



## Sample prayer for Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Almighty God and Loving Father,

As we remember this Sunday our launch 50 years ago as a denomination and our first General Assembly, we are grateful to you for your faithful presence and blessing within our portion of your larger Church. You have allowed us to serve your Kingdom around the world and used faithful men and women ministering within and sent out from our churches around North America. We pray, just as Christ did for us, that you would preserve our union with you, and our unity with one another, so that through us the world would see the glory of your Son and experience your redeeming love through him.

Father, our first 50 years have taught us that we cannot be faithful to your Great Commandment or Great Commission in our own strength. Help us, Father, to love one another and serve our neighbors with humility. Strengthen and teach us how to be more and more faithful to your Word. Grant us a willingness to submit to one another and magnify our unity rather than our differences. Enable us to live in a manner worthy of the call to which Christ has called us, marked by holiness that is rooted in gratefulness for your continuing grace. Keep us from divisiveness that will tarnish the brightness of our witness. Even as we prayed 50 years ago, work by your Spirit that we might show an observable love, trust, and confidence in one another<sup>1</sup> because of our love for You and zeal to be obedient to the Great Commission. We desire, Lord, to be **faithful to the Scriptures** which you have given us; **true to the Reformed Faith** in which we understand your great, sovereign, and loving work of salvation and reconciliation; and **obedient to your Great Commission** in which you have called us to be disciples and disciple-makers of Christ throughout the World.

Father, you have taught us that it is good to remember the tangible ways that you have guided and blessed us. We thank you for:

- Continuing to raise up new churches, nearly one every two weeks, growing us from 215 churches at our launch to nearly 2000 now
- Gathering within our Body nearly 400,000 members from our initial 41,000
- Calling almost 600 long-term missionaries to serve in more than 100 countries
- Raising up nearly 1,000 church-planting partners
- Ministering to 20,000 college students each week through our 180 RUF ministries
- Raising up more young pastors being licensed and ordained than at any time in our history

Father, we raise up these “Ebenezers” to the glory of your Name.

Even as we remember your faithfulness, Father, help us to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. In your strength, help us to willingly deny ourselves daily, take up our cross, and follow Christ, even while we await our blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

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<sup>1</sup> From Jack Williamson's Message to All the Churches.