



# The Shield

December 2021 edition

## Praying for the Canadian Military Community



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**Preamble:** Below are themes relevant to the ministry of the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada. We desire that you refer to these themes throughout December, time and time again, and pray for the community that God has invited us to bless. Also, as Christmas approaches let's not forget that the birth of Christ was necessary for Easter to make sense. Jesus was born so reconciliation with the Father would be possible, and eternity with God available to those who believe. Don't forget that accepting the gift of Christmas reveals the path to salvation.

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

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right, and you will be commended." Romans 13:1-3 (NIV)

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

"<sup>2</sup>The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; <sup>3</sup> my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. He is my refuge, my saviour, the One who saves me from violence. <sup>4</sup> I called on the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and He saved me from my enemies." 2 Samuel 22:2-4, (NLT)

**Consider praying:** *Father, our military leaders are in a position that can impact the life or death of their subordinates. Many recognize that responsibility and don't take it lightly. I pray for those that have not reflected on the position of the sacrifice our military has and may casually exercise their authority. Amen*

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### **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 unending, 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 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?

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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:** *"Lord, may Your love encircle our military families as they endure the separation and hardships that can come with service life. May Your hope go before them, carrying them through the difficulties and stresses they face. May Your wisdom be beside them as they live and work in this unique lifestyle. Lord, keep them safe under the shadow of Your Almighty wings. Amen"*

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## **PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS:**

"Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well". 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8. (NIV)

**Consider praying:** *Father, we are grateful for the compassion and love our chaplains extend to our military. We know they are men and women of flesh and blood, but in calling them, you have given them the necessary wisdom and love to bring hope and peace to those they pastor. Continue to bless them as they seek to bring your truth to men and women facing circumstances unlike many in this world. Let them be your hands and feet to those who are lost. Amen.*

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## **PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY WHO 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)

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## **PRAY FOR OUR RETIRED MILITARY**

Often, many leave the military with a deep sense of sadness. The fellowship developed within the military family is unique and the bonds created are difficult to leave behind. Many have not known anything but this military family. We can encourage our retired members by reminding them that they continue to have much to offer.

**Consider praying this:** *"Father, we are grateful for the decades of sacrificial service which our retired military gave on our behalf. We pray that in the years to come, they recognize You are near them and*

want to bring them satisfaction and well-being. Remind them they can continue to serve their community, our nation, and our world. We ask that You be with them and bless them in every new endeavour. Amen.

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### **PRAY FOR OUR CIVILIAN WORKFORCE**

There is no doubt the Canadian military community is stronger when the whole community works together. This community includes 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)*

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

The MCF recognizes that God has invited the leadership and its members to join Him on His mission to take the Gospel to the military community. Like all organizations, we need the support of others to help each other stay on track. Yes, we have financial needs, and your support would bless it, but we also 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)*

