

“A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a Friend who sticks closer than a brother.”
Proverbs 18:24

Is it a coincidence or just a great irony that loneliness has spiked in our country just as our media became ‘social’, our technology became ‘personal’, and machines have learned to recognize our faces?

Every morning, millions of people check their phones and social media and then go into their day with very little human interaction. They retire for the evening after checking their phones again and then fall asleep still longing for love and significance.

We see loneliness everywhere and many people feel cut off and alienated from others. Being in a crowd just makes people more aware of their isolation. Lonely people do not need to hear ‘Have a nice day.’ They need friends who will stick close, listen, care, and offer help when it is needed in both good times and in bad. It is better to have that type of friend rather than dozens of superficial acquaintances on Facebook. If you look around, you will find people who need your friendship.

We all need to improve the art of beginning new friendships. To whom can I be friendly today? We need to remember that there is also a Friend who sticks closer than a brother! When you feel no one cares about you, remember that God loved you before you were born! Instead of wishing you could find a true friend, maybe we should seek to become one. We should put all the technology aside for a moment and ask God to lead us to someone who can become a true friend – and then follow His leading.

Heavenly Father, thank you for being a Friend closer than a brother. You are attentive, loving and just, and always there for us. Help us to be there for others. May our motives and desires follow your will as you lead us into new friendships. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Rose Laning

Department Chaplain