



# Praying into 7 Spheres of Society

Open Heaven, Prayer Walk Coventry, June 2021

## Praying for the Seven Spheres of Influence

In the 1970's the founder of Campus Crusade, Bill Bright, and the founder of Youth with a Mission (YWAM), Loren Cunningham, identified seven key areas of society, that they believed God wanted to be reached through prayer and righteous activism. Many Christians continue to pray into these seven 'spheres', sometimes called 'mountains' or 'pillars'.

***As we prayer-walk as part of Open Heaven, we will come across many buildings and places that represent these 'spheres of influence'. When we do, it is good to stop and pray into what they represent; for the people involved in them; and for these 'spheres' as a whole.***

The seven areas are: religion, family, education, government, business, media, arts and entertainment. Here are some prayer pointers for each area.



### The Church/Religion

Jesus said, "...I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:18). When we see church buildings:

- We can pray for every congregation to be strong.
- We can pray for godly leadership and godly behaviour among all members.
- We can pray for a spirit of unity in the Church (John 17:20-25).
- We can pray for all to 'follow the way of love' (1 Corinthians 14:1).
- We can pray for the Holy Spirit's anointing on all churches, no matter their domination, gracing and empowering all members for service.
- We can pray that we will become a beacon of hope to a hurting world. 'You are the light of the world'. (Matthew 5:14).
- We can pray that we would take hold of the Great Commission once again, 'making disciples of all nations' in the name of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).



### Family

The family is a key building block of society, instituted by God. Over households, especially if we know families are resident:

- We can pray for the honouring of parents in line with the 10 commandments.
- We can pray for marriages – for healing and strengthening, for love and faithfulness.
- We can pray for parents, both fathers and mothers to be wise, loving and kind in their parenting.
- We can pray for those for whom family is very difficult or who have little or no family.
- Psalm 68:6 says, 'God sets the lonely in families'. We can declare this promise over the lonely or marginalized in our city.



## Education

When we come across schools, colleges, university buildings and student residences and pre-school nurseries:

- We can pray that schools and nurseries will be places where children and young people grow to reach their full potential.
- We can pray for an openness to the Gospel of Jesus and an open door for religious freedom and expression.
- We can pray for the strengthening and emboldening of Christian teachers, managers and schools, and that they would teach, through words and actions, about the goodness and redemption of God.
- We can pray for students coming into our city from across the world – that they would be welcome in Coventry and that they would come to know the love and saving grace of Jesus whilst they are here.

This is a great promise to declare over our city and our education systems: *'All your sons will be taught by the Lord and great will be your children's peace'. Isaiah 54:13*



## Government

1 Timothy 2:1-2 says: *'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.'*

As we come across government buildings:

- We can pray that all leaders would make righteous and godly decisions.
- We can pray for all who 'govern', making decisions affecting our city, that they would act in wisdom and ask God for His wisdom
- We can pray, that all in government act towards God's plan and purpose for our city.
- We can also pray for godly men and women to rise up and take their place in positions within government across our city. *'When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice'* (Proverbs 29:2).



## Businesses/Trade/Finance

Jeremiah 29:7 says: *'Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.'*

With the impact of COVID-19, this is an especially challenging time for many businesses.

As we see business buildings, units and outlets of all kinds:

- We can pray for the prosperity of Coventry.
- We can pray for innovation and success in our city.
- We can pray for high employment and the alleviation of poverty through a thriving economy.
- We can pray for godly and principled leadership in business; those who will act with integrity.
- We can pray for places of work to be places of love and respect.



## Media

Philippians 4:8 says *'Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about such things.'*

The media includes news sources such as radio, TV news stations, newspapers, internet news, along with opinion (blog) sites and 'social media'. The media has the potential to sway popular opinion on current issues based upon its reporting.

- We can pray that the media will be truth-bearing and contributors to unity.

- We can pray for godly and positive reporting in our city.
- We can pray for all expressions of Coventry's local media to be a voice for hope and love in our city.
- We can pray for all who work within media.
- We can pray that the channels of media in Coventry, including social media, are used to amplify the message of God's love to a hurting world.



### **Arts, Entertainment and Sport**

This sphere encompasses sports and leisure clubs and organisations, gyms, cinemas, theatres, concert venues, music, performing arts, literature etc. Most of these means of entertainment find their way into every home, and they have a great influence on our culture. Many venues in this sphere are currently closed or presently considering reopening under significant restrictions.

- We can pray all venues in this sphere are places of wholesome entertainment.
- We can pray all venues are places of positive personal connection and places where people come to know the love and grace of Jesus.
- We can pray for all Christians working and meeting others in these spaces, that they would speak out for truth, hope and love.
- We can pray for the City of Culture in 2021: that it would be a beacon of Kingdom Culture and unifying in the Coventry community.

**Lord, in all these spheres, let Your kingdom come!**

