

Facing Cancer

Seeking support ...

In many cities cancer patients and their families and care givers have access to support groups and resources through such programs as “Wellspring”. But for people in rural and isolated areas, few such groups exist.

Many are fortunate to have the spontaneous support of others who have already worked through various stages in the cancer journey. Others are supported by local medical and health-care personnel who help them monitor their situation.

But in-between are the patients who are out of range from this help. With the modern availability of technological resources at our disposal, I’ve started a search to find out what kind of on-line resources an isolated individual or family might discover.

One group to respond to my queries immediately were the Parish Nurses organization in Canada (www.ichm.ca). These nurses are usually part of a congregation within a local church. Their role is to look out for the health and well-being of members, and to help make people aware to how spiritual nurture can enhance an individual’s sense of health and wholeness. The focus is on finding ways to appreciate positive relationships with God and with others.

In responding to my query about resources, Chantell Brown (of the Parish Nurses organization) wrote, “We would like to help you reach out to families affected by cancer. We especially recognize the need for assistance for people in isolated areas.”

Our attention is drawn to how trust in God facilitates healing in various ways and in various dimensions of our life. “Health is not the purpose of life, but it enables us to fulfill our life’s purposes.”

I might add, having traveled some of this journey, that healing may or may not be about “getting better”, but it is about helping us discover new spiritual depths as we travel.

(written by Joyce Sasse)