



The Shield

April 2021 edition



Praying for the Canadian Military Community

Preamble:

Below are themes relevant to the Ministry of the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada. We desire that you will refer to these themes throughout April, time and time again, and pray for the community that God has invited you to bless. Consider taking the sample scripture provided in each subsection and turn them into your prayer.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND ITS LEADERS:

We should be grateful to live in a country where we can openly pray for our leaders. One of Paul's very first instructions to his protégé, Timothy, was to pray for leaders. This message is as relevant now as it was when the Church was first formed. Our prayers can change things.

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

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS:

Leadership is never easy, especially in an environment where your action can lead to the loss of life or injury to those under your command. Our desire is not for our leaders to second guess their decision but to be grounded in Jesus. We don't want them to place themselves or others at risk by wondering whether their decisions are moral and just.

Consider praying this scripture: *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17-24)*

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS:

Since humanity decided they wanted to rule themselves and not put their whole trust in God, there has been disagreement on earth that has led to conflicts and human suffering. The worldwide selflessness has resulted in the need for military intervention or assistance. We are thankful that men and women are willing to put themselves in harm's way to bring some form of harmony to our broken planet.

Consider praying this scripture: *"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:34)*

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS:

Those who have responded to God's calling to take His truth into the world deserve our thanks and support. Our chaplains serve everywhere our military serves, putting themselves at risk and leaving behind families and friends who care for them. We can pray that their ministry serves God's purpose and that they can be the witness He calls them to be.

Consider praying this scripture: *"In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us".* (Titus 2:7-8)

PRAY FOR OUR SERVING MILITARY

There are many challenges to serving in the military. They live in communities that were not their birthplaces. They take their families on postings separating them from friends and families. Often on short notice, they leave these families as they train or deploy whenever needed—our military needs to focus on the mission at hand without worrying about those left behind. We can pray for God's peace to cover them as they serve our nations.

Consider praying this scripture: *"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal."* (Isaiah 26:3-4)

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Very few professions put the same heavy demands on the family, such as that faced by the military family. Maintaining a harmonious relationship with spouses, raising children alone, running the household, all while being away from their own families, can be stressful, tiresome, and lonely. Our mission is to support through prayers and well maintain contact with those around us. As you pray for a military family, pray that God helps you find a way to ease their burden.

Consider praying this scripture: *"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. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles."* (Philippians 4:12-14)

PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES

It isn't easy working in an environment with constantly shifting priorities you have little say in establishing. Added to that is the fluctuating workforce size as military colleagues are posted or sent on training and deployment. Often our civilians are the force that keeps continuity and the place running. They can feel neglected and used, so we pray they find their joy in serving God and not human praise.

Consider praying this scripture: *"Commit your work to the LORD, and then your plans will succeed."* (Proverbs 16:3)

PRAY FOR RETIRED MILITARY

Consider praying this scripture: *“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)*

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

It is hard to accept that we have military colleagues who have become homeless and live on the streets or in a shelter in our cities. There are many reasons for this situation to develop, and we must be cautious not to point fingers or suggest blame. What we can do is join support groups that exist to get them back on their feet.

Consider praying this scripture: *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

The MCF recognizes that God has invited them to join Him on His mission to take the Gospel to the military community. Like all organization, they need the support of other to help them stay on track. Yes, there are financial needs, and your support would bless it, but they seek your prayers and your willingness to do something for our serving and retired military.

Consider praying this scripture: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)*