

World Telecommunications and Information Society Day, May 17, 2018

The explosion in communications technology over the last 150 years has brought us from the telegraph to the radio to the television to the internet – with the telephone and then the cell phone getting added to the mix. Through these developments the church has sought to use the technology to share the good news of the gospel.

Using Canadian Presbyterian examples – in the 1910's the Presbytery of Calgary produced records (as in played on record players) of sermons which were mailed to outlying congregations without ministers so there would be a Sunday sermon; in the 1960's Presbyterians in Wingham, Ontario produced an after-school TV program that had a larger audience in the community than the "Bugs Bunny/Roadrunner Show"; today dozens of the churches podcast their sermons.

A PRAYER

God, in the beginning you spoke, throughout time you have communicated with human beings both by deed and by word. We rejoice that your word has come to us not just to be read, but that we can also hear it as the Bible is read aloud and is preached.

We thank you, God of creativity and ingenuity, for the gifts and courage you have given to your people over the years, who have used advancements in telecommunications and information distribution to share your good news widely. For the early pioneer radio preachers, for the visionaries who used television to spread the gospel, for present day innovators who explore how to use the internet for your glory – we thank you. We pray for the SAT-7 collection of radio stations in the Middle East who nurture isolated Christians in their faith. We pray for similar radio and television stations around the world.

We thank you, God of imagination and artistry, for the creativity of Crawley Films and of filmmakers like Bill Mason, who laid a foundation for Christian communicators and filmmakers in our time. Raise up in our time, we pray, creative communicators, innovative webpage designers, and Jesus-centered technological risk-takers who will open new and unexpected ways for your word to be proclaimed and heard. Pour out the Holy Spirit, we pray, giving your people creative gifts applicable to this time.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who creatively proclaimed the gospel message. Amen.

Peter Bush, Moderator
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