

HOW TO PRAY FOR THE WORLD

FORM HABITS

As with any spiritual discipline, this takes effort. Repetition and persistence is the key. Below are a number of resources to help you with praying for the world. Ways to integrate this into your spiritual rhythms can include:

- Praying the news. When you hear world news, pray then and there!
- Incorporate global prayer into your normal devotions or prayer time, even if only a few minutes
- Introduce it into your church service/home group/prayer meetings/youth group. Plenty of short and snappy ways to do this
- Check your labels. Whether it's clothes, food, appliances, whatever, our lives are full of items from overseas. When you put it on, eat it, or use it...pray for the country that made it!
- Make a world map a focal point of your household setup. Prominently on the wall, coffee table, or somewhere you will regularly look at it...a launching pad into global intercession!
- Mealtimes. Take 5 minutes after breakfast or dinner together to lift up a nation, issue or people group of choice. Everyone takes turns choosing, including the kids!

PRAY THE NEWS

There is no lack of information about the world and what is going on in it. Do we ignore it, fret helplessly, or engage in prayer? Reading, watching or listening to the news should be fuel for our life of intercession.

You all know the main news sources that you prefer (BBC, NYT, WSJ, CNN, CBC, etc.), so here is a brief offering of a few excellent news sites that bring something different, fresh or just outstanding to the table.

The Atlantic – the most mainstream of the sites here, but also the best quality articles. Aimed at “thought leaders”, so expect to flex your grey matter!

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/>

World News – essentially, they take world news headlines from major papers around the world and put them together on one site for you.

<http://wn.com/>

Associated Press World News Feed – might be slightly dry in presentation, but these are the real articles from the original writers, before they get picked up by newspapers and magazines around the world

<http://apne.ws/1gAQsqi>

Foreign Policy – more on the conservative side, but excellent content focused on not just world events, but their strategic, political, and economic implications

<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/>

World Affairs – they run articles from across the gamut of the political and cultural spectrum, and although the articles often touch on US-oriented implications, they unfailingly major on overseas events

<http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/>

Christian Science Monitor – never mind the wacky theology of religious arm of this group, this has long been one of the highest quality, most objective and insightful news sites out there:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World>

Al Jazeera – a fresh, and often refreshing, perspective on world news that is not driven by Western political and economic agendas

<http://www.aljazeera.com/>

Alternet – used to be a hangout for conspiracy theorists and other strange folk, has migrated a couple of standard deviations toward the norm but still supplies excellent alternative (and anti-establishment) sources and views

<http://www.alternet.org/world>

Mother Jones – independent, investigative, social justice oriented, and liberal in most senses of the word. But cuts through the corporate control to aim for the truth.

<http://www.motherjones.com/>

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD – CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

Operation World – the book/DVD are best, but there is lots of content online here, including helpful tools to get you praying. The 365 day prayer calendar is one way to pray for the whole world in one year.

<http://www.operationworld.org/>

Prayercast – excellent videos to pray along to for the needs to dozens of nations. Great to include in services and events as well.

<http://prayercast.com/>

Joshua Project – the mother ship of information on the people groups of the world, but more than just population data.

<http://joshuaproject.net>

Global Prayer Digest – a monthly devotional guide that helps you pray daily for a specific group of peoples or a specific mission-oriented issue

<http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>

24-7 Prayer - great resources on HOW to pray, especially if you are trying to pray together in groups

<http://www.24-7prayer.com/prayer>

Global Prayer Resource Network – a strong collection of resources and links to resources to assist us in learning about praying for the nations and then actually doing it

<http://www.globalprn.com/>

International Prayer Connect – the network of networks that brings together prayer movements from around the world. Find out how God is moving in intercession globally.

<http://www.ipcprayer.org/>

Waymakers – thoughtful, well-planned tools to transform our prayer life – both individually and corporately.

<http://waymakers.org/pray/>