



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

*“The grass will seem greener on the other side of the fence, only when you stop working on your lawn.”*

## The Udder Side

*This past summer, I was driving on a side street in Mt Wolf Borough. There was a little league ballfield to my left next to a cattle field. I looked at the ballfield and could not believe it. There was a cow standing at home plate. By the time I called 911, the cow was in the street. The dispatcher asked me the standard questions. He then seriously asked, “Can you describe the cow?” I was tempted to say, “He has ten legs, two heads and is green.”*

*While waiting for the officer, two cars came by nearly hitting the cow but they did not stop to help. A man, trimming his grass, 40 feet from the cow also just ignored him. The cows on the correct side, well, they just mooed to each other and went on eating. The cow seemed to enjoy his freedom in the world without fences. But, as I observed, the cow kept trying to eat the road without getting any satisfaction. I blocked the road so no one else could drive by.*

*The officer arrived and contacted the farmer. When the cow saw and heard his master, he started running across the ballfield again. But this time, he was running towards where he got out and returned through the same spot where he left. He quickly rejoined his herd. The official police report read: “A young cow was seen wandering on the 300 block of Chestnut Street. Possibly looking for a hay dealer. Officer assisted the farmer in getting the cow back inside his fence.”*

*Over the years, I have seen several who have left the Christian family. They were on fire for the Lord. But then, they are tempted with the lie that “the grass was greener on the other side of the fence.” They soon turned their back on their faith, family and future. Running around in the world seemed to be fun and exciting at first but then the consequences of sin soon set in. With those who did not return, their peace and life were filled with heartaches and emptiness. The Bible refers to these people as backsliders. “The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways” Prov. 14:14*

*We as Christians are good at gossip and judging those that have fallen but too often fail on the helping side towards them. Just like those in the above illustration, who saw the stray but ignored him. Our Lord is calling them with open arms to return. If they were born again, then they are still saved just like the escaped cow was still a cow. If they never accepted the Lord, the Great Shepard is still calling. In either case, we are not to judge but pray, pray, pray. I have been praying for a good friend for 20 years, who went to Baptist seminary to preach, but left everything for another woman.*

*If you are like the stray cow, it is not too late to come back. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9*



Go the udder way!

*Charles L Stambaugh  
Mt Wolf, PA 12/2017*

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Gal 6:1



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