A Complex Witnessing Opportunity

You and your brother Jake have kept in touch over the years primarily via Facebook and sporadic texting. It has been interesting for both to compare notes on the challenges and opportunities that your combined faith in Christ has presented. The two of you have agreed that the principal goal in these interactions is to share the scriptures that apply to each situation. By engaging in this cooperative effort over the years, both of you have grown in your understanding of the role of scripture in dealing with a range of topics.

In his latest text, Jake outlines a more complex setting that requires their applied scriptural study. In particular, his text goes as follows:

“When I first thought about this prayer concern, it seemed quite straight forward – an intercessory effort for one with a serious illness. However, as I thought more on this last night, this opportunity is considerably more complex.”

Jake and his wife had finally decided to buy a new car. When looking through the salesmen listing on the dealer’s website, Jake noticed the name of Bill Horton whom he had known through the local Rotary club. While their relationship was limited following his decision to leave the club, Jake took the occasion and emailed Bill to begin the car search. Bill had returned the email with a suggested meeting the next Monday morning. Little did Jake know that this meeting would also provide a unique and challenging prospect to share his Christian message.

After a typical opening conversation focused on re-engaging their relationship, the topic of retirement came up as both Jake and Bill are at that stage in their life.

Jake went first, “Well, my job permits me to slowly phase out without a definitive retirement. I am enjoying my work. Also, the flexibility it provides for me and my wife to visit children/grandchildren and take some vacationing time makes it the best of both worlds, at least for now.”

While Bill’s personality is one of a typical outgoing salesman, he hesitated in his response. He then said, “I am facing a considerably different situation. Our daughter has been battling cancer for several years now. She is single and lives in Chicago. While I would love to use the term ‘cancer free’ at some point with her, the outlook is not encouraging. She went through a first round of chemotherapy and everything looked good. However, recently, the doctors have found additional cancer and she has started a more aggressive set of treatments. My wife and I have to be available whenever the need arises for us to support her. It has been a very draining experience. While I have been part time for a few years, I have decided that my commitment to
my daughter needs to be full time. I have just submitted my resignation. You might be my last client.”

After looking at a couple of cars, Jake left to go back to work. Later that night, he emailed Bill a thanks for showing him the cars and, more importantly, a query of whether it was ok for him to pray for his daughter.

As Jake’s above text to you continues, “It was the responding email that causes me to pause. He said thanks for the offer but I got the distinct impression that Bill is not a believer and that he was just being polite in his answer.”

“I would really appreciate your scriptural insight. As you can see, there are two prayer concerns – the first being obviously for Bill’s daughter and her health. However, I need to consider how I can also use this opportunity to introduce Bill to the Lord. You and I need to arrive at what scripture would be appropriate for me to share with him that not only addresses his daughter but also could be used to bring Bill to the Lord.”

**ASSIGNMENT**

What scriptures would be appropriate for Jake to use when meeting with Bill that focus on his daughter but also would open the word of the Lord to Bill?
My Scriptural Research:

Group Scriptural Research:

Decisions / Recommendations:

Primary Scriptural References: