



The Shield

December 2023 edition
Praying for the
Canadian Military Community



Below are themes relevant to the ministry of the Military Christina Fellowship of Canada. Refer to these themes throughout December, time and time again, and pray for the community that God has invited us to bless.

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).

Whether you like our political leaders or not, they have been put in a position to make decision that affect us. It is both a difficult job and often thankless. Please remember to pray for our political leaders. Ask God to reveal the gift of salvation to them and that they accept Jesus as the true King of Kings.

Consider praying: *"Jesus, we know that all authority and power has been given to you, but at this time, the evil one has been allowed to push his influence over the world, trying to turn us upside down and destroy the structures you have allowed to exist. Jesus, will you extend your grace to our leaders and draw them to you so that they can see the truth as they exercise their authority over us. Amen".*

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; 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. 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. But some have not reflected on the position of the sacrifice our military has and may casually exercise their authority. "Father, we pray for _____ to use their position to have an honourable impact in Your name. Amen.*

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 for a member of the military you know: *"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/departement-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/list.html>

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

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, **especially this Christmas season.**

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"*

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS

Our chaplains serve everywhere our military serves, putting themselves at risk and leaving behind families and friends who care for them. We should that their ministry serves God's purpose and that they can be the witness He calls them to be.

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 can give 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.*

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.

This Christmas season, consider helping a military brother or sister who is struggling and provide a warm and healthy Christmas meal, plus take time to fellowship with them.

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 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."*

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)*

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 organizations, they need the support of others 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)*