

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

—Hebrews 10:24-25

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14

“Well, Jim, it’s cancer.” I already knew it. Funny...I wasn’t at all freaked out or traumatized by it. Really. I had made peace with God and myself. I was ready for anything.

Each day in the radiation lab, I saw the same patients over and over. I have never had such an experience – the warmth, pats on the back, words of support and encouragement to each other and our companions. “Hang in there, my friend; I’m keeping you in my thoughts and prayers,” the all-knowing smiles. The healthcare professionals were equally supportive. We became family from all walks of life, together in a lifeboat. Each day, I saw God in the faces of my fellow patients. I felt a tangible sense of love pervading the atmosphere. I had a strong, strong sense of community, just knowing things would be well. They were. And they are.

—Jim Carlton