



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

*"Even an examination of the smallest creature points to an amazing Creator."*

## ANTS

One night, we had a major ant issue inside our house. Suddenly, there were hundreds on the floor, wall and door. A lot of them had wings and were flying on us. Using a vacuum cleaner and spray we at least got the attack at least under control. The next morning, we called for help. However, everyone was too busy to give an estimated or they wanted a high-priced year contract. Finally, a self-employed exterminator stated he could come late afternoon. After an examination, he gave a price and stated that he could come back in about a week. Explaining that we did not enjoy sharing our living room with the invaders, we asked if he could service us now. He agreed. It turned out that he once lived a few blocks away, knew some of the same people and was a born-again believer. His great "no wait" service included a time of Christian fellowship.

Current estimates assert that there are about 10 quadrillion ants on the planet. This means that there are around one million ants for every one human. Except for **Ant**arctica, ants have pretty much conquered the entire globe. There are more than 12,000 species of ants. They have even outlived the dinosaurs.

Ants breathe in oxygen through spiracles which are a series of holes located around the sides of their bodies. They can hold their breath for 24 hours underwater. They can swim by using a form of the doggy paddle and can float for a long time. Ants have two stomachs. One of their stomachs is for holding food for their own consumption, and the second is to hold food to be shared with others. Ants don't have ears. Ants "hear" by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet. When foraging, ants leave a pheromone trail so that they know where they've been and use the magnetic poles for direction.

An ant can lift 20 times its own body weight. If a second grader was as strong as an ant, they would be able to pick up a car. If a man could run as fast as an ant, he would be able to run 34 miles per hour. Even as small as they are, ants still have 250,000 brain cells.

Rather than working as individuals, ants function as parts of a collective whole, doing what is best for the colony as a collective. Ants are able to communicate and cooperate effectively by using chemicals. Through these chemicals, ants are able to send simple messages to their fellows, alerting them to danger or indicating when food has been located.

Each ant colony has its own distinctive smell. Therefore, intruders can be recognized immediately. The biggest threat to them is not humans but another colony. They can invade neighboring ant colonies, capturing its inhabitants and forcing them to work for them. This process is known as slave raiding. However, ants will protect aphids from natural predators and shelter them in their nests from heavy rain showers in order to gain a constant supply of honeydew.

Normally, the head of the colony is a single queen ant, who can live for up to 30 years. She is blind and can lay over four million eggs a month. Without her, the colony would only last 30 days. The male ants, also called drones, have wings and are to mate with the queen. They are formed from the fertile eggs. They usually die 10-14 days after mating. Once a year they are sent out to find new areas to colonize. Female ants are from unfertilized eggs and can live up to three years. They are sterile. Also, known as workers or soldiers, they care for the eggs, tend to the larva, build and repair the nest, forage for food, and protect the colony.

*"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Rom 1:20 KJV*



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*"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise" Prov 6:6*

*"The ants go marching one by one."*



Honey, I shrunk the Grandkids.

Reference websites: ["27 Ants Facts They Didn't Teach You in School."](#) ["Ant Facts for Kids"](#) ["10 Crazy Facts About Ants"](#) ["25 Awesome Facts About Ants You Probably Didn't Know"](#)

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