



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

## May Day, May Day, May Day

*"The Celts of the British Isles believed May 1 to be the most important day of the year when the festival of Beltane was held. This May Day festival was thought to divide the year in half, between the light and the dark. (It is six months from the divide between the dark and light called Halloween.) When the Romans took over the British Isles, they brought with them their five-day celebration known as Floralia, devoted to the worship of the goddess of flowers, Flora. Historians believe the first maypole dance originated as part of a fertility ritual, where the pole symbolized male fertility and baskets and wreaths symbolized female fertility. The maypole never really took root in America, where May Day celebrations were discouraged by the Puritans. The connection between May Day and labor rights began in the United States. During the 19th century, at the height of the Industrial Revolution, thousands of men, women, and children were dying every year from poor working conditions and long hours. Dwight D. Eisenhower tried to reinvent May Day in 1958, further distancing the memories of the Haymarket Riot, by declaring May 1 to be "Law Day," celebrating the place of law in the creation of the United States."<sup>1</sup> A total of 66 countries celebrate May 1 as a legal holiday with some extending it to a week-long holiday. They use the day to promote labor conditions in their countries. Russia uses the day to celebrate their victory over Germany and to show off their military might.*

*SOS (save our ship) was used as a distress call when radiotelegraph was used. It was what the Titanic used to signal for help. However, it was difficult to use with voice communications. The letter "S" often sounded like "F" using foreign accents. But why did the distress call signal get changed to Mayday?*

*In 1923, there was a lot of air traffic between England and France. An RAF "flying boat's" engine failed over the English Channel. In French, they radioed "Help me" (M'aidez) three times. It was the phonetic equivalent of Mayday. The message was received by Frederick Stanley Mockford, a senior radio officer in Croydon, France. In 1927, the International Radiotelegraph Convention adopted the voice call "mayday" as the international distress call.<sup>2</sup> Also, the term mayday is becoming synonymous with a life-threatening scenario involving a fireman or firefighters here in the United States.*

*In the United States, the push for the development of a nationwide American emergency telephone number came in 1957 when the National Association of Fire Chiefs recommended that a single number be used for reporting fires. It was not until 1968, that the number was agreed upon. AT&T chose the number 911, which was simple, easy to remember, and dialed easily. By March 2022, 98.9% of the U.S. population had access to 911. Canada began to change from 999 to 911 in 1972. Mexico switched from 066 to 911 in 2017.<sup>3</sup> I personally called 911 several times in my life.*

*When we are in danger or have an emergency, we all call out for help. We may not say SOS or Mayday. We may even need someone to call 911 for us. But help will arrive. But who do you call when you are in trouble with financial, emotional, spiritual, or relationship needs? Well, you do not need a phone. You do not need to go anywhere. You will not be put on hold. Just look up and pray.*



*Charles L Stambaugh*

*Mt Wolf, PA*

**May this day, you find God's help and love.**

**"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jer 33:3**



<sup>1</sup>[history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-may-day](https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-may-day)

<sup>2</sup>[plainviewfd.org/the-origins-of-mayday-as-an-international-distress-call](https://plainviewfd.org/the-origins-of-mayday-as-an-international-distress-call)

<sup>3</sup>[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9-1-1#:~:text=9%2D1-1%2D1%2C%20usually,one%20of%20eight%20N11%20codes.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9-1-1#:~:text=9%2D1-1%2D1%2C%20usually,one%20of%20eight%20N11%20codes.)

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