



7 Things You Should Know About Cancer

Rev. Percy McCray

HEALTH, HOPE & INSPIRATION
WITH REV PERCY MCCRAY

We recognize the importance of being informed and prepared to effectively care for cancer patients. Over the years, I've had many conversations about what individuals should know about the needs of cancer patients and their families.

This resource, while certainly not exhaustive, lists seven of these fundamental needs, which I pray will provide you with clarity and insight for effective, caring ministry.



1. Cancer affects all types of people.

Cancer is not only a global disease, it's a community disease. Every person in the world can be impacted by cancer in some way. You have opportunity to break through to encourage, uplift, and care for any person that cancer touches.



2. Practical ministry can have benefits.

Because cancer is a complex disease, its treatment can be impacted by diet, stress, sleep, mood...and hope! Providing physical, emotional and spiritual support for daily life to someone with cancer can positively impact a person's health.



3. Spiritual needs can vary with each individual. Be sensitive.

*Our good intentions sometimes lead us to pray in ways that fail to connect with the heart of the individual. People are most receptive to prayer when we join with them in agreement where they are. Remember to ask **before you pray**. Put the needs of the individual above any personal expectations.*



4. Cancer can be a journey. Be present as much as possible.

Upon receiving a cancer diagnosis, people often receive a rush of support. But as weeks, months and years wear on, that staunch support system can weaken or fade. Your presence during a patient's cancer journey can prove invaluable. Find the level of relationship and ministry that is right for each situation and be faithful to love, help and encourage all the way through.



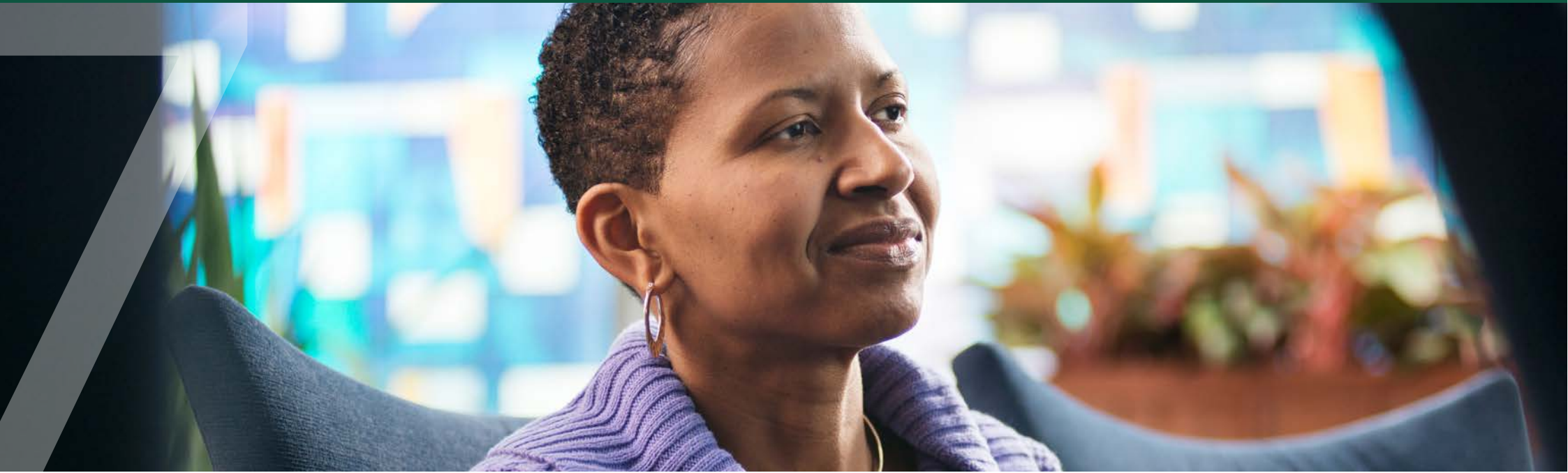
5. Caregivers need support, too.

People with cancer may have the greatest need, but caregivers need ample support as well. Caregivers can suffer tremendous burdens trying to care for their loved one, while trying to keep up with their home, finances, work and other responsibilities. Offer support to caregivers as you would a patient, realizing the burden they carry may be just as heavy.



6. Others want to be involved.

Church members often want to help in some capacity, but sometimes they lack direction. Mobilizing volunteers with you as the point of contact can multiply your ability to practically care for people. It can be as simple as coordinating meals, housework or rides to appointments. This can lessen anxiety and burden for the patient/caregiver and encourage members of the church to get involved.



7. You need to plan and protect your time.

Our busy culture often compounds the challenges of doing ministry. In an effort to pack everything into a day, we sometimes work well into the night. That is not a long-term solution. If God has put cancer care ministry in your heart, please prayerfully examine the essential and non-essential activities which fill your day. See where you can freely budget time on a regular basis, and then protect that time.

My friend, I'm grateful for your heart and your willingness to say "yes" to God's call to cancer care ministry. Your outreach to people touched by cancer can provide hope and support in countless ways.

You can learn more about cancer care ministry and leadership training opportunities by visiting www.OurJourneyOfHope.com.

I'm committed to working with you to broaden the impact of this ministry. God bless you!



About Reverend Percy McCray

Rev. Percy McCray Jr. has spent more than 20 years ministering to cancer patients and their caregivers at Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA).



He recognizes cancer care ministry as a special calling from God and considers faith a key, but often overlooked, component of cancer treatment. He now serves as the Director of Faith-Based Programs at CTCA® and provides leadership to the pastoral care staff at all five CTCA hospitals. In addition, Rev. McCray oversees Our Journey of Hope®, a nationwide cancer-care ministry training and support program.

An ordained minister, Rev. McCray is a member of the U.S. Chaplain Association. He has been recognized as one of the “most influential African Americans in Lake County (IL)” by the *Chicago People’s Voice* newspaper for his religious and leadership roles within the community.

Health, Hope & Inspiration is a weekly radio broadcast, sponsored by Cancer Treatment Centers of America®(CTCA), designed to help people find answers to questions about cancer, cancer prevention and overall healthy living. One of the greatest gifts a person can enjoy is good health. A well-rounded lifestyle is the product of physical, emotional and spiritual health. These three things are interdependent, and that is the message of *Health, Hope & Inspiration*, as well as the basis of the integrative approach at CTCA®.

For more information, visit our website at www.HealthHopeAndInspiration.com.

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Winning the fight against cancer, every day.®

Cancer Treatment Centers of America® is a national network of five hospitals in the United States with expertise in treating patients who are fighting cancer. We combine state-of-the-art technologies with an integrative approach to care in order to reduce side effects and maintain quality of life during cancer treatment. If you or someone you love has cancer, call 866-712-4673 or go to www.CancerCenter.com/Faith.