



The Shield

March 2021 edition



Praying for the Canadian Military Community

Preamble:

Below are themes relevant to the Ministry of the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada. Last week our newsletter offered tips on the spiritual practise, Lectio Divina. This month consider using that practice to go through each topic and then pray as God leads you. We have suggested verses to ponder.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND ITS LEADERS:

Proverbs 21:1 (NKJV) "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the ^[a]rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS:

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV) "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS:

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV) "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Please visit the site and select an operation to pray for, not just one day, but choose an operation each day:
<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page>

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS:

Psalm 56:3-4 (NASB) "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose Word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

PRAY FOR OUR SERVING MILITARY

2 Samuel 22:2-4, (NLT) "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My saviour, You save me from violence. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies."

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Psalm 139:9-10 (NIV) "If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES

Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT) "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward and that the Master you are serving is Christ."

PRAY FOR RETIRED MILITARY

Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV) "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY WHO, FOR WHATEVER REASON OR CIRCUMSTANCE, HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES HOMELESS

Psalms 140:12 (CEV) "Our LORD, I know that you defend the homeless and see that the poor are given justice."

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV) "But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."

Lectio Divina Proposed steps

Place yourself in a comfortable position. Allow yourself to become still and silent inside. Be aware of God's presence within you and all around you. With the eyes of your heart, take a moment and look at God looking at you'.

LECTIO / READ

1. Please turn to the scripture suggested for you under each heading and read it slowly, gently. Savour each portion of the reading, attentively listening for the "still, small voice" of God in a word or phrase that somehow seems to say, "Stop, listen...here I am...this is for your today". Allow yourself to be taken in by the words and be drawn towards the Word, Jesus Christ. Depending on what occurs, you might read the passage several times or linger on one phrase or even one Word. Whatever you do, please don't rush through it.

MEDITATIO / MEDITATION

2. Ponder and reflect **on** what was read. Quietly savour the Word and meditate upon it in expectation. Remember, Jesus wants to reveal Himself and pull you closer to Him. Consciously open yourself to the Lord, allowing Him to touch your heart. Seek Him whom you love. A question to ask yourself is, "What does this Word mean for my life? Notice this isn't "navel-gazing," but an honest accounting of our lives and always directed *outward* to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ORATIO / PRAYER

3. Respond to God in your way. Allow this inner pondering with God to lead you into a deeper relationship with the One who knows you and is with you. Whether you use words or ideas or images or all three is not essential. Just interact with God as you would with someone who knows and loves you deeply. Give to God what you have discovered in yourself during your experience of meditating on this scripture.

CONTEMPLATION / CONTEMPLATION

4. Then, let go and rest in God's embrace...let the words and images go. Rejoice in the knowledge that God is with you in both words and silence, in spiritual activity and inner receptivity.
5. When you are ready to end your prayer, thank God for this time.

