

The logo for '1k CHURCHES' features a stylized '1' in dark red with a white cross on top, followed by a 'k' in orange. Below these characters are three vertical bars of varying heights, also in orange, resembling a church steeple. The word 'CHURCHES' is written in dark red below the bars.

1k BOOK OF
CHURCHES PRAYERS
AND POEMS

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CRITERION INSTITUTE

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INTRODUCTION

2013

1K Churches is a movement of churches to have a transformational experience of discovering agency in creating God's economy. Through engaging in the process of investing in microbusinesses in the local community, churches will explore their individual and institutional roles as economic actors.

In March of 2013, we asked a small group of people to spend 20 minutes writing a prayer for 1K Churches. After 20 minutes of focused silence, we read them aloud. It was such a powerful experience — both to personally reflect and write and to listen to the prayers of others — we have decided to incorporate the prayer writing exercise into the discernment process for congregations. We share with you the first prayers written, and look forward to the thousands more we hope to collect from around the country throughout 1K Churches.

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

Be still and know that I am God...

It's hard to be still

As I hear and see injustice, greed and those who
kill...

It's hard to be still

As I learn there are millions whose stomachs they
cannot fill...

It's hard to be still

With friends, family and relationships where
No spirit can instill...

It's hard to know

When all around me ill winds blow...

It's hard to know,

As prejudice, inequality and judgment so easily
flow...

Yet, a spirit of call permeates my heart,

To reflect, pray and give something a start...

To address an item or two

That hurts my sister and brother through and
through...

It's you, God, calling me as I this earth slowly plod

To extend a peaceful stillness and the kingdom of
God.

LORD, I TAKE A DEEP BREATH

Lord, I take a deep breath
Releasing tension
 Making room for You to move
Pry open my hands, my fingers
 Hands that cling tightly to coins
 That cling out of fear, of greed, of security
Relax my spine, my posture
that I hold erect, out of pride, out of defense
Let me lean on others, for support, for inspiration
Shimmy through my feet, my legs
 Energize me to get out into your creation
 To move, to explore, to no longer stay put
Release my chest
 Lift of my guilt, pain, shame
 Add lightness and joy that breed gratitude
Open my ears
 Help me hear your Spirit
 In the laughter of children
 In honest words
 In the silence that you fill with Your
presence
Unclutter my mind
 From the daily tasks and to-do lists
 From the stresses and ruts where I'm stuck
 To make room for imagination
Thank you for meeting us where we are right now
 In mind, in spirit, and in body
To transform us and this world into Your Kingdom
here on earth

GOD, CREATOR OF ALL THAT IS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

God, creator of all that is known and unknown,
seen and unseen, be present with us this day.
Be present we pray so that we might know how to
be present.

We come to this table as we come to every table,
seeking, hoping, scared, amused, joyful, broken,
dancing, dying, singing, sleeping.

All at the same time.

Help us to be present to our knowing and
unknowing, to our sight and our blindness.

Help us find our way through.

God, Creator. Thank you for opening your world to
the possibility of co-creation.

For the grace that passes all understanding in which
we participate in creating your world here.

Your government,

your economy,

your railways,

your fields of grain,

your bank accounts,

your cell phones,

your cities and towns,

your systems that bind us into relationship with
each other,

so we can be in relationship with you more fully.

Grant us hope and faith and trust as we seek to be in new and transformed relationships with you and with each other.

In your name, and in the name of your son who died for us and in whom we find life.

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on us
Give us fresh eyes to see
the gifts you have given us
in our community and our congregations
and also to see the need and lack that persist
among us
Forgive us for the ways in which our blindness kept
us from acting,
and give us fresh eyes to see
the connections we can create between our gifts
and our needs
Most importantly, give us fresh eyes to see
ourselves and each other the way you see us,
as your blessed and valued creations

Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on us
Give us fresh ears to hear
Your word that you have given us in Scripture
that help us to understand the ways we should
honor you
with the resources you have provided us in our
relationships with each other
Forgive us for the ways in which our deafness
blocked out the cries of oppression and injustice
within our own community
give us fresh ears to hear the calls for righteousness
and justice to flow down like rivers.

Let our fresh hearing of your word translate into doing, transforming how we think and act in our daily lives.

Spirit of the Living God

Fall afresh on us

Give us fresh tastes that direct us in just and right economic relationships.

Forgive us for our desires drenched in consumerism that lead to waste.

Help us to taste and see, and to remember that you are good.

Help us to hunger and thirst for righteous relationships

that create new paradigms of wealth and value.

Spirit of the Living God

Fall afresh on us

CREATOR

Creator
O Most Generous one...

You who give us all that we need, deepen in us a greater awareness of our call to be in communion with you and all Creation. Help us to know that all is Gift... and be with us as we discern ways to share your gifts with others. Compel us to respond in as generous a way as you invite us to be in relationship with you.

Guide us in our knowing our call and our work together in the building up of your Community.

HOLY ONE

Holy One,

Among your many wonders in us and in me,
I am humbled and grateful for those who have
invested in me.

When I look back upon my life I realize I could not
have made it this far without each one of them.

Help me now to take my awe at what I have
received and it turn it into generosity to others.

I long to make a difference, God,

but I am afraid to let go,

afraid to launch out into the deep,

afraid to have to trust you more than myself.

Invest in me your trust, your love, your strength,
your courage,

that I may dare to invest more in others... make it
fun, God.

You know that it will help me to do it.

GRACIOUS GOD

Gracious God,
Thank you for the gifts of this day and the people
with us. All that we have and all that we are come
from you and are yours. May we care for your gifts
and use them to express your love and compassion
in the world. Guide us as we do.