

## e-KardíaGram

## Cardiology

*And we know that he works all things together for the good of those who love God who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28 ISV)*

*We work together with God. So we are asking you not to receive God's grace and then do nothing with it. He says, "When I showed you my favor, I heard you. On the day I saved you, I helped you." I tell you, now is the time God shows his favor. Now is the day he saves. (2 Corinthians 6:1-2 NIV)*

**S**everal years back I was teaching a healthcare ministry conference to the staff of a mission hospital in the Middle East. While there I experienced an unusual heart arrhythmia, so I went to the hospital's cardiology unit for a check-up that included a 12 lead EKG evaluation.

After applying the leads to my chest, a technician switched on the EKG; however, you should have seen the look on her face when the paper spooling from the machine showed not a blip...I was an utter flatline. Her eyes got real wide and off she rushed, leaving me in the room with an attendant. Now surely she must have known that the completely horizontal EKG tracing couldn't mean I was dead because I was looking at and talking to her. But, she sure seemed scared as she tried to reconcile her training and what she was witnessing. A couple of minutes later she returned with the chief technician of the department. He made some adjustments and...still, according to the EKG, my heart wasn't beating.

Now I had an arrhythmia to beat the band and two alarmed technicians. They both disappeared, and after some minutes they brought back the cardiologist on call. Their anxious Arabic briefed him, then he calmly reorganized those 12 leads and reset the electrocardiograph. Finally, when switched on one more time, the device's pens clicked to life, inscribing my heartbeat across the paper.

Think about this. We are essential leads in God's apparatus. In ministry, as in an EKG, all of the pieces must work together for good. Thankfully, God is the senior cardiologist who ensures they do.

—Jeff Russell