of a man’s journey into the divine. It is the timeless message of redemption and rescue packaged in a fictional story. I believe you will not only enjoy “The God Dance,” you will also be impacted and changed from reading it.

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*Book by David Shields,  
“The God Dance”  
May be published soon!*

## *Missions*

Not long after we arrived here in the mountains I was contacted by a pastor in Uganda, East Africa asking us to come to Uganda and share the message that God has given us for the church. Over the last year we have built a relationship with this pastor through the internet. We have been praying for his ministry in Uganda and surrounding countries and heard reports of

several hundred coming to Christ in their crusades. We recently sent a package containing clothes, shoes, and school supplies for their orphanage collected through our fellowship, “Beacon on the Hill.” We were recently contacted by a pastor in India asking us to come there also. Theresa and I have gotten our passports in anticipation of making

these trip in the near future. Please ask God about helping us make these mission trips a reality or to support Rescued Heart Ministries in some other way. Donations can be made at [www.rescuedheart.com](http://www.rescuedheart.com) using Paypal™ or send a check or money order to the address at the end of this newsletter. Most of all we covet your prayers. Thank you!

**“I was contacted by a pastor in Uganda, East Africa asking us to come to Uganda and share the message that God has given us for the church.”**

## *Beacon on the Hill Update*

Our fellowship, Beacon on the Hill Church is growing both in numbers and spiritually. We are in the process of looking for our own place to meet.

to have a location we can call our own. We also need more space, so that we can have children’s and youth ministries. One of our outreach ministries

site that will soon have these available to order as well as CD’s and MP3 downloads.

to learn more about our fellowship visit our web




the process of looking for our own place to meet. The place we are currently meeting is a Christian Retreat Center that has been a blessing to us over the last two years. However, the time has come for us to move and

and youth ministries. One of our outreach ministries is to get the message and teaching of our fellowship out to as many people as possible. One of the ways we do this is to give away books written by our Senior Pastor Dr. John Bennett. We have a web

to learn more about our fellowship visit our web site at

[www.beacononthehillchurch.org](http://www.beacononthehillchurch.org)

At Beacon on the Hill  
“We don’t go to church,  
we *are* the church!”



***Beacon on the Hill***

***“Letting our light so shine before men, that they might see our good works, and glorify our Father, who is in heaven.” -Mat. 5:16***

## Rescued Heart Ministries

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We're on the web!

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"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18 NLT)

## Why Rescued Heart Ministries Exists

In the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy the characters form an alliance called the fellowship of the ring. Their mission is to escort and protect the ring bearer on his quest to destroy the ring of power. Like Frodo, Sam, Pippin, Merry, Aragorn, and the others we are in a struggle of epic proportions. Like them we must find protection in a band of brothers...A fellowship of the heart, because we too are being hunted by evil. This is the purpose of Rescued Heart Ministries. Our hope is that through our ministry you will come to understand these four things:

1. We live in a much larger story than we see with our natural eyes. (2 Corinthians 4:18)
2. We have an assigned task. (Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-20)

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3. We are being hunted by Evil. (1 Peter 5:8-9, Ephesians 6:10-18)
4. We Must have a fellowship to protect us. (1 John 4:11-12)

Rescued Heart ministries takes its message from these books by John Eldredge: "Wild at Heart," "The Way of the Wild Heart," and "Captivating" (written with his wife Stacey Eldredge).

## Web Site & Newsletter Redesign



View from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

If you haven't gone to [rescuedheart.com](http://rescuedheart.com) lately, I would like to invite you to check it out. I have redesigned the web site and given it a new look. I'm still working on some of the changes to its content, but have made style changes that I think you will like. Let me know what you think.

How about this newsletter, do you like the changes to it? I know it has been a long time since

I have sent out a newsletter and frankly I am ashamed that it has been so long. I have been very busy with school though. It is difficult to do much else when taking fifteen hours a semester and working part-time. However, during the summer I only have to take six hours, so I plan to go back to sending out a newsletter each month after this one. It will be a little easier now that I can

send it out as a web document instead of a PDF. If anyone would rather have the newsletter as a PDF file I will continue to publish it as one at [www.rescuedheart.com/abundantlife/newsletters.html](http://www.rescuedheart.com/abundantlife/newsletters.html)