



The Shield

April 2024 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 April, time and time again, and pray for the community that God has invited us to bless.

PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY:

Throughout Scripture, we see God's people turning to Him in times of difficulty to seek assurance and guidance. We are in difficult times now.

Consider praying: *God, we have become people who are only interested in things that give us temporary pleasure. We no longer fear You, Lord. I ask You to forgive us. Purify this nation. Turn our hearts away from different idols created as a nation and individuals. Please help us to walk in ways that honour your Holy name. Amen.*

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

Romans 13:1 reminds us that God has ordained our leaders to rule over us, even those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. God also holds those leaders accountable for honouring Him with the authority He gives them. We have been invited to pray for our leaders and should do so as often as possible.

Consider praying: *this nation needs leaders with discerning hearts and wise minds. We ask You to give us wise leaders who will lead this nation in the right direction. Remove wrong people who are corrupt and living against Your word from influential positions. Let our leaders be people who honour Your holy name, for it is only from You that they will gain true wisdom. It is in the mighty name of Jesus that we believe and pray, Amen.*

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS

Regardless of what the media may suggest, our military is led by many ethical and moral men and women.

Consider praying for:

- *Sound mind* - ask the Holy Spirit to keep their mind clear of negative thoughts.

- **Foresight** - Pray they seek Your Word and trustworthy and honourable counsellors for decision-making.
 - **Humility** - Pray that our leaders will desire humility to receive God's favour.
 - **Compassion** - For those serving in war zones, death and destruction are often before their eyes. This can skew the perception of our world, making their missions seem pointless.
 - **Righteousness** - Pray for God to raise godly leaders and equip them to act according to His Word and will and that our country's military leaders will make decisions that please God.
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PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Our understanding of the nature of persecution is based on perspective. If we only see persecution as we think it exists in Canada or the Western World, our knowledge of worldwide persecution will likely be skewed. Churches are being burnt, and leaders killed, congregations scattered.

Consider praying:

- Pray for the wisdom of the persecuted church in preaching the gospel and evangelism.
 - Pray for boldness for Christians who are persecuted for their faith.
 - Pray for secret house churches that are meeting daily throughout the world.
 - Pray for Christian brothers and sisters imprisoned for the gospel's sake.
 - Pray for the power of the gospel to transform oppressive nations worldwide by name.
 - Pray that the burden for the persecuted church will be placed on our hearts more heavily.
 - Pray that we will pray about persecuted believers according to God's will.
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PRAY FOR OUR SERVING MILITARY

Our military doesn't just need good men and women who can serve. Our military also needs good men and women who will pray for them.

Consider praying this Scripture: *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or the left so that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then, you will be prosperous. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you" Joshua 1:7-9*

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 to identify an operation and pray?

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

The greatest thing we can do for our military families is to pray for them.

Consider praying for:

- **Spiritual growth** - A weak spiritual foundation leaves a military family vulnerable to adverse circumstances. Pray that Christ's power, love, and presence will manifest in their lives.
- **God's Provision for Strength** - Ask God for His Word to revive their hearts and refresh their spirits for renewed strength. Pray that God's power would be sufficient to face each day in His strength and confidence.
- **God's Blessing Upon Their Home** - Pray that God would be in the establishment of their home, as well as in the building of the "lives" of the house. Pray that each military family's hearts would revere (respect, honour, and awe) the Lord.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY WHO 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. This occurred for many reasons, 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 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 they continue to have much to offer.

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

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

Consider praying this: *"Heavenly Father, bless and protect our Military Chaplains. Fill them with the joy and courage of their vocation as personal ministers of Christ in preaching and nourishing us with the Word; we pray this in the power and authority of Jesus' name. Amen"*

PRAY FOR OUR CIVILIAN WORKFORCE

Teamwork keeps DND moving; without military and civilian workplace harmony, our purpose can never be successful. We are thankful for the good relations with our DND workforce and must recognize that unity requires mutual respect and a common desire to complete the mission.

Consider praying this Scripture: "Let the favour of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands— establish the work of our hands!" Psalm 90:17, CBS.

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

The MCF's sole purpose is to take the gospel's message 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 in and cover them with your prayers as they serve.

Consider praying this Scripture: *"May the Lord increase your love 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*

