

## **Remember!**

November 7, 2021

**Scripture Readings:** Ezekiel 37:1-14 & Revelation 22:12-21

**Golden Verse:** *“The Lord is my shepherd.”* Psalm 23: 1

For us, as Canadians, Remembrance Day first of all is about we Canadians and about our soldiers, pilots, marines, nurses and physicians, cooks and all those lay people who risked and sacrificed their lives somewhere in Europe, Asia, or North Africa to keep the peace amongst other nations. Today, when we celebrate Remembrance Day, we focus on our own country, Canada, and appreciate the peace and security that our country provides for us.

In order to see exactly how white is the white colour, we have to compare that with a black colour. To be able to appreciate the peace and comfort we have today in Canada, we have to see the restless and peaceless world around us.

We all appreciate those Canadian soldiers who fought for peace in other countries. Today, in a special way, we express again our appreciation towards those men and women who stayed in Canada as a backup support, or left our peaceful country Canada and went to Europe or Africa to save a child or a child’s mother. Many of those people whose country was in war did not have a chance to protect themselves, to save their own lives or their spouses, their children or their friends’ lives.

Our brave Canadian heroes left their families behind to save the unprotected peoples’ lives. For years, they slept in tents, ate packaged food, were experiencing anxiety and stress, and were facing blood and death for peace. God said that He will repay them according to their work. Even though we don’t know their names, let us pay our respect today and let us say a silent THANKS to them.

Years ago, when my wife and our two daughters returned from Europe where we visited our extended family, one of our daughters sharing her experiences said: “Dad, it is so ridiculous that in Europe people were always fighting with each other. Why could they not live in peace? Why did they not enjoy their own lives in their own country and let other people live in peace?”

Every parent wants their children to grow up in a free land.

For two significant reasons, I will present to you a short history about the country where I grew. First, to help you to see and appreciate what a blessing it is to live in a free country. The second reason is to help you to see that today Canada needs Christian soldiers to protect, to save, and to pass on what we have to our children and grandchildren.

As you know, I grew up in Europe. My 1,000 year old country Hungary, being between east and middle Europe, was always a place of wars.

- In 1300, the Tartars (Mongol invaders) killed almost everybody in the country. There was a person who noticed that, while walking 500 km through the country, he never met ONE alive person in the towns.
- Since the 1400's, the Turks periodically attacked west Europe and Hungary was the hardest country stopping them.
- In the 1500's, they occupied Hungary and ruled the country for 150 years.
- In 1686, Hungary was able to rebel with a war and were able to push the Turks out from the country, Austria realized that Hungary had not too much physical power left so Austria attacked and occupied Hungary
- Hungary was forced to accept the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.
- Even though in 1914 Austria started World War 1, at the end Hungary was punished by losing 2/3 of its territory. With the end of the First World War, a new map was drawn in Europe. As a result of this, more than six million Hungarians, even though they stayed in their homes, awoke in a foreign land where the official language was a foreign one, and where the laws were different: both the political and religious climate was new. **At that time, 1.5 million Hungarians left their homeland for the United States and Canada.**
- In the 1940's, Hungary tried to recover again, but during World War II Germany occupied and forced Hungary into the war. Because Hungary resisted, Germany attacked and bombarded Hungary. A few months later, Russia dropped bombs on Hungary attacking the German troops.
- A decade later, in 1956, the Russian army destroyed and occupied Hungary for almost 40 years. The holes caused by bullets are still in the wall of many buildings.

No wonder most of the Hungarian poems and songs talk about war, blood, suffering, pressure, and crying out for peace and freedom.

As my daughter asked me, “Why did people do all these things to each other and why can they not live in peace?” Then she told me how thankful she is that God brought us to Canada.

Today we celebrate our Canadian heritage and those brave soldiers who fought many years ago to keep our freedom. We are free today because many died for our freedom.

Today we celebrate sacrifice. We remember that we have what we have because of the ultimate sacrifice of lives laid down so that we could be free. God said that He will repay them according to their work.

Remembrance Day is also a time to awake our Canadian nation that we have to keep our peace, our faith, and our Christian tradition in our country. We have to do something **today** to provide a free and human **future** in our country for our children and grandchildren. There is a danger that if we are not doing anything today for their future, in a few decades Canada won't be a country led by Christian ethics and rules.

At this point my questions is: Are we faithful soldiers of God, are we brave soldiers of Canada to keep, maintain and develop what we have, what we received from our Christian forefathers? Are we able to pass our values to our children and to their children as real values, or are we in a deep spiritual sleep, not realizing what is going on around us?

Today, on Remembrance Sunday, we remember those brave people as soldiers, nurses, physicians, cooks, pilots and marines who did everything to maintain the peace on earth.

Let us be brave soldiers of God, serving our country and our world. May we continue to maintain the Christian faith, the values, and our integrity, in Canada. Amen.