



The Shield

April 2019 edition

Praying for the Canadian Military Community



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

CANADA

At times, one can't help but wonder in our country is going out of its way to ignore or censor the God of all creation. It seems that a day does not go by when someone who chooses to live by God's truths is mocked or condemned. Followers of Christ must remain strong and seek to share God's love, even when they are portrayed as unloving because they aren't in full agreement with our nation's choices. Believers must ask God to help them become better at showing His love to their neighbours. We are called to share the Good News, but it does make it difficult if we are perceived as always pointing fingers and being judgemental. In this world where the hedonistic message holds many captives, we can't compromise our faith, but we need God to help us share the truth about the full life He offers.

Consider praying the following:

"Father, we need your help to be your loving light to our nation. Help us bring the joyful news of salvation to our neighbours. Help us share with others that you want to bless Canada, but we have to desire you. Help us use this time of the Easter celebration to share the hope, joy and freedom offered because of Jesus' life, crucifixion, and resurrection. Give us strength, courage and wisdom to be a witness to your Glory. Amen."

LEADERS

The dictionary defines a leader as someone willing and capable of motivating others to act towards achieving a common goal. The goal of the MCF is to introduce the gospel to the serving and retired members of the CAF and their families. Each brother and sister in Christ are capable of leading others to hear God's truth because we have been ordained by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so. Are you willing to pray for yourself and other believers to accept this leadership calling? Will you believe that God can use you to lead others to the cross?

Consider offering this prayer for our leaders

"Father, you have gifted each of us with unique skills and talents, and you want to use them to motivate others to know your love for them. Help us trust that you will prepare the way for us to be your messengers. Help us remember that we are your light bearers who can bring light to those wandering in the dark. Remind us daily that we have been blessed and as we leave our homes, open doors so we can bless others. Amen"

OPERATIONS

Scripture reminds us that we are at war with forces more powerful and cunning than any human enemy on this planet. Not only are our military men and women facing real threats from those who want to harm the freedoms we have, but the evil one and his minions want to cause fear and disillusionment amongst those serving away from their families and loved one.

Visit the CAF operation link at <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page> . 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 it our nature to make bad choices that go against what we believe. Operations often put a strain on family relationships, and it is during these times our serving men and women need your supernatural intervention to keep them on the honourable path. Protect their physical and spiritual well-being and not allow

the evil one to gain even the smallest foothold. We pray, especially during this time of the year when families are meant to be together to celebrate the gifts of Easter, that you find ways to introduce our military families your Son's saving grace, so they can face their separation knowing they are truly loved. Amen".

CHAPLAINS

Despite the growing secularism of our nation, we are privileged to have men and women of God serving alongside our military and caring for their spiritual as well as their mental, and emotional health. It is a challenging calling as they face both the trials and challenges of those they serve while rising above them, so they can be the voice of comfort and peace in a time of need. We must never forget their dedication to being God's servants and ask God to create opportunities this month for them to share the hope that the Easter season offers all of humanity.

Consider praying:

"Father, you have called our Chaplains to be your spiritual leaders in the battle for the hearts and minds of our troops. We know their task is not an easy one and so we ask that you keep your protecting arms over them, shield them from criticism and condemnation and give them wisdom and courage to be your servant to the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces. Amen".

MILITARY FAMILIES

They are many families across our nation that have spouses, parents, brothers or sisters, sons or daughters who have chosen to put on the uniform and defend our nation. Many have made difficult choices to support their military family and are owed the gratitude of our country. The greatest thing we can do for them is to bring them before their Father in heaven and ask Him to reveal Himself to them so that they can experience God's love. We can also find ways to serve them, especially the spouses and children of those whose spouse and parent are serving away from home.

Consider praying:

"Father, you created us in your image and implanted the desire for a harmonious family relationship in us. Since the garden, the world has tried to destroy what you have blessed, and today our families seem to face challenges from all directions. We know that when you are the head of a household, families have a sense of purpose. We pray that this Easter month, your presence is felt in the homes of our military families causing even the children to sense your love and prompting them to want to know you. Give our families strength and with your grace, bring them to salvation. Amen."

THE MCF

It is a wonderful undertaking the Military Christian Fellowship has embarked on, and we know that nothing is possible unless God is leading us. We know God has called many men and women to join Him on the mission to take the Good News to our military community. We thank God that He has provided us with the leadership that seeks His will and not theirs.

Consider praying:

"Father, the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few. Will you reach into the hearts of those who call you Lord and have some affliction to our military community and invite them to be part of your mission. As we seek, you will, keep us on your path and bless us with wisdom as we seek new ways to bring the Gospel to those who need your love. Amen".

