

An Economic Development Prayer for Christian Organizations and their Leaders

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 104:24-34, Genesis 41:47-57

Reflections of the Heart:

“Business is a critical enabler of inclusive economic growth and job creation which is key to unlocking human potential and poverty reduction.” ~ Paul Polman, Chairman, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and CEO of Unilever

ONE Prayer:

Gracious Father, we thank You for providing a way for Christian organizations to survive and thrive through economic development. Thank You for multiple streams of income for Christian organizations, their leaders and employees, including: tithes and offerings, the sale of educational and inspirational products, and donations of financial securities and real estate. Thank You for creating broadcasting opportunities on both traditional and digital channels that help advance the missions of Christian organizations, while also providing revenues. Thank You for taking care of people employed by Christian organizations and supplying all of their needs from Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Thank You for the success of business ventures by Christian organizations that provide employment, housing and other material needs for the communities they serve. Thank You for having plans for the stakeholders of Christian organizations — plans for good and not for disaster, to give them a future and a hope. You are a great God and a great King above all gods. You hold in Your hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. The sea belongs to You, for You made it. Your hands also formed the dry land. We worship and bow down. We kneel before You, our maker, for You are our God. We are the people You watch over, the flock under Your care. We listen to Your voice today!

Almighty Father, we decree economic development and success among the leaders of Christian organizations. We confess that they will be wise and understand Your ways. They will prove it by living honorable lives, doing good works that come from wisdom. By faith, we declare that they do not have a spirit of fear and timidity, but power, love and self-discipline. Christian organization leaders will work to ensure that there is a mighty flood of justice and an endless river of righteous living within their economic development system. When they do, we expect the well-being and quality of life for the people in their communities to improve. They will support adequate distribution of wealth and public goods and services, equal pay for equal work, and access to quality education, jobs and neighborhoods. We declare that they will not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time, if they don't give up, they will reap a harvest of blessing. They will never be lazy, but work hard and serve enthusiastically.

Holy Spirit, help Christian organization leaders understand that the decisions they make and the interests they pursue individually and collectively contribute to the economic health of their communities and the global marketplace. Touch their hearts to be on one accord, merciful and loving in their efforts to build and sustain ethical and successful enterprises, create and retain jobs, and support the enactment and enforcement of just and fair laws. Remind them that the needs of each person they serve, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, social standing or financial capability, should be considered as they advance economically. In turn, show them ways in which they can support stronger economies and improve the quality of life for their communities and the world at large.

Holy Spirit, reveal how I can pray for and support the economic development activities of Christian organizations:

Righteous Father, forgive the leaders of Christian organizations for all acts of sinfulness. Forgive those who have not been diligent in seeking Your leadership for their organizational and social practices. Forgive those who do not trust in You nor Your wisdom but rely on their own limited human understanding. Forgive those who have compromised Your Word for personal gain. Forgive those who have not treated their employees and

constituents fairly but have given priority to people with wealth and privilege. Forgive those who have not properly taken care of or shown respect for the communities where their enterprises operate. Lord, forgive me for ***(list any sins that you have committed)***. Holy Spirit, remind Christian organization leaders of those they need to forgive and help them to forgive. ***(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He reveals them to you, say, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)***

Holy Spirit, help Christian organization leaders not to yield to temptation but deliver them from the evil one.

Omnipotent God, how great are Your riches and wisdom and knowledge! You are the God who does great things too marvelous to understand. It is You who performs countless miracles. We praise You, Lord! Let everyone on earth bless Your Holy Name forever and ever! Everything comes from You and exists by Your power and is intended for Your glory. All glory to You forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Philippians 4:19, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 95:3-7, Proverbs 4:7, James 3:13, II Timothy 1:7, Amos 5:24, Galatians 6:9-10, Romans 12:11, Matthew 6:13, Romans 11:33a, Job 5:9, Psalm 145:21, Romans 11:36

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