



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“I am so glad that Jesus did not keep His love for me a secret.”

## Stop, Secret Pal

*Some groups have this game called Secret Pals. It is where you are given a name in the group, and then you send secret notes to them. At a given time, you reveal yourself to the person and then get a new name. Well, for years, my mother-in-law got these unsigned cards. It drove her nuts. No one came forth and declared that they were the sender. My mother-in-law went to be with the Lord a year ago. You are correct, the cards and notes kept coming. There are no return address, name, or group claiming they know about it. We wish they would stop, because the person sending does not even care that Lenore has passed. Whoever it is, please stop.*

*A friend is a **Faithful Relationship with I** that does not **end**. This relationship is a caring one. One that rejoices when the other rejoices. One that cries when the other cries. One that lifts when the other is down. One that you can open your heart, mind, and soul to without strings or selfishness attached. One that may need to show you the error of your way in love. One that has no secrets.*

*I recently thought about the people I know. There are thousands of people that know me by name. There are hundreds who would consider me as a friend. However, per the definition above, I would say that only a handful are true friends. During the Covid lockdown, the death of Lenore, and the months of Susan being laid up, very few called, helped, or even cared. I sent bimonthly emails to many about our needs but most of our so-called friends never responded.*

*But there was a special person. After 45 years of separation, we reconnected. This caring one asked how we were doing, gave us words of encouragement and prayed for us almost daily. Even though we were separated by hundreds of miles and have not spoken by phone, we could feel the care and presence of each other through our Lord Jesus. Now I am returning the prayers to them.*

*We do not need secret pals. We need friends that truly care. We need friends that have the love of I Corinthians 13. “When you have good friends, hard times seem more manageable, and you feel supported and celebrated for who you are. And when times are tough, you know you have someone to count on. No matter the distance or situation, they always seem to know how to make you feel better”.<sup>1</sup>*

*I believe the saddest verse in the Bible is Psalms 142:4 “I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.”*



Don't be a Secret Pal.  
Be a caring friend.


*Charles L Stambaugh Mt Wolf, PA*

*Please write us at [NHBDevotions@gmail.com](mailto:NHBDevotions@gmail.com)  
We will listen, pray, encourage, and rejoice.*

*“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly. (But always remember) There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” Prov 18:24  
That friend is Jesus Christ.*

*I know that words can't  
heal the pain you're  
feeling, but please know  
that I'm here to listen  
whenever you need to talk.*

<sup>1</sup>[betterup.com/blog/qualities-of-a-good-friend](http://betterup.com/blog/qualities-of-a-good-friend)

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