



## **The Shield** **May 2022**



### **Praying for the Canadian Military Community**

**Preamble:** The world is in crisis. We have never been closer to disaster as we are now. Many don't worry because they say, "this is not how the world will end." The posturing and puffing of chests may not result in the world's end, but it can certainly lead to destruction and misery for many. Countries, including Canada, are deeply divided, and collaboration or compromise does not seem possible. So, what can we do?

Below are themes we believe are relevant to the ministry of the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada. We desire that you refer to these themes throughout May and consider starting each week in prayer for these military-related themes.

---

#### **WEEK 1:1-7 May**

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

For many of us, freedom has become synonymous with personal independence, the ability to make our own decisions, choose our path in life, and do whatever we want, whenever we want. But this is not the freedom that Jesus promised us. When Jesus revealed himself as the Messiah, He said that He had come to Earth to "proclaim freedom" (Luke 4:18). And on another occasion, He said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). We must pray for our leaders, asking God to aid them in making wise choices, but we must also ask for The Holy Spirit's intervention in their lives to be freed from the bondage of sin that grips and often directs their lives.

**Consider praying this:** *"Father, at one time, many in our nation believed You were the reason for our blessings and that You ruled over this land. We know that is not the case today, and we ask that Your grace and mercy draw our citizens to You. Bless our leadership with the wisdom to lead with justice and mercy.*

---

## WEEK 2:8-14 May

### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS

Depending on your point of view, it is either fortunate or unfortunate that leaders are human. It is fortunate because they are like us and can lead with compassion and mercy while remaining strong. Unfortunate because they are human and have human failing. We must bring our military leader before the divine leader, Jesus. We must ask Jesus to draw them to Him in a binding relationship so that His nature reigns within them so they can do what is suitable for all and resist the temptations that come with power.

**Consider praying this:** *“Father, many of our military leaders do not know you as the loving God who wants what is good for them and the rest of us. Evil has permeated our societies and us, such we need these warriors to protect and defend the innocent. Father, can you invite them to know You? Jesus, will You keep knocking on their lives until they answer? Holy Spirit, will You soften their hearts to hear? Amen”.*

Don't forget to pray for all in leadership positions, not just those at the top. The strength of the CAF is built from the bottom up, and our junior leaders also need our prayers and support.

### PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS

Today, around the world, men and women are serving our nation. We have men and women near the conflict in Ukraine, and they need our prayers. Those willing to deploy do so at the expense of their comfort and time with their family and friends. We should remember them in our prayers and continually ask for God's blessing on them.

**Consider praying this:** *“Heavenly Father, it is unfortunate that we need the military to help preserve what peace and freedoms we have. Since our beginning as a nation, people have chosen to leave family behind in the fight against evil. Lord, we want them to know You as saviour and ask that You protect them from harm while inviting them to the absolute peace and freedom You offer. Amen.”*

---

## Week 3:15-21 May

### PRAY FOR OUR SERVING MILITARY

The world has become increasingly angry and aggressive. Injustice, greed, and cruelty are everywhere. Our military men and women find themselves in situations that often conflict with their morals, and it can play havoc with their minds and souls. Pray they find a relationship with Jesus so they are gifted with the wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit, who can be their guide as they serve their country.

**Consider praying this:** *“Heavenly Father, our military needs Your protection from the evil one who takes many forms to destroy their courage and hope. Many serve away from the comfort of their family and can feel alone. Will You fill them with a feeling of comfort and let them know the God of the universe cares for them. Will You invite them to hear and understand the words of truth Your son Jesus has shared with the world? Amen.*

## **PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES**

God designed the family to share His love and companionship. Military life often causes separation, and tears and cracks in a relationship can appear when loved ones are apart. Pray that during the time of service, Jesus can be the connection for families no matter how far apart they are physically.

**Consider praying this:** *“Lord, may Your love encircle our military families as they endure the separation and hardships of 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”*

## **RETIRED MILITARY**

The reality of our relationship with God is summed up in these words:” If you are not dead, you are not done.” Often when our military leaves the Forces, they feel alone and undervalued. The camaraderie, challenges and even difficult time have defined their life while they served. When they retire, this identity slips away, and their sense of worth.

**Consider reflecting on and praying this scripture:** *“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you, and I will rescue you”. Isaiah 46:4-5*

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

It is difficult to imagine that our peers with who we shared life are homeless. It is hard to imagine that mental health issues have stolen the life of many of these dedicated, loyal men and women. We can pray for them, and we must, but we should also find a way to support the agencies that focus on helping our broken veterans.

**Consider praying this:** *“Father, it was not Your plan that mental health issues would ravage Your creation or homeless would exist in this rich world. Would You please help us become compassionate for those who find themselves in horrible situations? Would You please speak to us about ways to help with our resources and time? Protect those men and women on the street until we can bring hope, a home, and companionship back to them. Amen”*

---

### **WEEK 4:22- 28 May**

## **DND EMPLOYEES**

Since the early 60s, the military has had a good relationship with their civilian co-workers. The relationship may have been strained a couple of times. But through mutual respect and inclusiveness, a team has been built.

**Consider praying this:** *“Heavenly Father, as our civilian workforce enters their workplace, we ask that You accompany them and allow them to sense Your presence. May they become aware of Your comforting proximity. Amen”*

---

## WEEK 5:29-31 May

### PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS

Before Jesus ascended to the Father, he gave instructions to take His truths gospel to all lands. While our military serves at home or on foreign soil, we are fortunate that men and women have accepted the call as chaplains to follow them and bring the gospel with them.

**Consider praying this:** *“Heavenly Father, bless and protect our Military Chaplains. Fill them with Your hope and truths so they can be the light that our military sorely needs. Protect them from the evil ones who want to steal and destroy their message of Your love. Amen”*

### PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

The MCF recognizes that they have been invited to participate in God’s mission to take the Word to the world. They have been specifically assigned to reach out to the military community, both serving and retired and their families. Your prayers and notes of encouragement corroborate the mission, and we are grateful for the power of Jesus and the love of His children. However, you can be part of this team, and you are invited to connect with us to find out how you can serve God in His MCF ministry.

**Consider praying this scripture:** *“Father, thank You for preparing the mission field that is unique to our own lives and experiences. All glory and honour go to You for empowering Your children to do the good work You have prepared for us. Keep us focused on the mission and the message and protect us from the evil ones who want to derail us. Amen”.*