



# The Shield

May 2021 edition



## Praying for the Canadian Military Community

### **Preamble:**

Below are groups identifying people relevant to the Ministry of the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada. We desire that you will refer to these groups throughout May, 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.

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### **PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND ITS LEADERS:**

Coronavirus 19 has created an odd division in this country that is hard to comprehend. People seem divided as to whether they should adhere to safety guidelines or not. People are talking about the right to roam free regardless of the impact of others, while others are asking all to stay home for a short while so we can all become freer sooner. It is also very odd, when the one we think should show leadership defy the rules. We know people have always complained or praised the government depending on their political views, and few want to be bipartisan in their opinion about the government. However, can we all join as one body and ask God to help our leaders make the right decision to help this country back on its feet.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)*

### **PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS:**

Our hearts break every time we hear of a military person involved in an act that brings shame to them and others. It hits harder when a leader is at the forefront of the embarrassment. However, before the first stone is cast, remember all have sinned and fallen short. We must not forget that not all leaders have shown poor judgment. We are not asked to dismiss poor behaviour but must pray for change in their hearts and lives. We must also not forget those who have suffered under those poor leaders.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)*

### **PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS:**

It isn't easy being away from family and friends while serving on foreign soil or across the nation. COVID has added to this challenging time as minds focus on whether those left behind will be safe. Our military in operational areas need to focus on their task at hand, and we can help by asking for God to provide them peace and courage.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NIV)*

## **PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS:**

The military recruitment site states Chaplains are responsible for fostering the religious and pastoral care of the Canadian Armed Forces. This mission is both complex and challenging as they battle our culture and the spiritual forces seeking to take them down.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.” John 14:27 (NIV)*

## **PRAY FOR OUR SERVING MILITARY**

We can praise God that we live in a nation served by military men and women who wake up every morning with just one goal in mind: to fulfill their duty to Canadians. Because of what they do, Canada and other nations remain free. Our military spends many days, weeks, months and even years away from their loved ones to meet this goal. The love that they have is unfailing, and their bravery and dedication display it. *“Soldiers that carry their lives in their hands should carry the grace of God in their hearts.” ~ Richard Baxter*

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)*

## **PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES**

Our military family need our prayers in these areas:

- Families are preparing for the deployment of their family members.
- Families are dealing with the pressures and stresses associated with having a family member currently deployed.
- Families are preparing for postings this summer.
- Families are dealing with physical or mental health injuries.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my saviour” (2 Samuel 22:2-3a)*

## **PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES**

There is no doubt the Canadian military community is stronger when the whole community works together. Included in this community are the men and women of our civilian workforces who are dedicated and supportive of their military colleagues. They contribute to the success of the CAF’s mission through their hard work and loyalty. They are also subject to stress, family discourse and physical and mental health issues because they serve our country—the same God who loves our men and women in uniform love those who are serving beside them.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken”. Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)*

## **PRAY FOR RETIRED MILITARY**

There are thousands of men and women living across this planet who, at one time, were in uniform serving their country. Many do not realize that God created them for something which goes well beyond serving their country. They have value and purpose, and their experience can still be an asset to the military and to the communities they live in. We must not forget them.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“Father, we ask you to bless on those who have served and are now retired. We especially ask that your grace be extended to those who have left because of injuries. Bless them and their families as they experience a new life as retired military personnel. Bring someone who loves you close to them so they can understand their true purpose of service is to You. Amen”*

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

The unfortunate reality of 2021 is that we have military personnel living in the streets. How they got there can be explained in some cause, but if we go looking for a reason, it should be with compassion and not judgement. Not only do these individuals need our prayers, but they also need our help. Veterans Affairs has created an excellent site to help us understand and address the homeless veteran issue. The link below provides information and other links to agencies working with the homeless military.  
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/housing-and-home-life/at-risk-housing/homeless>

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“... fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)*

### **PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA**

Since its inception, the mission of the MCF of Canada has been to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the military community in Canada and abroad. The mission is God's, and we have been invited by Him to bring His grace and glory to those who do not know Him. It can be daunting at times, especially when we think about how large our military family is and how many are lost. We trust God has a plan to let all know who He is, so we continue to be obedient to His truths. Prayer encourages and strengthens the MCF, and so we ask that you join us and pray for our MCF leaders, our mission, and those who do not call Jesus Lord. We are starting a new ALPHA session on 2 May, and we ask that you join us in prayer for this beautiful and powerful ministry.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“Loving Lord, we desire in this ministry to lift up the lovely name of the Lord Jesus and to glorify our Father in heaven. Bless our ministry we pray and may Your Holy Spirit lead and guide all we say and do - and may we be changed more and more into the image of Jesus as we seek to follow His command - to love as He has loved us. Amen”*