



The Shield

March 2019 edition

Praying for the Canadian Military Community



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

CANADA

We are a country with a reputation for being polite and open however that is not always a good thing. There are injustices happening in our country and around the world and too often we just stand and watch. Our relationship with Jesus calls us to be concerned and involved in the life of our nation. We are to be a voice for biblical mercy and justice so that all can experience the good and salvation God desires for us. Pray for our country as it tries to find its place in a world where anything goes including a lack of moral sense and responsibility. Pray that communities in our nation seek and find God so that our politeness stems from a love of our neighbour and not an unwillingness to get involved.

Identify your immediate neighbours and commit to praying for them at least weekly. Do some random act of kindness and show them you care.

Consider using this prayer for Canada:

“Heavenly Father – we pray for the day our country bows before you our Lord and Saviour and look to you for moral guidance. We pray the citizens of our nation will focus less on themselves and more on those around them. We pray that every man, woman and child living in this country can be seen by all as their neighbour. We know this cannot happen without your love and grace filling our hearts. We ask that you continue to use your followers to reach into the communities of Canada to bring the hope and joy of your kingdom to those who are going through the motions of seeking purpose though worldly things. Change our nation by starting with me. Amen”.

LEADERS

Leaders can change the mindset of whole communities with their words and promises. They have a role to focus on a mission but must remember to care for those who are following them. It often seems that the loudest voice gets their way and those who are weaker or less aggressive often get left behind or forgotten. We must pray that our leaders, whether they are found in our workplaces or in places of government, care for all they follow. It is not an easy thing to do and does require special love and unselfishness that can come from God’s grace. Pray our leaders seek God first so He can give them wisdom and courage to do what is right.

Identify a leader you know and commit to pray for them.

Consider offering this prayer for our leaders:

“Heavenly Father, we know leadership is a gift that can be used wisely or corruptly. We pray for those we follow and ask you to protect them for those who want to corrupt their thinking or divert them for the cause that is best for all. Many do not know you as their Lord and Leader and so we ask that you continue to create opportunities to draw them close to you. Thank you for gifting people with leadership traits and help us be willing and supportive followers. Amen”

OPERATIONS

Admittedly going to foreign ports and countries can be exciting and rewarding however it is always at a cost. Our men and women go to other environments, often not like their own, and serve but can experience loneliness, fear, sadness, and even remorse. They are vulnerable as they try to live a normal life as possible, but some are tempted to do things they would not otherwise do if they were home. We must continue to pray for our military on

deployment as well as the families they leave behind. We must pray for their protection and safety but also for opportunities to grow closer to God.

Take some time to visit this link <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.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:

“Father, we know war is not your desired plan for humanity. However, it is in our nature and so we must be prepared to stand up for what is justice. Military operations can place a physical and spiritual strain on individuals and so we ask you, Lord, to infuse them with your strength and courage to serve as they must. We ask that you protect the relationships of our family so that they can honour each other and you. Amen”.

CHAPLAINS

God has called many men and women to bring His word to the world but not all these people can serve in a military environment. We know God has created something unique in our military chaplains who willingly go where our military goes and serves them with little concern for their own well-being. They need God’s grace and power to serve, otherwise they will become victims of the strains associated with military service. They need the support of other believers to pray for them and offer them encouragement as often as possible. We can do that. Find the names of chaplains on military facilities located near you and be their rear party praying and encouraging them.

Consider praying:

“Lord, you have called many to take your name to all the corners of the earth and we praise you for that. We are thankful for the men and women you called to be chaplains and ask that they sense your presence daily, so they do not lose sight of you or their calling. Will you continue to bless them with extraordinary wisdom and courage to serve the men and women of our Armed Forces? Be with their families to protect them when our chaplains are called to deploy with our troops. Help them love as you desire and be your light in an environment that often seems dark. Amen”

MILITARY FAMILIES

There is no doubt that it takes a special kind of person to be a military spouse. They are often taken from their own families to follow their spouse wherever they are deployed. They often are expected to make their new location seem like home while the military spouse trains or serves on deployment. The children are uprooted often leaving friends and comfortable enjoyments behind and this can cause both emotional struggles. It is not an easy life as relationships may collapse under the strain of military life. Our military families need Jesus and we can be His representatives in our communities. We can reach out, assist and encourage so that our military families are not alienated from the world.

Reflect on a military family you may know and choose to intentionally pray for them. Send notes of encouragement and if opportunities arise, be a loving neighbour.

Consider praying:

“Father, will you keep your arms around our military families and protect them from the evil one who wants to use military service as a means of destroying families? Protect their marriages and relationships. Help the parents be mindful of their children’s needs and expectations and give all strength to face the changes and challenges of military life. Father help me identify a family I can support with my prayers and acts of love. Amen”.

THE MCF

We are thankful that God has placed the needs and concerns of the military in the hearts and minds of men and

women who choose to develop a ministry that focuses on the Armed Forces. The recent Annual General Meeting of the MCF identified some very achievable goals that seeks to bring the hope of God's kingdom to our military communities. They are only achievable if God's will is at the forefront and so we must continue to pray for the leadership of the MCF as they seek to rally a community around our military brother, sisters and their families.

Pray for our council and executive members:

Council member: Robert Parker (National House of Prayer);

Council member and President of the Executive Team: Col (Retd) Gerry Potter,

Council member and Executive Prayer coordinator: Capt (Ret'd) Anton Topilnycky,

Council member and Chaplain Representative: Capt Andrew Whitman,

Executive Treasurer: Ralph Prentice,

Executive Secretary: Maj Kevin Davis.

Consider praying:

"Lord, you have called the MCF into existence and have blessed it. As we move into this new season, we ask that You continue to look after your children who are providing the leadership with the mission as well as those brothers and sisters who provide prayer, encouragement and resources to this vital mission. We look for Your strength to carry through with the goals you place on our hearts and look forward to going through those doors You will open for us in this upcoming season. Thank you for being our Lord and Saviour and we give all praise and honour to You. Amen"

