

Creative idea

For praying for the media

The media industry is an incredibly important aspect of modern life – whether newspapers, TV, radio, internet or social media – and has a huge influence over the views, preferences and opinions of every sector of society. At its best, it's a bringer of insightful information, a passionate voice for justice and a powerful way for the voiceless to be given a voice – but at its worst, it can be destructive, misleading or even downright unethical.

So because of this influence – and because of the crucial role that the news plays in informing our intercession at the Sanctuary – we are committed to praying regularly for our media industry.

So this resource builds on our previous resources published for the [National Day of Prayer for the Media](#), along with the excellent written prayers and prayer points provided by the Church and Media Network who run the Day (find these at www.pray4media.co.uk). The ideas contained in this resource came out of a time of morning prayer and worship at the Sanctuary focusing on bringing God's truth into our media industry, and please feel free to adapt it in any way for your own setting.

NB. You can find our other resources relating to the media here:

- Written prayers for praying for our media:
http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/written_prayer_and_prayer_points_+for_our_media.pdf
- Guest blog from Peter Crumpler on praying for, and engaging with, our media:
<http://journey.thesanctuarycentre.org/2012/04/23/quest-blog-praying-for-and-engaging-with-our-media/>

Praying for the media

Equipment needed: pens, paper, a number of Bibles, a pile of ripped up pieces of newspaper, a world map, a print-out (or projected onto a screen) of Zechariah 8:16-17 in the Message Bible.

1. Before you start, lay out the world map on the floor in front of everyone and place beside it the stack of Bibles and the pile of ripped up pieces of newspaper. And then give everyone the print-out of the Zechariah 8:16-17 passage, a piece of paper and a pen.
2. Together, either individually or corporately out-loud, read Zechariah 8:16-17 in The Message Bible:
“And now here's what I want you to do: Tell the truth, the whole truth, when you speak. Do the right thing by one another, both personally and in your courts. Don't cook up plans to take unfair advantage of others. Don't do or say what isn't so. I hate all that stuff. Keep your lives simple and honest.”
3. Using this passage as your basis, pray together for the UK's media industry – for example you might want to focus on things like:
 - a. telling the truth in all circumstances, and valuing integrity;
 - b. having a heart for justice without judgement;
 - c. gathering correct and thorough information;
 - d. honouring one another and the individuals/organisations who are the subjects of their news articles;
 - e. not taking advantage of those who are vulnerable or distressed;
 - f. protection from the temptation to sensationalise stories to get more coverage or income.(There are also lots of helpful prayer points on the www.pray4media.co.uk website)

4. Now, looking at the world map, spend some time thinking individually about two situations – perhaps one global and one local/national each – where a recent news story has particularly caught your heart. Jot down the following information on a piece of paper:
 - a. A quick one-line summary of the situation;
 - b. What you would like to see changed in terms of the way/tone/emphasis that the media has used to report this situation.
5. When everyone is ready, quickly share what you have jotted down. And then pray together for each of these situations, asking for God to bring the change that you feel is needed and for his truth to shine through in all aspects of the media’s reporting – follow these steps for each situation:
 - a. As you start to pray, pick up a piece of the torn newspaper and lay it on the world map on the country involved to represent the significant role the media has in communicating this situation and in how we understand what’s going on;
 - b. As you finish praying, lay one of the Bibles over the piece of newspaper, representing our hope and prayer to see the integrity, accuracy and truth that God desires reflected throughout the media’s continued reporting of this situation.
6. Depending on how it feels right to finish your time praying, you might like to end by reading together one of the written prayers from either our [written prayer for the media resource](#) or any of the prayers on the www.pray4media.co.uk website.

