



CC(DOC)TN PRAYER SUPPORT FOR CHAPLAINS

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Romans 15:30

What a wonderful privilege we have as Disciples to support our Chaplains through prayer. As Paul wrote in Romans, we can join them in their ministry by praying to God for them. Below are several suggestions for ways to encourage our Chaplain(s) in prayer.

First, understand that it is an valuable function of Congregations to offer prayer support to Chaplains in the Christian Church (DOC) in Tennessee.

Centuries ago, the shield was an important piece of a warrior's armor. Although the shield is not used in modern battle the way it was centuries ago, it can still be an integral part of protecting oneself from the enemy. Just consider its inclusion in the Armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17). Paul notes it as a vital piece of equipment for each of us to have.

One of the best things Disciples can do for their Chaplains is to become a Shield of Prayer for them. After listing the armor in which a Christian can stand firm, Ephesians 6:18-20 continues on to address the issue of prayer, both with the admonition to pray in various ways and the urging to pray for others. We are to be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Paul then goes on to ask for prayer for himself and his ministry, "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should." We can pray the same thing for our Chaplains.

Second, recognize that Chaplains need prayer on many fronts.

Chaplains need prayer for: **Personal Concerns**- fatigue, loneliness, integrity, wisdom, health, finances, friendships, time management, etc... **Family Concerns**- relationship with spouse and children, relationships with extended family, priorities, etc... **Spiritual Concerns**- relationship with God, anointing, protection from spiritual warfare, accountability, growth, etc... **Ministry Concerns**- evangelism, intercession, relationship with congregation, etc... and **Military Concerns**- promotion, balance between military commitments and ministry needs, administrative considerations, etc.... These are just a few suggested areas to hold in prayer for our Chaplains.

Third, develop a plan for meeting a Chaplain's needs through prayer.

Invite a Chaplain to make known his/her prayer requests, but be sure to do it in a non-invasive, non-time consuming way. This should be a delight for them, not a duty. If the Chaplain does not feel comfortable in sharing requests, simply let them know you will be praying Scripture for them.

Consider making one of your Disciples Women/Men monthly meeting topics "Praying for a Chaplain", and invite Chaplains to attend. It can be a great time of encouragement and prayer.

We hope that these ideas are a springboard for you and your Disciples as you consider supporting our Chaplain(s) through prayer.