



The Shield

February 2019 edition

Praying for the Canadian Military Community



Join us throughout the month of January
as we reflect upon and pray for the following:

CANADA

Our history as a nation is steeped in faith. Not everyone involved in the development of this country has recognized Jesus as Lord and Saviour but the principles of righteousness, justice and equality for all had been its cornerstone. The earliest renditions of our national anthem spoke of faith, hope and love as being possible because God was ours. However today, too many rely on themselves or the world to save them from harshness of life. It seems that as a nation we seem to have forgotten the blessings and mercies God bestowed on us. Pray for a revival so that hearts will turn to the time when the name of Jesus was revered. Pray for our country.

Consider using this prayer for Canada:

“Heavenly Father – bless our country. The land of ours whose glorious deeds set the path for freedom for all. We have willingly held up the sword to fight for what is right and equally held up Your cross. Our history is an epic of brilliant deeds and our valour steeped in faith. Guide us back to the time where our focus was on You and love for all. Amen”.

LEADERS

Leadership is a privilege that, when exercised correctly, can bring purpose and value to those being led. Unfortunately, too many leaders are more concerned about how their decision would play out in a news headline instead of how it can bring people towards the same goal. Our military leaders need wisdom and courage to serve this country and those they lead. Pray for our government and military leaders.

Consider offering this prayer for our leaders:

“Dear Lord, help our leaders find a love for You so they can be guided by that love in their everyday actions. Teach them to place their trust in You so that when they can’t see the path ahead of them clearly, they can call on You. Help them to trust in You more than their own abilities. Help them to not to say yes when the right answer is no. Remind them of those they lead and the impact they can have on their lives. Bless our leaders so that Your name is glorified. Amen

OPERATIONS

Our military has little or no say on where they serve. When individuals take their oath, they are agreeing to serve where needed. Some are sent to locations that are not unlike the work environments that many Canadians work at each day, while others are sent to locations whose environments are as hostile as any could imagine. Take some time to visit this link <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current.page> that outlines current military operations. Pray for those on operations home and abroad.

Consider using this prayer as you pray for our military serving away from their homes:

“Heavenly Father, it is unfortunate that military forces are needed in this cruel world, but we are thankful that Canadian men and women willingly step up and serve. We pray that they enter their operation zone seeking to have justice and moral. We are thankful that those who call you Lord, go with these men and women and can bring your hope to share with their brothers and sisters in arms. Bless our military wherever they serve and protect them from physical and mental harm. Amen”.

CHAPLAINS

There is no doubt that a Chaplain's calling is challenging. They provide spiritual guidance to those serving in an environment that tests the spiritual, physical and mental competencies of our military. They face similar dangers with those they serve and find themselves called upon to provide comfort and support, probably at times when they could use the same. These men and women need the full armour of God to keep them moving forward and protect them from compromising their call to serve both God and their country.

Consider praying:

"Father, can you help our Chaplains balance their time and challenges so they can be more effective to accomplish your will and not their own. Can you give them wisdom to say what is necessary or listen when it is called for? Protect them from the struggles all men and women face so they can stand tall and be your beacon of light whether it be on the battlefield or in the office. Amen"

MILITARY FAMILIES

One truly does not know what it is like to be the spouse or child of a military member unless you have been there. There are many wonderful experiences that military families go through that can enhance their lives but there are also difficult ones. Moving because of posting often results in spouses losing employment, children having to say good-bye to friends and school, and loneliness caused by isolated locations and deployments. Families need a special strength to remain together and to be strong. Pray for our military families.

Consider praying:

"Father, we know everyone needs to recognize You as the sovereign Lord who wants what is best for them. Continue to reach into our military families and draw them to You. Help those who already know You bring your message of peace, comfort and strength to our military families so that they can remain united and strong during their military service. Protect our military families from the evil one who wants to sow disharmony in their relationship. Keep your Fatherly hand over the children of our military so they can honour their parents, find friends and others who can stand with them during difficult times. We praise You for our military families and trust them into your care. Amen".

THE MCF

The Military Christian Fellowship of Canada exists because God had ordained it. He put the mission in the minds and hearts of men and women many years ago and has passed this desire onto a new generation so that we would take His word to the military community. The MCF functions because God allows it and so we must ensure that we constantly seek His will over ours. We pray God continue to grant our leaders, especially our President Col (Retd) Gerry Potter, the wisdom and stamina to remain strong.

Consider praying:

"Father, we are thankful you have invited the MCF to be on your mission to take the gospel into the military community. We know we cannot do this without Your mercies and blessings. Continue to guide us in the ways in which we can serve our military. Bless the prayers of those who join us in asking Your blessing over the MCF and the military. We seek to love and honour You and want Your will to be our driving force. Amen"

