

# Efficient and Effective Technology-Based Ministry for Improving the Quality of Life

## Ministry Focus: Cancer Patients and Caregivers

Presentation by  
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# Can health ministry professionals improve the lives of cancer patients/caregivers through technology?

This presentation will discuss the implementation for establishing a faith-based, volunteer-led, ministry for the cancer community using the following:

- Distance learning volunteer training
- Participant workbook and facilitator guide
- ZOOM or other video conferencing technology
- Email
- Text, video calls, hone calls

# Example: Cancer Companions

“Focusing more on Christ and less on cancer is a good thing.”

Cancer Companion’s trained volunteers provide cancer patients, survivors and caregivers these services:

1. Online/In Person Cancer Bible Studies and follow up
2. Weekly Cancer prayer Partner Phone Calls



## Cancer Companions

- founded 2011
- 377 trained volunteers
- 73 volunteer teams
- teams in 21 states

# Steps for Establishing a Technology-based, Volunteer-led Cancer Ministry

**Step #1** Assess your faith community's interactions with those coping with cancer.

**Step #2** Select volunteers to train online to provide:

cancer Bible study meetings and follow up  
a weekly Cancer Prayer Partner connection.

**Step #3** Volunteers learn basic group process/video conferencing techniques.

**Step #4** Understanding pros/cons to online vs in-person support.

# Step #1 Assess your faith community's interactions with those coping with cancer.

What areas of cancer ministry could your faith community/hospital staff benefit from the support of trained volunteers?

Faith Community Cancer Support Evaluation

What % of cancer patients...	0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76- 100%
First tell the church staff they have cancer at diagnosis?				
First tell the church staff they have cancer later in treatment?				
First tell church staff after treatment is completed?				
Do not tell the church staff they have cancer?				
Ask to be placed on church prayer list?				
Receive an in-hospital visit from church staff?				
Receive periodic home visit/call from church staff?				
Receive periodic interaction at services from church staff?				
Tell staff when a treatment side effect suddenly keeps them from work, church services, self-care?				
Tell church staff of poor results to a scan or test?				
Tell church staff of a treatment not working anymore?				
Notified church staff when treatment is completed?				
Notified church staff when entering hospice?				
Receive a hospice visit from church staff?				
Funeral service led by church staff?				

## **Step #2 Select volunteers to train online to provide cancer Bible study meetings and/or a weekly Cancer Prayer Partner connection.**

**A volunteer-led cancer ministry can assist the staff to reach more people effectively.**

**Here are the components needed for a successful volunteer-led ministry:**

1. Support from faith community/hospital staff.
2. Minimum three trained volunteers.
3. Faith-based materials to share with participants. (videos, books, etc.)
4. Online volunteer training.
5. Procedure to launch a successful ministry.
6. Ongoing guidance and mentorship.

## **Step #3 Volunteers learn basic group process/video conferencing techniques and follow up skills.**

**A volunteer-led cancer ministry can assist the staff to reach more people effectively.**

### **Suggestions to make volunteers more comfortable with technology.**

1. Invite volunteers to a zoom meeting to learn how to use zoom. Include experienced online facilitators to share.
2. Provide a video and study guide (with screen shots) on how to use zoom.
3. Provide contact information for technology trouble shooting person.
4. Invite to attend an online cancer Bible study session as an observer.



# Step #4 Understanding pros/cons to online vs in-person support.

Online facilitation requires a different pattern of interaction to maintain quality of interaction.

## **PROs**

- 1. Anyone from anywhere with basic technology can join.**
- 2. Cancer Patients in hospitals and hospice can still attend.**

## **CONs**

- 1. Subtle nonverbal communication can be missed.**
- 2. If a group meeting, more difficult for facilitator to maintain awareness of all participants.**
- 3. No ‘Parking lot’ groups. Facilitator needs to encourage participants to support each other between meetings.**



# 30 DAYS OF CANCER PRAYERS

BATTLING CANCER ONE PRAYER AT A TIME.

**BONUS:**

International Virtual  
Cancer Prayer Event

[www.30dayscancerprayer.com](http://www.30dayscancerprayer.com)

# PICTURE...

30 Prominent Christians + 30 Cancer Prayer Videos + 30 Days =  
**Hundreds of Thousands of People Joined in Prayer**



<b>30 Days of Cancer Prayers</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Reach: Facebook/IG/YouTube	7,356	118,128	309,858

# Would you like to learn more?

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