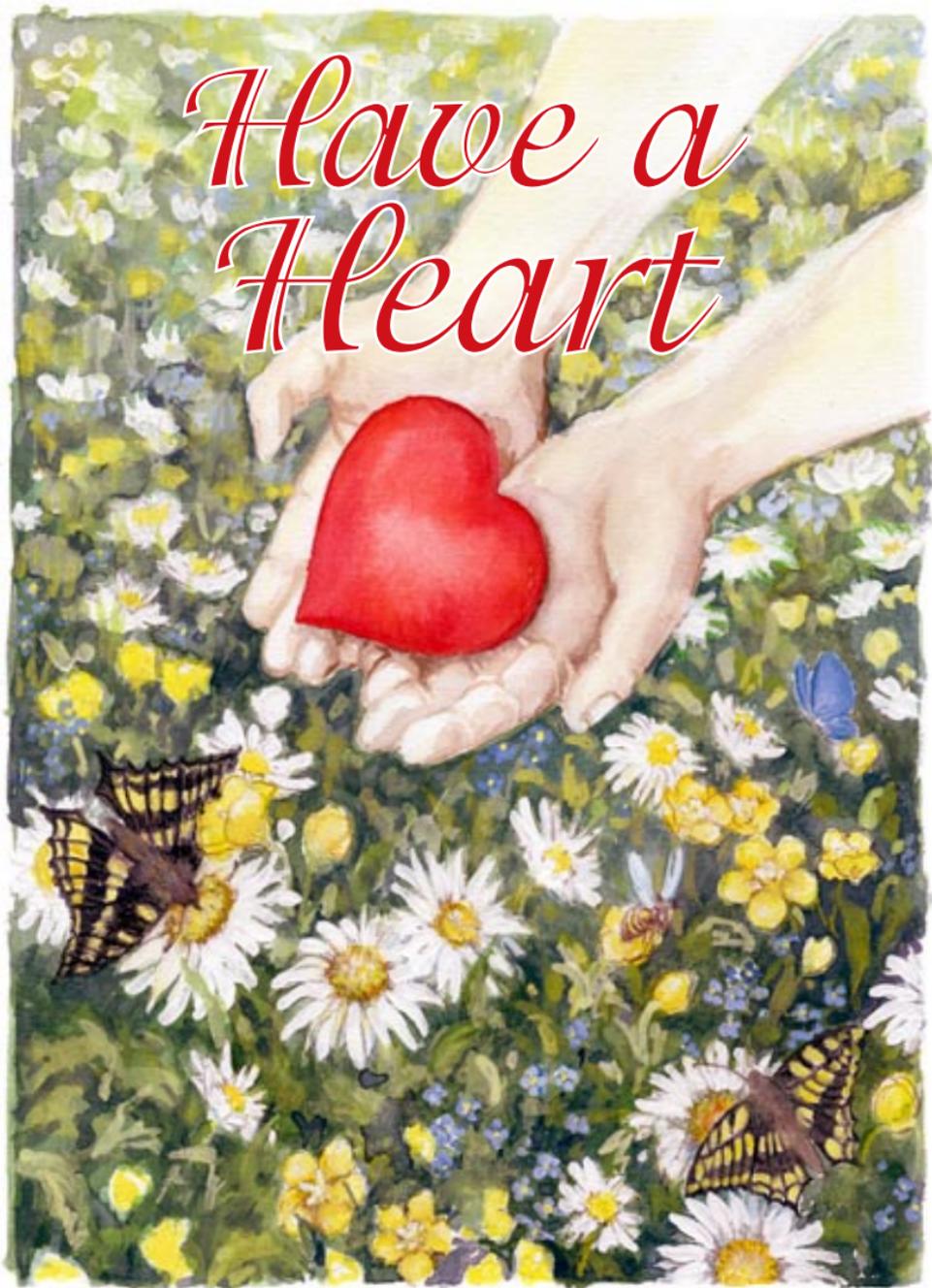


*Have a
Heart*



Have a heart... When faced with a rather “heartless” environment these days,, this can often become our deepest cry — “Have a heart!”

It seems sometimes that “heart” has been lost from our culture in many ways. The dawning of a rather heartless epoch in our culture came in the late '60s. A songwriter/philosopher of that era put the sentiment very clearly in a song done in the famous “rock opera” of 1969 called *Hair*. The lyrics went like this:

How can people be so heartless

How can people be so cruel

Easy to be hard

Easy to be cold

How can people have no feelings

How can they ignore their friends

Easy to be proud

Easy to say no

And especially people

Who care about strangers

Who care about evil

And social injustice

Do you only

Care about the bleeding crowd?

How about a needing friend?

I need a friend

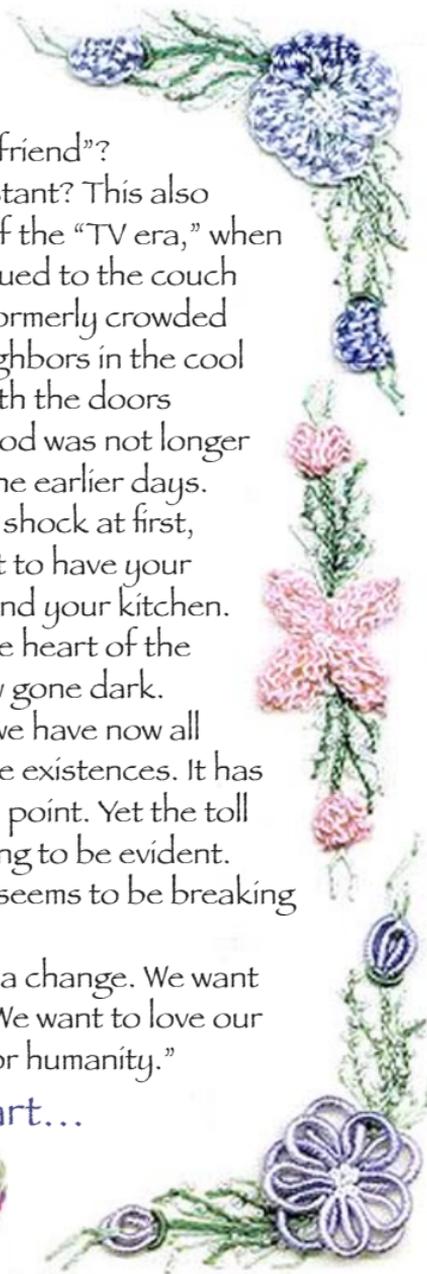


“How can people be so heartless?” was the question of the day. “How about a needing friend”? Why had people all grown so distant? This also just happened to be the dawn of the “TV era,” when people became content to be glued to the couch in their living room, leaving the formerly crowded front porch that hosted the neighbors in the cool of the evening very desolate. With the doors securely locked the neighborhood was not longer the social scene it had been in the earlier days. Everyone moved inside. It was a shock at first, not to know your neighbors, not to have your neighbors children running around your kitchen. The front porch represented the heart of the neighborhood. The heart is now gone dark.

But years have passed and we have now all happily settled into our separate existences. It has become “the preference” at this point. Yet the toll of loneliness in our lives is starting to be evident. The loss of social relationships seems to be breaking the heart of our culture...

So, there has been a call for a change. We want the heart restored to our lives. We want to love our neighbors... We “have a heart for humanity.”

Don't lose heart...



Customs of the Heart

In ancient history in the Middle East, there was a custom that still remains today among the desert people. Recorded on the pages of the Bible in 2nd Kings 10:15, we find the story of a zealous king of the land of Israel, named Jehu. He was in the process of trying to turn his nation around from their idolatrous ways to once again following the ways of the God of their ancestors. When he came across a prophet in the desert Jehu longed for the prophets approval of his efforts at restoring true religion. The story is recorded like this:

*And when Jehu had departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab coming toward him in the desert: and he saluted Jehonadab, and said to him, **Is your heart right with my heart, as my heart is with your heart?** And Jehonadab answered, **“It is.”***

“If it be, give me your hand.”

And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot. And Jehu said, “Come with me, and see my zeal for our God.” So Jehu made him ride in his chariot.

The story goes on to describe how the men went together in “one heart” to accomplish this great task.

It is an interesting and very ancient greeting, but one that is very telling. The giving of a hand is supposed to represent something deeper than just the hand. The hand is to represent the heart. That is why the giving of a handshake at one time was as binding in a court of law as a notarized contract is in these days. Men represented their true heart with their hand.

How many today would shake hands while at the same time holding bitter feelings, grudges, or other dishonest motives?

“Is your heart right with my heart, as my heart is right with yours? Then give me your hand!”

The heart here represents the whole of the person’s character. We must be true to our heart. ❤️





Heart

- the heart is regarded as the center of a person's thoughts and emotions, esp. love or compassion
- one's mood or feeling
- courage or enthusiasm
- the central or innermost part of something
- the vital part or essence: *the heart of the matter*

EXPRESSIONS of the heart

have a heart – be merciful; show compassion or pity

heart-to-heart – candid, intimate, and personal

heart-rending – causing great sadness or distress

heartbroken – suffering from overwhelming distress; very upset

after one's own heart – of the type that one likes or understands best; sharing one's deepest desires

at heart – in one's real nature, in contrast to how one may appear

break someone's heart – overwhelm someone with sadness

by heart – from memory

close to one's heart – of deep interest and concern to one

from the heart – with sincere feeling

give (or **lose**) **one's heart to** – fall in love with

have a heart of gold – have a generous nature

have the heart to do something – to either have the courage or be insensitive or hard-hearted enough to do something

have (or **put**) **one's heart in** – be (or become) keenly involved in or committed to (an enterprise)

have one's heart in one's mouth – be greatly alarmed or apprehensive

have one's heart in the right place – be sincere or well-intentioned

heart of stone – a stern or cruel nature

one's heart's desire – a person or thing that one greatly wishes for

one's heartstrings – used in reference to one's deepest feelings of love or compassion

in one's heart of hearts – in one's inmost feelings

take something to heart – take criticism seriously and be affected or upset by it

wear one's heart on one's sleeve – make one's feelings apparent

with all one's heart (or **one's whole heart**)
– sincerely; completely

with one's heart in one's boots – in a state of great depression or trepidation



*With a heart full
of God's Love...*

Significant Greetings
-BY-

