



## Touchstones of the Heart

### Grocery Store Tennis Shoes

Shopping at K-Mart was one of the biggest embarrassment for me when I was a kid. The kids I went to school with got their clothes and shoes at the mall or name brand stores. This made it hard for me to accept mine from other less popular places. Of course today, if I find a great bargain at a thrift store or a discount store I'm ready to brag all about it to anyone who will listen. The other day while in church this phrase came to me, "Grocery Store tennis shoes." For some reason the memory of the old canvas and rubber black and white tennis shoes that my mom bought for me at the grocery store raced back to my mind. When this happens I usually reach for my notepad and write it down. I knew God was trying to use this memory for some purpose, so that's exactly what I did. So here are my thoughts: I wanted to be a fast runner when I was a kid, to be "faster than a locomotive" like superman. I was sure if I had a particular brand of shoe it would do the trick. So you can understand my disillusionment when my mom would have me try on grocery store tennis shoes while shopping for groceries. These just wouldn't do, they're clumsy, floppy and certainly not like Puma's or Addidas. So, What was I going to do? I made excuses.

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### Ministry Updates

We've got a place to live! Of course we had a place to live before, but it was small; only about 600 square foot. Now we have about 2400 square foot in a 3 bedroom farm house. Not long ago God spoke to us through a prophet and said we were pregnant. Not in the literal sense, but in a spiritual way. She saw in the spirit that we were ready to give birth to many spiritual children. From this report she went on to tell us that God was going to give us a place where we could have people come to stay where they would be refreshed in their spirits and experience God. He has

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### Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



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We are in the dog days of summer here in the mountains as the temperature rises into the 90's. I know many of you are in conditions much worse at the lower elevations as you see temperatures in the 100's with much higher humidity, but for us the 90's is very hot. We have not lived here long, only five months, and yet since moving here we have had snow, lots of rain and now hot humid weather. Such extremes is interesting and like many things it reminds me of my walk with God. Throughout my Christian walk I have had many extremes, some good and some bad, but through them all there has been one constant: The faithfulness of God! Some of you who have known me a long time knew me when I was a bit driven and seemed to be extreme in my Christianity. Some of you may even recall a time when, while putting on a good front, I was cold and indifferent. Not that I have in any way arrived, but I have learned that moderation is key to living a successful Christian life while at the same time being completely sold out to God

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"View from Mt Mitchell"  
Digital Image  
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### Newsletter Spotlight

**Of course what it boils down to is a lack of trust. A small tribe of people in Africa have produced more victorious marathoners than anywhere else in the world and yet they do not have the latest running shoes or fancy clothes. What they do have is heart and a trust in the traditions of their people.**



## Touchstones of the Heart

### Grocery Store Tennis Shoes (Continued)

If I didn't run as fast as another kid I could blame it on the shoes or if I felt smaller or less important than someone I could blame it on the fact that I didn't have the best that money could buy. How often do we treat God like that? We think, "if I could only go to this place where God is moving, then people would recognize my talents and I could really work for God then." Or perhaps we just think that we don't have enough talent or gifts to be used by God and we choose to sit on the sidelines and be a spectator instead of a participator. Yes, we make excuses, like I did when I didn't run as fast or look as sharp as someone else. Of course what it boils down to is a lack of trust. A small tribe of people in Africa have produced more victorious marathoners than anywhere else in the world and yet they do not have the latest running shoes or fancy clothes. What they do have is heart and a trust in the traditions of their people. They train in austere conditions and run barefooted over desert terrain and do not make excuses. In the book *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren encourages every believer to get their passport and to go on short term mission trips. A friend of mine, who last month went on his first trip, told me that for years he made excuses for not going. You know what his excuse was? It's dangerous. Yet when the missions director at his church called him on it, he realized he had just been afraid and was making excuses. I'm sure the week he spent on this mission trip was the most rewarding adventure he will ever go on. When we stepped out and started living by faith, literally not knowing how we would meet obligations from one month to the next, some people thought we were crazy. Yet we have had God show up at the last minute to meet our needs and it has been exciting and nerve racking at the same time. And you know what? I wouldn't have it any other way. And you know what else? I eventually learned I could run fast in grocery store tennis shoes—No excuses!

### Ministry Updates (Continued)

done just that. In the month of July alone we had 17 guests stay with us. Some for one night and others for three to four. Rescued Heart Ministries is about helping people develop a deeper relationship with God through retreats. People can discover this either through one of our organized events or in our home. Our doors are open to anyone who needs to get away and seek this deeper relationship. God has given us a vision for this ministry and we want to be true to it, but at the same time we want to be open to His Holy Spirit for it's direction. Another thing God is doing is opening doors of ministry in unexpected places; such as a teen pregnancy center, church planting and travel to other nations. I recently received a request for us to come to Uganda and help with a work there and neighboring countries. We are believing God will provide the resources and we are looking for them to come. Please pray and ask God what you can do to help.

### Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart (Continued)

I may not always walk as a perfect example of faith, but when I have given all over to Him, people cannot help but see God's holy Spirit in me. This was the one thing that God impressed on me as Theresa and I walked the grounds of Quiet Reflections Retreat here in the high mountains near our home. Günter and his wife Trixie no doubt have not been perfect and yet God has used them in extraordinary ways. What is the difference? I think it is what A.W. Tozer called "holy intention" as he wrote about Abraham, David and others who are listed in the bible's hall of faith found in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. "Holy intention" is not about doing everything right, but about having a desire to please God and being available for Him to use. As I consider my own up and down life, I realize that there is nothing I can do to please God or win His favor. The bottom line is that when I was unlovable, He loved me and even now He loves me in spite of myself. What He is hoping for is that I will realize His purpose for my life and I will yield myself to Him to allow Him to work out the details. My days of trying hard to be a super Christian are over, I just want to be available and fully surrendered, so that He can use me in any way He wants and that I may fulfill my life's purpose for Him!

*May I give one more small piece of advice? Don't do these things because you "ought to", but do them because you understand without them you will die on the battle field for your heart!*