



Onward Christian Soldiers

“This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged, because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s” (2 Chronicles 20:15).

Onward Christian Soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before!
Christ the royal Master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, See His banners go!
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before! (518 LW)

This hymn was written by Rev. Sabine Baring Gould in 1865 for Pentecost Sunday. He was a teacher and wanted a marching song to lead the children as they walked to the next village for the church service. He is quoted as saying, “It was written in great haste, and I am afraid some of the rhymes are faulty. Certainly, nothing has surprised me more than its popularity.”

This month we remember our veterans by wearing a poppy. We give thanks for all who served or are currently serving our country, and pray that God will protect them all. The words of this hymn can apply to all of us at times, as we all face battles in our own lives. As Christian soldiers we don’t have to fight our battles alone, God is with us. 2 Timothy 2:3 tell us to “endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” Being a soldier takes discipline and obedience to follow your leader. We can march along with other Christians singing this hymn knowing that Christ is leading us through all of our daily battles.

*by Pauline Huth,
Christian Growth,
Alberta–British
Columbia District*

“Onward, then, you faithful, Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices, In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor, Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages, Men and angels sing.
Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before!

Scriptures are NIV

We pray: Thank you Lord for being our leader, as we fight our battles each day and trust in you to help us win. Amen.

Prepared by the Christian Growth Committee, LWML–Canada, Inc