

The Shield



February 2025 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 February, time and time again, and pray for the community that God has invited you to bless. *(you can download, print it or save on your desktop)*

PRAY FOR OUR NATION

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. Still, we must also ask for the Holy Spirit's intervention 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."*

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

The book of 1 Samuel shares how God allowed men and women to rule over His people. Samuel asked God for a human king, and God allowed it. However, God warned the people of the consequences of a human ruler, but they persisted. We have seen the secular worldview dominate all nations' politics throughout the ages and how dependence on God has declined to the point where many leaders don't even recognize His existence. That should not stop us from bringing our political leaders before God's throne and asking Him to invite them into His kingdom.

Consider praying: *"Father, You warned us that those who rule over us would look out for their interests even if they don't realize it. Forgive us for choosing another king other than You. We look forward to when Jesus will be our King, but will You help our leaders? Will You reach out to them and draw them into Your family? Will You open their eyes to Your love so that they can serve both You and the people You have put under them? Amen."*

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS

We are blessed with strong, dedicated, and loyal military leaders. They serve selflessly, and we should be grateful for this. They need our prayers to help battle the conflicting messages of the world.

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, so 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".

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS

We are thankful that men and women are willing to put themselves in harm's way to bring harmony to our broken world. They do this at the expense of their comfort and time with their family and friends. We should recognize their sacrifices and ask God's blessing on them.

Consider praying this: *"Heavenly Father, thank You that You defend Your people with Your mighty hand. Please hear our prayer as we lift our military serving on operations away from home. We know they serve tirelessly to defend what is right. Bless and protect them, Lord and use their work for the good of our nation and Your glory. May they know Your presence with them at this time. 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 SERVING MILITARY

While military members are trained well to be prepared for the many things they may encounter while in the field or operation, that does not minimize the risks they face; our prayers for our military must include prayers asking God to protect them from harm.

Consider praying this: *"Heavenly Father, we praise You in advance for Your hand of protection over our military. They have answered a call to protect and defend their fellow citizens, so today, we ask that You place a hedge of protection around them. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

It is easy to forget that men, women, and children are separated from military spouses or parents because they serve 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 this: *"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"*

DND EMPLOYEES

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, CSB.*

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 that 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 MILITARY WHO, FOR WHATEVER REASON OR CIRCUMSTANCE, 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. Their homelessness has 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 THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

The MCF's sole purpose is to take the gospel's message to the military community. They can not do this on their own 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

