

**THE SOWER  
ARTHUR CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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**Have you visited our web site lately? ([www.arthurcoc.com](http://www.arthurcoc.com))**

## **THE HUMAN HEART—“FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE”**

At this time of year we are made especially conscious of the heart, especially as it is used as a symbol of love at Valentine’s Day. We find hearts adorning greeting cards and chocolates in heart-shaped boxes. Of course as we so refer to hearts, we realize that the term is being used regarding the seat of our desires, our wills and our emotions rather than the physical blood pump.

The physical heart, as God designed it, is a fantastic mechanism. Nothing formed by human hands can equal it. Beating at an average rate of 75 beats per minute, it faithfully pumps blood throughout the body, providing life-giving nutrients and energy to every cell. That means that during a year’s time it will beat about 40 million times, and in a lifetime of 70 years two and a half billion times. It is so designed as to pump about 4 ounces of blood in an adult at each beat, and in the course of a day, 3000 gallons, and in a year 650 thousand gallons—sufficient to fill 81 tank cars , each of which will hold 6000 gallons. In one hours time it does sufficient work to lift a 150 pound man to the height of a three-story building, or, in 12 hours to lift a 65-ton tank car one foot off the ground, and in a span of 20 years to raise the largest battleship afloat out of the water. If we reflect on this, can we say it any better than David said it: “I will praise thee: for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works: and that my soul knoweth right well” (Psa. 139:14)?

As the word “heart” is used in Scripture, however, it refers to the center of our consciousness. *Eerdman’s Dictionary of the Bible* states, “The Hebrews thought of the whole human being and personality with all its physical , intellectual and psychological attributes when they used ‘heart.’ It was considered the governing *center* of all of

these. It is the heart (the core) that makes and identifies the purpose (Prov. 4:23). Character, personality, will and mind are modern terms which all reflect something of the meaning of ‘heart’ in its biblical message.” In creation, man’s heart was pure before it was defiled by sin. With the fall of man, however, the heart is spoken of as being “evil” (Gen. 6:5), “hardened” (Ex. 7:13), lustful (Ps. 81:12), “stony” (Ezek. 26:26), “revolting and rebellious” (Jer. 5:23), “deceitful and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9), etc.

God’s desire for those who would honor and fear Him, however, is a change of heart through Jesus Christ. God’s promise to the house of Israel was, “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them” (Ezek. 36:26-27). The New Testament clarifies the source of this new heart—Jesus Christ. Jesus spoke of it as being “born again...of water and of the Spirit” (John 3:3-5). Regarding the conversion of Cornelius and his family (Acts 10-11), Peter said of them that God “put no difference between them (Gentiles) and us (Jews), purifying their hearts by faith” (Acts 15:9). Their faith was in the one of whom Peter had spoken—Jesus Christ., Theirs was an obedient faith, evidenced in their yielding to Peter’s having “commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48). Such is the power of the gospel—the good news of salvation available to us by the grace of God. The human heart is a defiled heart—defiled by sin. But in repentance and baptism faith opens its arms to receive a new heart, purified by the blood of Jesus Christ, so we can again say with David, “I will praise thee: for I am fearfully and wonderfully made!”

--Ron

## **A VOICE FROM THE PAST—**

If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of caring for them, they must be happy and prosperous. (*Thomas Jefferson*)

## **A STORM IS BREWING**

A powerful storm is brewing in the Middle East, one like the world has never seen. World Bible School and World English Institute have broken through the Quar’an Curtain via the

Internet and invaded the Middle East with Good News. They are seeding the clouds. For the first time, thousands of Muslims are discovering what is in that Bible they have never seen before—and they are astounded.

**In Afghanistan**, a convert of eight years ago teaches everyone who will listen. Periodically he teaches the wrong person and is threatened with death. He flees across the border or up in the mountains. He declares, “I will not stop until they kill me.”

**In Gaza**, a tenured Muslim professor told his WBS (World Bible School) teacher his conversion to Christ had been discovered and his computer was confiscated. He was fired from his job and forced to flee.

**In Kurdistan**, a convert was subpoenaed to court for his decision. The day before his hearing, he asked his WBI teacher to pray “that I don’t deny Jesus in court.” His teacher begged 50 Facebook groups with Churches of Christ to pray. The next day he went to court. Our powerful God stepped in. The judge threw the case out.

**In Pakistan**, the teenage daughters of a WBS convert were threatened at a bus stop with acid in their faces.

Usually hundreds must be taught before one Muslim risks responding to Jesus. Katheryn Hadad, who has taught, who has taught Muslims 10 years now, says, “That seed has been planted in fearful hearts. But it’s there. And some day they will find each other. Soon—maybe not in my lifetime, but soon—the flood will rise in torrent and the place where Christianity originated will return to its origins more powerfully than ever.”

*--WBS periodical, Action*

(NOTE: You may find more information from Katheryn Hadad on her web site: [inspirationsbykatheryn.com](http://inspirationsbykatheryn.com).)

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## Amazing Discovery In an Attic

Mom and the kids had been in the attic together doing some cleaning. The kids discovered an old manual typewriter, and asked, "Hey Mom, what's this?"

"Oh, that's an old typewriter," she answered, thinking that would satisfy their curiosity.

"Well, what does it do," they asked.

"I'll show you," she said, and returned with a blank piece of paper. She rolled the paper into the typewriter and began striking the keys, leaving black letters of print on the page.

"Wow!" they exclaimed, "that's really cool. How does it work like that? Where do you plug it in?"

"There is no plug," she answered. "It doesn't need a plug."

"Then where do you put the batteries?" they persisted.

"It doesn't need batteries either," she continued.

"Wow! This is so cool!" they exclaimed. "Someone should have invented this a long time ago."

*Decatur Tribune*

Maybe being old isn't always being out-of-date!

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**"DO YOU LOVE ME?"** will be today's message, with John 21:15-17 as the reading and text.

**PRAY FOR:** Ruby Bradd (Clinton; cancer); Wayne Polk (Shelbyville, minister; hardening of leg-arteries); Gavin Hardin (stationed in Kuwait); the many being greatly persecuted for their faith in Christ, especially in Islamic and communist countries. **1 Timothy. 2:1: "I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men...."**