



# The Shield

## March 2024 Edition



### Praying for the Canadian Military Community

DATE	PRAYER TOPIC
<b>1 March</b>	<p>Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, such as a wedding, birthday, or commencement. Lent invites us to prepare our minds and hearts to remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.</p> <p>Before starting your prayers this month, take time for personal confession, repentance, and gratitude towards God. While praying, don't spend too much time on yourself but focus on God. Take time to be silent and listen to God. There is no regulated amount of time to pray, but your prayer time will get longer as you set aside time. Again, don't fret about what to say, but know that when you approach God, He is with you and is pleased you want to spend time with Him. We pray that people respond to God's grace, love, and mercy gifts. We pray God opens people's hearts and minds to hearing and accepting the message of salvation.</p>
<b>2 March</b>	<p><b>Pray for our Nation.</b></p> <p>We sing, "God keep our land", but do we mean this as a nation? Do we mean to call on God as our sovereign Lord to keep us? Do we sing these words asking God to keep us safe, comfortable, and prosperous but want Him to have no expectation of moral or ethical behaviour that shows love for Him or our neighbour? Do we sing these words because we believe that God is in control of everything?</p> <p>Canada suffers from the same sin as Adam and Eve did in the garden – the sin of unbelief. Our actions as a nation show we do not believe our own words: "God keep our land".</p> <p>Today, will you join with many others, stand before God on behalf of our nation, and repent? Mourn the way our society mocks and condemns God, mourn the watering down of the gospel by those who want to be famous, and mourn that our country has abandoned its only hope from the freedom God offers.</p>
<b>3 March</b>	<p><b>Pray for our Provinces and Territories</b></p> <p>Although many love our nation, you can travel the breadth and width of this country to see how each territory and province has a unique love for its culture and history. Sometimes, self-love interferes with the good of all. Sometimes, it shows up in a dislike for those not from "around here" or a "me-first" mindset.</p> <p>Our delight in our regional accomplishments is admirable; however, it often interferes with our love of God and others. We need to recognize this and repent of our "me-first" mindset. History has shown that this attitude leads to collapse and destruction.</p> <p>God created humanity created to live in harmony with one another. Pray for your Province or Territory that they may seek the kingdom of God above all. Repent for their "me-first" mindset, and that love of God and neighbour drives their desire to be good citizens of their province, territory, country and even world.</p>

<p><b>4 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for your community.</b></p> <p>Walking around our communities, you can still see remnants of a time when the love of God and neighbour was the way of life. However, our communities are broken today because we stopped taking responsibility and expected someone to pick up where we no longer can or want to.</p> <p>Our next-door neighbour is hungry, hurting, lonely, or morally bankrupt. Many want to be loved. Many have forgotten how to love, even in their household. We allow our children, spouses, friends, and neighbours to become distracted by consumerism and quick social media fixes when the relationship is needed. Many have no moral stance on any matter for fear of being unfriended by someone with a different opinion. Many do not know that God has, does and always will love us. He wants us to be free from the things that distract us and destroy our humanity and find peace and hope in His love.</p> <p>Our communities have lost their way. Pray your community repents of behaviour and finds a way to bring hope back with things that matter. Pray they are receptive to God calling them Him.</p>
<p><b>5 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for Ukraine</b></p> <p>Many of us can only imagine what is happening in Ukraine. There are cries for sanctions, revenge, or more military support because that is what humanity does in these seemingly hopeless situations. American Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman offers this reminder, “It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell”. We forget we have been offered God’s kingdom on earth. We must seek after the King of Heaven to save us.</p> <p>The suffering in Ukraine is immeasurable, and the repercussions will be worldwide. Like the rest of the world, Ukraine needs God and not just during this war. The horror humanity inflicts on their neighbour is horrible. Some men and women who provoked war have done so for personal gain. But we must recognize that the evil one (Satan) has sought the destruction of humanity's reliance on God since the garden and is feeding this war machine.</p> <p>The Church in Ukraine has been growing since the country’s independence, but all Ukrainians need to cry out to God and say, “we need You.” We need to cry out on their behalf telling God that we need Him. We need to ask God that He grant wisdom to all Ukrainian leaders so that they can serve their people well.</p>
<p><b>6 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for Russia</b></p> <p>It somehow seems wrong to pray for someone you believe is intentionally wanting to bring pain and suffering to others. Russia started this war in Ukraine, and we may ask why we should pray for them. But God wants us to love those we identify as our enemies. God loves all and does not want anyone to be lost. He does not support or agree with Russia’s war or any similar action worldwide.</p> <p>We are not praying for Russia’s success in this war or the death and destruction of Russians or their communities. We know this action is evil. We should pray for the Russian leadership, starting with President Putin. We pray they fall on their knees and repent for being deceived by Satan's temptation of dominance. We pray they apologize to the people of Ukraine, the world, and Russian citizens for the harm they have done. We pray for peace.</p>
<p><b>7 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for our Federal Political leaders.</b></p> <p>Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada – (Leader of the Liberal Party)  Pierre Poilievre – (Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada)  Yves-François Blanchet – (Leader of the Bloc Québécois)  Jagmeet Singh – (Leader of the New Democratic Party)</p>

	<p>Leading our country over the past few years has not been easy. Regardless of who leads this country, they need our prayers and support. We can choose not to support their political affiliations but as they are elected officials, authorized to serve God's creation, we must pray God grants them wisdom, courage, and the ability to serve justly and wisely.</p> <p>Pray they recognize only God is in control and they are intermediate rulers who will bow before Him come judgement day. Pray also that their ears are open to hearing the Gospel truth and in God's mercy, He draws them to Him.</p> <p><b>Consider praying this:</b> <i>“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.</i></p>
<p><b>8 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for our provincial and territorial political leaders.</b></p> <p>We should be grateful that we live in a democratic country where its citizens elect its key leaders and, if we desire, replace them through legal and official elections. Many do not see our provincial or territorial leaders eye-to-eye and want them to do more. Others are dissatisfied with their relationship with the Federal Government Officials and wish to separate from this nation. Scripture speaks about the value of unity and partnership, so when a decision is made, we should work with it or use only legitimate ways to change it.</p> <p>We generally do not comprehend why our men and women run for political office, but it can be challenging. Will you visit the web link, identify your provincial or territorial leader, and bring them before God in prayer? Will you pray for their families, their constituents, and their peers? Will you pray for their support staff? Will you ask God to grant them wisdom to make the right decisions and the courage to implement them, even if the decision isn't the most popular but is honouring to God and those they serve? Will you ask God to give them the grace to hear His words so that they choose to love Him above all else?</p>
<p><b>9 March</b></p>	<p><b>PRAY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY POLITICAL LEADERS</b></p> <p>The heart of Canada is in its cities, towns, and villages. Although we look to federal, provincial, and territorial leaders on significant issues, it is in our backyard that we find that political balance that impacts our day-to-day lives. In our backyard, we should choose to be the change needed to bring hope to our neighbours.</p> <p>Maybe you know who is on your local councils, but if not, take some time to do a short internet search today and look up the names of the leaders who guide your community. Pray for their salvation. Pray God's grace permeates their whole being such that they are drawn to making just and moral choices that bless your community.</p> <p>While you are on your internet search, find out how you can support your community.</p>
<p><b>10 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for our Military leaders.</b></p> <p>General W. D Eyre, CMM., MSC., CD, is the Chief of Defence Staff, the top military leader of the Canadian Armed Forces. He is surrounded by strong leaders who have vowed to serve our nation honourable and courageously. Together, they have accepted the privilege of leading the men and women of the CAF.</p> <p>We live in volatile times and need firm, cohesive, and moral leadership. Scripture reminds us, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). It</p>

	<p>is, for this reason, we must pray for our military leaders. We must go before God in prayer to combat the</p> <p>evil forces that seek to destroy them and this world. We pray our military leaders hold themselves accountable for their actions and those serving under them. We pray they seek and find God’s gracious gift of salvation and allow it to mould their wisdom, strength, and character. We pray they serve well and justly and do not shy from making honourable and moral choices.</p>
<p><b>11 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for our Chaplains.</b></p> <p>We are blessed to have Chaplains serving our Military in 2024, especially considering our increasingly secularized society that wants nothing to do with God. These men and women are found wherever our Military walks the ground, so they face the same trials and dangers as they do. They need our support and prayers to derail the evil forces seeking to neutralize their message of hope and salvation.</p> <p><b>Consider praying:</b> <i>“Father, Your word reminds us that there is strength in unity. Would You please help us do our part to care for our chaplains, who support the men and women of the Military? Thank You for inspiring, nourishing, and uniting us with a community vision. Grant us the wisdom that comes through the unity of faith and action. Help our Chaplains be Your people of faith in all places our military family dwell. Amen.”</i></p>
<p><b>12 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray our DND Civilian leaders.</b></p> <p>It would be rare to hear about DND leader leading their staff in prayer at the start of the week or before a significant activity. In a sense, they must hide their faith to serve our nation.</p> <p>However, we know many men and women who lead and love God and want to do so with honour and justice. We can stand in the gap on their behalf and pray for our civilian leaders and those they lead.</p>
<p><b>13 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for our Serving Military.</b></p> <p>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, which 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.</p> <p><b>Consider praying:</b> <i>“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.</i></p>
<p><b>14 March</b></p>	<p><b>Pray for our Military on Operations</b></p> <p>It takes great courage to join the Military, knowing that your signature implies you are willing to go where you are asked. Our Forces' strength has relied on those men and women who sign on that dotted line without question. Today, women and men are located across this planet and away from their families and communities. They need our prayers.</p>

	<p>The following link provides details on the Operations where our Military serves. Please visit the site and select an operation to pray for, not just one day, but choose an operation each day:  <a href="http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page">http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page</a></p>
<b>15 March</b>	<p><b>Pray for our Military families.</b></p> <p>Often, when a serving member is away from home, they leave behind a significant other who must ensure life continues as normal as possible. Running a household alone is difficult, but compounding this with loneliness complicates the situation. We acknowledge this strength behind our Military and ask you to pray for the spouse left behind.</p> <p><b>Consider praying:</b> <i>“Loving God, we offer our prayers for the home front spouse and ask Your blessing over their lives. We pray they would trust You, be firmly rooted in Christ, and draw strength from Him. We pray for their joy, hope, endurance, strength, patience, protection, and safety. We pray against fear, loneliness, fatigue, despair, and depression and that support would be present when needed. We pray that friends, family, coworkers, and neighbours will rise and extend assistance and encouragement. Amen”</i></p>
<b>16 March</b>	<p><b>Pray for our retired Military.</b></p> <p>The reality of our relationship with God is summed up in these words:” If you are not dead, you are not done.” When our Military leaves the Forces, they often feel alone and undervalued. The camaraderie, challenges and even difficult time have defined their life while they served. When they retire, this identity and their sense of worth slip away.</p> <p><b>Consider reflecting on and praying this scripture:</b> <i>“Even to your old age and grey 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</i></p>
<b>17 March</b>	<p><b>Pray for the Military who are sick and injured.</b></p>
<b>18 March</b>	<p><b>Pray for those Military who have found themselves homeless.</b></p> <p>It is difficult to imagine that our peers with whom we shared life are homeless. It is hard to imagine that mental health issues have stolen the lives 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.</p> <p><b>Consider praying:</b> <i>“Father, it was not Your plan that mental health issues would ravage Your creation or that homelessness would exist in this rich world. Would You please help us become compassionate for those in horrible situations? 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”</i></p>
<b>19 March</b>	<p><b>Pray for our DND employees.</b></p> <p>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 loves those who are serving beside them.</p>

<b>19 March</b>	<b>Consider praying this scripture:</b> <i>"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken". Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)</i>
<b>20 March</b>	<p><b>Pray for the leadership of the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada.</b></p> <p>Since its inception, the MCF's mission has been to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the military community in Canada and abroad. The task is God's, but He has invited us to bring His grace and glory to those who do not know Him. It can be daunting sometimes, especially considering 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 obey His truths. Prayer encourages and strengthens the MCF, so we ask that you join us and pray for our MCF leaders, our mission, and those who do not know as Jesus Lord.</p> <p><b>Consider praying:</b> "Heavenly Father, unite your military family that we may serve You with all our hearts and work together with unselfish love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN</p>
<b>21 March</b>	<b>Pray for the MCF programs.</b>
<b>22 March</b>	<b>Pray for the MCF ALPHA sessions. (to start in fall of 2024)</b>
<b>23 March</b>	<b>Pray for agencies supporting the military community.</b>
<b>24 March</b>	<b>Pray for MCFs and similar military Christian Fellowships around the world.</b>
<b>25 March</b>	<b>Pray for the Church</b>
<b>26 March</b>	<b>Pray for your church.</b>
<b>27 March</b>	<b>Pray for your pastor.</b>
<b>28 March</b>	<b>Pray for the churches in your community.</b>
<b>29 March</b>	<b>Pray for opportunities to be the church to those around you.</b>
<b>30 March</b>	<b>Pray about people visiting a church this Easter – invite someone.</b>
<b>31 March</b>	<b>Pray for your immediate family.</b>

