



The Shield

September 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 refer to these themes throughout September, time and time again, and pray for the community that God has invited you to bless.

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN (original thoughts from Jill Wagner)

The shocking images of men, women, and children forcing their way onto a military plane in Kabul, Afghanistan, stand in contrast to the images of our daily life. The tragedy of what has transpired in Afghanistan has gripped the hearts of many like us. As we read the headlines and watch the videos of the Taliban takeover, we feel helpless. But we are not powerless despite how it may seem. As those who trust in Christ, we can support the Afghan people in prayer by calling upon our Lord and his vast power.

The terrible situation in Afghanistan looks bleak, but as Christians, we know it is not without hope. Ours is the God of redemption and has a long history of bringing beauty from the ashes. Paul instructs us to pray “at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” ([Eph. 6:18](#)).

Amid our undeserved blessings and comfort, we don't want to forget the people of Afghanistan, made in the image of God, who are facing unimaginable suffering. In your prayers remember:

- *Those who remain behind;*
 - *Those able to leave the country;*
 - *The women of Afghanistan; and*
 - *The Afghan Church.*
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PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN AFGHANISTAN

Several social media sites are buzzing with comments by the Canadian military who had served in Afghanistan. There is a sense of frustration and anger. Some believe their efforts, sacrifices and personal losses seem all for nought as the Taliban again takes control over the nation of Afghanistan. This frustration and anger can manifest into a myriad of mental health and physical problems. Some are very vulnerable at this time.

Do you know somehow who has served? Call them up and offer a listening ear. Don't judge or criticize but listen. And as the Lord leads you, offer to pray with them. But don't end with a prayer, find out if you can do something for them or for any agency looking to care for our serving and retired members.

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS

The following web link lists the current operations and military exercises involving the Canadian military. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/list.html>

Will you visit this list daily and identify an operation and pray?

PRAY FOR OUR SERVING MILITARY (from the Canadian Conference of Catholic bishops)

- For those who are serving this country, abroad or at home, by land, by sea, or in the air; for their mission to bring peace and security in other lands; and for God's protection from all perils and injury, we pray to the Lord.
 - For the Canadian Armed Forces and all peacekeepers; and for wisdom and justice, as they carry out their duty for God and country, we pray to the Lord.
 - For the Canadian troops and all peacekeepers, for the people, they strive to protect; and for God's care upon all who serve, we pray to the Lord.
 - For peace with justice throughout the world and in our land; for those engaged in military action; and for the safety of the personnel of the Canadian Armed Forces, we pray to the Lord.
 - For those engaged in military service; for those who combat war and violence daily and risk their lives that our world may know peace, we pray to the Lord.
 - For all Canadian soldiers, for those who risk their lives for the good of others; and for all who serve the common interest of our country, we pray to the Lord.
 - For the Canadian Armed Forces, for the military personnel who have gone overseas, and for all who long for their safe return, we pray to the Lord.
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PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

It is easy to forget that men, women, and children are separated from a military spouse or parent because of service to our nation. The families left behind are missing the hugs and kisses of that service member and their presence at birthday parties, sporting events, and daily life.

Consider praying this: *“Lord, we lift our military families. Bless them with an abundance of courage and fill them with comfort. Please surround them with the community to stave off feelings of loneliness. Above all, we pray they would feel Your presence and be reassured that You are with them.”*

PRAY FOR THE CHAPLAINS

Our chaplains serve everywhere our military serves, putting themselves at risk and leaving behind families and friends who care for them. We pray that their ministry serves God's purpose and that they can be the witness He calls them to be. Remember them in your prayers asking God's protection over them as the evil seeks to destroy all their efforts.

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 living on the streets or in shelters in our cities. There are many reasons why this occurred, and we must be cautious not to point fingers or suggest blame. We can pray for them, and we can 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's sole purpose is to take the message of the gospel to the military community. They cannot do this on their strength. It is with the power and strength granted to them by the Holy Spirit, they can succeed. Pray for the mission they have been invited to partake of and cover them with your prayers as they serve.

Consider praying this scripture: *“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and everyone else, just as ours does for you. May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13*

