

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DAVID MARTIN

There was a guy in my youth group way back in Nebraska by the name of David Martin. He was a young, brilliant man and he had just gotten his driver's license. He was so smart that he was kind of the nerd of the youth group. We were nice to him, but he was more tolerated than he was loved. He was going to be filthy rich one day, being a computer geek.

Unfortunately, I was the one to receive the first telephone call that was made by David's mother, when she returned home on a Thursday evening to find her son in the basement hung. David had hung himself! He had put up a couch and had hung down a rope. There at the top of the couch, was a book opened to a story that he had been imagining. See, it wasn't a sexual thing for him. He was a young kid who just gotten his driver's license, who wanted to be important and have people like him.

David was reading this story about these men who were in battle. Their leader gave up his life and was hung so that all the other men in his group could be freed by the enemy. The leader was a great hero! There in the basement when I came, right after David had been let down, I saw these little two inch plastic army figures, where David had carefully placed them to create the scene that the book was opened to. It was obvious what was going on. He was imagining that he was the hero that all the men thought was so amazing.

David hadn't meant to kill himself! No one in their right mind tries to kill themselves the day after getting their driver's license! He just didn't realize the dangers. See, all sorts of imagination can trap you in ways you don't know, and this one happened to be a physical trap. As I was told by the EMT, there is a nerve somewhere in the back of our neck, that when a certain amount of pressure is applied, it can cause a person to go unconscious. So, when David stepped off the edge of the couch to fake hang himself, expecting to come back to the couch, he went unconscious. David never woke up to tell the story.



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