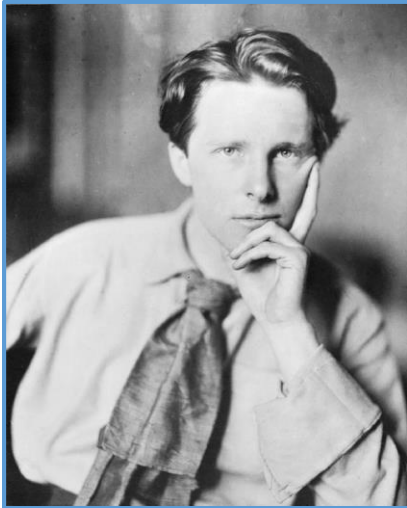


The Power of Togetherness

What is it like to be lonely? Here's what Mother Teresa had to say about it:

Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.



Rupert Brooke (1887 – 1915) was an English poet known for his idealistic war sonnets during World War I, especially *The Soldier*. According to *Wikipedia*, he was also known for his boyish good looks, which were said to have prompted the Irish poet W. B. Yeats to describe him as “the handsomest young man in England.”

Brooke set out to travel by boat from England to America. Everyone on deck had someone there to see him or her off – everyone except him.

Brooke felt lonely, terribly lonely. As he watched the hugging and kissing and goodbyes, he wished he had someone to miss him.

Then the poet saw a youngster and asked his name. “William,” the boy replied.

“William,” Brooke asked, “would you like to earn a few shillings?”

“Sure I would! What do I have to do?”

“Just wave to me as I leave,” the lonely man instructed.

It is said that money can't buy love, but for six shillings young William waved to Rupert Brooke as the boat pulled out.

Of that incident, Brooke wrote, “Some people smiled and some cried; some waved white handkerchiefs and some waved straw hats. And I? I had William, who waved at me with his red bandanna for six shillings and kept me from feeling completely alone.”

More than likely, most of us feel lonely at times. But here was a man who was strong enough to admit his loneliness.

In the work we are called to do in Life Care and Century Park, we often find lonely people among our resident populations – or even their family members.

(more)



Steve Goodier, an ordained United Methodist minister and founder and publisher of *Your Life Support System*, a widely read newsletter, said the loneliest do not all reside in nursing homes, nor do they live by themselves. “Anyone, not well-connected to others, can be lonely,” he said.

But he quickly added: “We can recognize that, spiritually, we are not alone. We are part of a great family.”

We understand that. As associates in Life Care and Century Park, we are part of one great professional family. As an example, it was heartwarming to watch and hear how associates from three divisions responded to offer to help when Hurricane Matthew hit the East Coast in October and buildings were evacuated.



But most of all, we belong to God’s family.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (John 1:12 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter