



NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES
IN INDIA



INTERNATIONAL
ENTREPRENEURS DAY

LITURGICAL ELEMENTS & MEDITATION

E3 – Ecumenical Entrepreneurs Ecosystem

*“Commit to the Lord
whatever you do,
and he will establish
your plans.”*

PROVERBS 16:3

FAITH
WORK
PEOPLE
PURPOSE
A JUST WORLD

BUSINESS
AS A
VOCATION
FOR A
JUST &
HOPE-FILLED
WORLD



CHURCHES • ENTREPRENEURS • COMMUNITIES • TRANSFORMED TOGETHER



National Council of Churches in India
E3 - Ecumenical Entrepreneurs Ecosystem

Liturgical Elements



International Entrepreneurs Day

21st August, 2026

I. Call to Worship

Leader: Today we gather as people from different businesses and marketplaces to worship the God who gives us wisdom, creativity, opportunity, and strength for the work of our hands.

People: *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. Our businesses, talents, resources, and work belong to God.*

Leader: We give thanks for entrepreneurs and all who serve through agriculture, manufacturing, trade, retail, finance, technology, healthcare, education, construction, transport, hospitality, media, creative industries, and professional services.

People: *Lord, bless the work of our hands. Give us wisdom, integrity, courage, and excellence, and help us honour You through all that our hands do.*

Leader: Whether we lead a large company, run a small business, build a startup, work independently, or serve through our daily profession.

People: *May our work create value, provide opportunities, serve people, care for creation, and glorify God.*

Leader: As we remember International Entrepreneurs Day, let us dedicate our businesses, ambitions, skills, and the work of our hands to the Lord.

People: *Our work is worship. Our businesses are stewardship. Our growth is a responsibility. Our success is for God's glory.*

Leader: Scripture reminds us: "*Honour her for all that her hands have done.*"

People: *May the work of our hands be worthy of honour - not only for what we achieve, but for the lives we touch, the communities we serve, and the difference we make.*

All: Come, let us worship the Lord! Amen.

II. Opening Prayer

Heavenly God of all creation, we come to You today with grateful hearts. You are the original Creator the One who speaks life into empty spaces and gives us the vision, energy, and creativity to build.

Thank You for creating our world and giving us the ability to dream, work, and build. Today, we pray for all entrepreneurs, business owners, and hard workers in our church, our nation, and across the world. **We thank You for the work of their hands and for all that they contribute through their works.**

Lord, we pray for business owners across India. Bless the local shopkeepers, small business owners, craftspeople, factory managers, and technology workers. Bless their efforts so that they can earn a living, pay fair wages, and support their families and communities. Give them wisdom when money is tight and honesty in all their choices.

We also pray for business leaders around the world. When they feel tired or overwhelmed, give them Your peace and strength. Help them lead with kindness, fairness, and care for their workers.

Remind them that their work is not just about making money, but about **creating values, providing opportunities, serving people, caring for creation, and making the world a better place.** Protect their hearts from greed and dishonesty.

As we reflect on Your Word, **“Honour her for all that her hands have done,”** help us remember that the work of our hands carries purpose and responsibility. May what we build bring dignity to others, strengthen our communities, and honour You.

Bless their families. Bring rest, joy, and peace to their homes. Surround them with wise helpers, good friends, and honest partners.

We place our hard work, businesses, dreams, and the work of our hands into Your hand. **May You bless, guide, and establish the work of our hands.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

III. Testimonies of Entrepreneurs



IV. Reflection

“Honour the Work of Your Hands” - *Entrepreneurship, Calling and Holistic Growth*

“Honour her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.” - Proverbs 31:31

When we hear the word *ministry*, perhaps a priest at the altar, a missionary serving far away, a doctor in a village, or an evangelist preaching on the streets might come to our minds.

While these are beautiful expressions of ministry. I invite you to wonder, what about the person who opens a shop every morning?

What about the person who runs a business, manages people, negotiates with customers, takes financial risks, pays salaries, creates a product or service?

Where does that person, who carries the responsibility of an enterprise fit into the mission of God?

As we celebrate World Entrepreneurs Day, I believe, this gives us a rare opportunity to ask ourselves, **where does the entrepreneur belong in the hearts, life and prayer of God’s people?**

If we are truthful, God’s people can sometimes have an uncomfortable relationship with the businessperson and their wealth. While we are very comfortable receiving generosity that supports the needs of the church.

There is an uneasy feeling about wealth creation itself. We look suspiciously at the businessperson whose work includes creating economic value, as though creating wealth itself is somehow less spiritual.

When we read Proverbs 31, we often see the picture of a faithful and capable woman. And while she certainly is, I invite you to look closer at what she is actually doing.

She considers a field and buys it.

From her earnings she plants a vineyard.

She works with raw materials.

She produces.

She sells.



She supplies merchants.

And she knows that her trading is profitable. (*Proverbs 31:16, 18, 24*)

My fellow God's people, she is a business person!

It is true that for many of us today, home and workplace are separate. We go somewhere else to create economic value, earn an income and bring that income home to spend. Home therefore now is predominantly a place of consumption and not a place of creating economic value.

But the context of the household we see in Proverbs 31 is different. The household itself is an economic value creator. There is land. There is investment. There is production. There is trade. **There is profit.**

And Scripture does not have any reservations with any of this, instead it invites the community to **recognize the work of her hands**, and not merely what she gives away.

I invite you to take a moment and ask **‘how can we as a church better recognize the work of the entrepreneurs’ hands.**

Wealth creation and entrepreneurship are two sides of the same coin, but let's honestly ask ourselves, **‘Can the church better recognize the work of the entrepreneurs’ hands?’**

Let's first talk about wealth creation. Because when we speak about wealth, the question, *“Do I have wealth, or does wealth have me?”* is a fear every Christian carry in their heart. It is a warning rooted in the verse, *“The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.”* (1 Timothy 6:10)

While a salaried professional can be possessed by money. A priest can be possessed by money. A teacher can be possessed by money.

There is a particular tension for an entrepreneur here, **because creating economic value is explicitly a part of what a business person is trying to do.**

And because of that, perhaps sometimes we too quickly **interpret wealth creation itself as the love of wealth.**



If we **feel with an analytical mind**, creating wealth and worshipping wealth are not the same thing. In fact, Deuteronomy 8:18 gives us another interesting phrase. It says that **God gives the ability to produce wealth**.

Isn't that interesting?

The ability to see an opportunity, take a risk, bring people and resources together, build something, create value and sustain it. This means God places these abilities in an entrepreneur's hands to create wealth.

If so then, through this lens, **what is God asking us to see about entrepreneurship and the entrepreneur?**

Perhaps it is more about what is created along the way, and less about the wealth created. Take Boaz for example. We know Boaz mainly through the story of Ruth.

But Ruth chapter 2 also gives us an interesting glimpse into his workplace.

Boaz is a landowner. He has workers. There are supervisors. There is produce. And people are earning their livelihood there.

But what is created along the way is shaped in the way Boaz conducts himself as a business owner. He treats not only Ruth but all his employees with dignity. He protects and makes provisions for them. **He gives space to someone who is economically vulnerable. (Ruth 2:8-16)**

Think of it, even before anything from that field is taken and given somewhere else, the field itself is already touching lives.

And that is the picture of an entrepreneur I pray you can see. **The ministry of a businessperson does not begin after the profit is made.**

Sometimes I wonder whether we have unintentionally imagined it this way:

A businessperson builds a business.

The business makes money.

Some of that money is given to ministry.

And only then we recognize that person as participating in ministry.



I urge you to wonder, **what if the participation started much earlier?**

What if something of God's work is already happening through what is being built?

The Scripture, so beautifully, gives us another glimpse of how **ministry and business are not competing but complimenting.**

Let's meet Lydia in Acts 16. She is introduced as a dealer in purple cloth. I find that detail very interesting.

Luke could have simply introduced Lydia as a woman who heard the Gospel and believed. But we are also told about her business.

She is a trader.

She hears the Gospel. Her heart opens.

And then her home opens.

Her hospitality becomes available. Her resources become available. **Her relationships become part of the life of the emerging Christian community.** (*Acts 16:14-15, 40*)

Similarly to Lydia, Priscilla and Aquila do not leave their business world in order to enter God's world.

They are tentmakers. (*Acts 18:2-3*)

They work. They host. They travel. They teach Apollos. A church meets in their homes. And **Paul calls them his co-workers**, isn't that just encouraging to all entrepreneurs! (*Acts 18:24-26; Romans 16:3-5*)

When we look at their lives, work, home, faith, relationships, wealth creation, employee engagement, wage payment, customer relationship, quality of product, it all seems to flow in synergy with God's call.

For the entrepreneurs, their business life does not end for their ministry to begin. **Perhaps this separation belongs more in the heart of God's people than it does to God's ministry.**



And this is where I believe Entrepreneur Day asks the Church to look again. Not only to recognize what an entrepreneur can give from the business, but **can we open our hearts to see what God may be doing through the entrepreneur and the business itself.**

As we continue to see the entrepreneur through God's heart, have we wondered what a business *owner* actually owns?

Legally of course the business. But from the perspective of faith, maybe ownership is not the whole story.

If the ability to create wealth itself can be something entrusted by God, then it is possible that the entrepreneur is only a **steward of that capacity.**

A steward of opportunities.

A steward of resources.

A steward of relationships.

A steward of the ability to build and create.

And when we begin to see the entrepreneur in this way, then we are invited **to see the person behind the business.** The journey of a faithful steward doing God's work.

We may see a successful business but do we see the night when salaries are due and payments have still not arrived.

We may see growth, but not the risk behind it.

We may see wealth, but not the weight of knowing that other families are affected by the decisions being made.

We may not see the uncertainty of the next season.

We may not see the possibility of failure.

And sometimes we may not see the loneliness that comes with carrying that responsibility.

So, in reality the entrepreneurs in our congregations actually need something from the Church before the Church asks something from them.



They need our prayers.

They need people who will walk with them.

They need wisdom and moral strength.

They need a community that can stand with them when things go well, and especially when things fall apart.

They need a Church that sees the **person behind the business**, a community that **does not measure their place in the body of Christ by the size of the cheque they can write**.

Not to diminish the ministry's need for money. I see it as the duty of every entrepreneur to be financially prudent in running their business, so they can give generously. After all, an entrepreneur is a **steward to God-given ability to produce wealth**.

I believe Entrepreneur Day is an invocation to help us see more of an **entrepreneur's journey with God**, to recognize the calling and responsibility they carry.

Let us therefore pray that God will give wisdom, courage and strength to those among us, who have been called to be stewards to this capacity to build, create and generate economic value.

And may what they build become a blessing to many.

V. Intercessory Prayer

Leader: Gracious God, we come before You today lifting up **every Christian entrepreneur across the world** - people of every gender, age, background, and calling, whom You have called to build, create, lead, and steward businesses in Your name. We thank You for the vision, courage, creativity, and faith You have placed in each person.

People: *God, bless the work of our hands and guide us in all that we do.*



Leader: Creator God, we know the road of entrepreneurship is not easy. We lift up the uncertainty of income, the pressure of decisions, the weight of financial risk, and the temptation to compromise integrity for the sake of profit. In seasons of doubt, be their peace; in seasons of delay, be their patience; and in seasons of failure, be their strength to rise again.

People: *Give us wisdom, courage, patience, and integrity to remain faithful in every season.*

Leader: We thank You, God, for the work of their hands. Through their businesses, they create opportunities, provide livelihoods, develop innovations, serve communities, and contribute to society. As Your Word reminds us, “**Honour her for all that her hands have done.**” Help every entrepreneur to grow - not only in business, but also in wisdom, character, relationships, wellbeing, purpose, and faith.

People: *May the work of our hands bring dignity, opportunity, hope, and blessing to others.*

Leader: God of hope, we especially lift up startups and struggling entrepreneurs—those just beginning, those unsure of the path ahead, and those facing hardship. Breathe fresh vision into them. Provide the resources, opportunities, and open doors they need. Bless their families, teams, employees, partners, and communities. We commit every entrepreneur, every business, and every dream into Your hands.

People: *Establish the work of our hands, O God, and use our work for Your glory and the good of all. Amen.*

VI. The Lord’s Prayer

Creator God,

May the work of our hands honour You,
and may our enterprises serve the common good.

Give us wisdom to create,
diligence to plan,
and integrity to build.

Give every worker a fair wage,
a safe workplace, and dignity;
and help every employer use power responsibly.



Keep us from greed, dishonesty, and exploitation.
Help us choose righteousness over unjust profit,
and fairness over personal advantage.

Teach us to manage wealth wisely,
share responsibly,
care for those who are vulnerable,
and create opportunities for others.

Help us to grow not only in business,
but also in wisdom, character, compassion, and purpose.

May our businesses create value,
our profits be ethical,
our relationships be just,
and our success contribute to the wellbeing of society.

As we remember,
“Honour her for all that her hands have done,”
may we honour the work of every person
and recognize the hands, hearts, and lives behind every enterprise.

May everything we earn, build, lead, and share
be guided by **integrity, dignity, responsibility, and service.**

And may the work of our hands
be established for the good of all.

Amen.

VII. Final Blessing

May God bless you and keep you;
may God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
may God turn toward you and give you peace
and may God establish the work of your hands for generations to come.

Amen.



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