Sandra Norris:
SPEAKING FROM THE HEART WITH DRAGON

There are always plenty of people out there who need a prayer or two, as Sandra Norris knows. She works part-time for a national television ministry as a prayer counselor, and while she receives plenty of prayer requests by phone, she also sees many of them arrive via web chat. Dragon NaturallySpeaking lets her quickly copy and paste one of her many prewritten prayer starters into the web chat window and then speak the rest of the prayer.

“My prayer starters cover healing, finances, encouragement, forgiveness, and many other topics,” she explains. “I can prime the pump with one of those and then use Dragon to make the rest of the prayer fit the person. It goes straight from my heart to my mouth, and I can make it sound as if I’m speaking to the person in the same room. Most people contact us with multiple prayer requests, so I can handle each one as quickly and authentically as possible.”

After creating her prayer starters, Norris says, “I can get personal and specific with each caller.”

Those prayer starters were also written with Dragon, so they “sound friendly, not formal,” she says. When she’s speaking to someone on the phone, she looks over printed prayer starters arranged in front of her by topic and finds the right one to read. Whether she’s speaking by phone or in a web chat, sometimes she comes across new, rare, or unusual requests, in which case “a little additional help from the prayer starters can go a long way.”

Norris draws on her vast knowledge of the Bible during those prayer sessions. That information also comes in handy when she writes papers for her Bible school night classes. “For example, if I write a paper on the Book of Romans, I add my testimony or personal insight, which comes out of my head,” she says. “And if I need to use another book as a reference, I can read the relevant sentences, rather than retype them, and then create the citation. Each paper I write is 80-90% spoken.”

At Least 60% Faster
Norris likes to stay busy, so for the past decade she has also been an online instructor for the University of Phoenix, teaching undergraduate and graduate business classes to 20-22 students at a time. She uses a web browser for the class. “Students ask specific business questions in a chat window, and I use Dragon to respond to them as if they’re in front of me in an actual classroom,” Norris explains.
“STUDENTS ASK SPECIFIC BUSINESS QUESTIONS IN A CHAT WINDOW, AND I USE DRAGON TO RESPOND TO THEM AS IF THEY’RE IN FRONT OF ME IN AN ACTUAL CLASSROOM.”

She goes on to note: “I do everything — web chat prayers, Bible school papers, business class instruction, even email — at least 60% faster. Typing is so much longer and harder for me, because I have to stop and correct as I type. With Dragon, words that I would probably misspell while typing come out right the first time, so I don’t have to spend time fixing those errors.”

Norris has been using Dragon for over a decade. She was first exposed to the software while looking for a product that could help her disabled sister, who also continues to use Dragon today. “Dragon is good for certain types of thinkers,” she says. “I showed the Dragon Dictation app on my iPhone to my brother, who works for NASA. He was so impressed that he went out and bought Dragon NaturallySpeaking that day because he has a hard time typing what’s in his head, but he can speak it.”