

Valentine's Day

By Danette Kettwich

**One morning a Grandmother sat as happy as could be.
With all of her grandchildren around and on her knees.**

**"Can you tell us a story?" They all cried.
"Yes I'll tell you about my favorite Valentine."**

**She started her story with a smile on her face.
She pulled out an old torn heart made of paper and lace.**

**One day when I was about your age, it was Valentine's Day,
I was very sick and couldn't go to school or to play.**

**The doctor came again to visit my mom and me.
Then I heard him whisper to mom, "I'm sorry."**

**I asked my mom after the doctor had gone,
What had he meant and what was so wrong?**

**She looked at me with love and tears on her face,
She didn't talk but sang to me softly Amazing Grace.**

**I fell soundly asleep with the sound of her song
And forgot for a while about what was wrong.**

**When I awoke, sitting in a chair next to me,
Was the pastor of our church who was as kind as could be.**

**He was a tall straight man with a soft, kind face.
He held in his hand this heart made of paper and lace.**

**As he held it I noticed in the middle it was torn apart.
I asked, "What happened to your beautiful heart?"**

**He handed the heart very gently to me.
He said this heart has a very beautiful story.**

This is how his story began.

He told it to me as he held my hand.

**This heart used to be perfect without spot or tear,
The person it belonged to was a person who cared.**

**He was a perfect child, and a perfect man.
Who was sent from God to our desperate land.**

**God sent this man to earth because,
The people he made forgot how to love.**

**Their hearts were sad, and empty within.
He came to help clear the earth of its sin.**

**He did many wonderful things he helped people to see,
The power of God's love if only they would believe.**

**He healed a lame man; He made a blind man to see,
He told about heaven and about eternity.**

**One night He and His followers went to a garden to pray.
A group of angry people came and led Him away.**

**They tried the man that committed no crime
They even hired a man to make up stories and lie.**

**His crime was His love, His sentence was to die.
The crowd cheered and His followers went to hide.
The man that was perfect, in every which way,
Had a break in his heart as they lead Him away.
They ripped out His beard, they spit in His face.
They whipped His bare back, He felt so disgraced.
On his head they pushed thorns in the shape of a crown.
They laughed as the blood started trickling down.
A heavy wooden cross they made Him carry up a hill,
Until he could no longer walk, He stumbled and fell.
They took that sweet man, and nailed His hands and His feet.
He said it is finished, as He hung to that tree.
You see this man, with the broken heart, like you hold in your hand,
Died for you and for everyone in this land.
His heart that was broken in every which way,
Was repaired when he rose the third day.
He died as a sacrifice for all of our sins.
So we can live someday in heaven with Him.
The heart that is broken represents His blood that was shed,
Push the edges together this represents when he rose from the dead.
The lace represents heaven and the beautiful place it will be,
A place only believers in Jesus will be able to see.
That is the story about the heart that you hold.
Jesus is ready for anyone to accept Him, both the young and the old."
He said, "Do you believe in Jesus? Your heart can be fixed too
Can I pray a prayer quietly with you?"
That Valentine's Day more than my heart was broke,
But Jesus came in and gave to me, a new hope.
The doctor said I wouldn't make it but Jesus knew,
I had a special story to tell each one of you.
She gave them each a hug and wiped a tear from her face;
She handed them the heart made of paper and lace.
Her grandchildren held the heart and understood.
They asked if she could pray that prayer with them, and she said that she would.
Dear Jesus, I know you died for me,
Please come into my heart and help me to see.
Come into my heart and make me brand new
Help me live a new life that reflects the love of you.
Forgive me of each and every one of my sins
Thank you, my Lord Jesus, in your name I pray, amen.**

