



The Shield

May 2019 edition

Praying for the Canadian Military Community



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

CANADA

The April 1917 Battle at Vimy Ridge is celebrated as Canada's most impressive military victory and is often associated with the birth of Canadian national pride. The country was able to do something that no other nation could, and it put us in the spotlight. We fought hard for what we believed was right. At that time God was considered an ally in our struggle against oppression and restricted freedoms but that does not seem to be the case today. Today we offer speeches that suggest we still uphold those values that brought us to the attention of the world, but it seems we only do so when there is something to gain politically vice morally. It is no easy task meeting the needs of all Canadians. We must pray God again becomes our ally to provide us with the strength and courage do what is morally right not only for those who reside within our borders but for all occupants of our world.

Consider praying the following:

“Father, at one time many sought your will as they desired to do what was right for their life as well as that of their neighbours. We know you have not abandoned us as a country and ask that you continue to seek after us; not only our leaders but every citizen of Canada. Our awakening at Easter 1917 changed the way the world saw us but, Lord, it is your view of us that matters. Bless our leaders with your wisdom and sense of morality so they seek you first. Place your desires in all our hearts replacing ours. Help us return to your altar and offer ourselves to the glory of your name. Amen.”

LEADERS

There is no doubt that good and bad leaders can influence people. It is our hope that all leaders have positive ethical principles, respect for subordinates, and a desire to bring their teams towards the same goal. It is never good for an organization when the leader allows their personal desires and goals to drive their leadership practices. Because we draw our leader from the human gene pool, we know they are subject to temptation, they are tired and irritable, and at times, do seek personal gratification above all else. We all are subordinate to someone and to help our leader succeed, we can bring them before the Lord and ask that His hand guard them against worldly influences. We can pray that they recognize Jesus as their supreme leader and that He can help them make wise and moral choice whilst showing compassion and strength to those they lead. Identify at least one of your leaders and commit to pray for them throughout the month of May.

Consider offering this prayer for our leaders:

“Father, thank you for blessing men and women I know with skills and talents that allow them to lead. You call on all of your followers to support those in charge and pray for them and so I bring you _____ and ask that the Holy Spirit nudge _____ heart to cause him/her to seek the truth and wisdom that will enhance their role as a leader but will also draw them into a relationship with you. Help _____ lead with justice and compassion and a desire to bring out the best in their subordinates so that Your name is glorified. Draw _____ to your Word so they can find peace, comfort as well as wisdom to do the good you have planned for them. Amen.”

OPERATIONS

The events leading up to and including Easter this year were a reminder that our world is at war with itself. The evil one is leading the charge to evoke fear and hatred around the world by attacking the innocent. Our serving military men and women are on the front lines battling the physical enemy but requires God’s forces to fight the invisible one. We know God will be victorious over evil but in the meanwhile, the battles continue for our military needs both physical and spiritual protection. Below is a link to the worldwide military operation involving the Canadian military. Although some of these areas seem peaceful, all have the potential to become a powder keg waiting to be ignited by some misguided individual with a warped sense of justice. Visit the site and choose to pray for one or more of these operations.

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:

“May your love encircle our military as they work across the world to create justice and peace for all. May your hope to go before them carry them through the difficulties and stresses they face. Lord, come by your Spirit and lead them through each complex situation. May your peace be ever within their lives as they guard and protect the vulnerable and face conflict. May your wisdom be forever beside them as they walk into complex and dangerous lands and seek to bring order and reconciliation. And may your protection be behind them, covering their weaknesses and their vulnerabilities. Lord, keep them safe under the shadow of your Almighty wings. Amen” (Borrowed from Living prayers)

CHAPLAINS

Sometimes it is hard to imagine that our government allows chaplains to serve in our military. It is a privilege they have bestowed on our Chaplains that must be guarded. We must remember to pray that this policy does not change and that our Chaplains continued to be seen as valued contributors to the morale of our serving men and women.

It is almost certain that no unit commanding officer, regardless of their own religious upbringing, would discount the value of having a Chaplain in their unit. They know that in times of trouble, military men and women do question their own morality and seek solace in knowing there is a God who cares for them; this is one area the chaplain can help. The chaplain’s life is an admirable calling but it not without its struggles. These men and women face the same dangers,

family separations, and temptations as the military they serve and too often see and hear the ugliness of the world that many of us never see. They need God's love and protection as they serve Him and serve those He wants to call His children.

Consider praying:

“Father, thank you for the call you have placed on the lives of the men and women we call our Chaplains. We ask that you protect them from discouragement and frustration and give them the wisdom to serve in a community that often appears indifferent to you. Bless their calling with fruit and continue to draw them close to you so they can experience the peace, joy and hope you offer all who call you Lord. Give them wisdom in their daily walk and encounters so they can continue to be the salt and light needed in our military family. Amen.”

MILITARY FAMILIES

Often spouses and children follow where the military decrees the serving member should go, and they often have little or no say in the matter. They can feel isolated and even abandoned, putting a strain on marriages and family relationships. Our military community has attempted to ensure families of serving members have somewhere to go to cope with the uniqueness of military service. There are family service centres, social media help groups and clubs to address some of the issues but often that is not enough. Families can feel alone as they often move away for their families to areas where they don't know anyone. And, when they start to develop friendships, people move. The members of the MCF can help families adjust as well as feel loved no matter where they go. We can't be friends with everyone, but we can be friends with a few. We can be there to support and encourage each other and introduce them to the world-wide family of God. Can you identify a family you'd be willing to pray for this month? Posting season will be starting soon so would you ask God to help you become closer to a new family, so they won't feel as lost?

Consider praying:

“Lord, you created us to be in fellowship and often the military life leaves many feeling alone. Will you help my whole family reach out to someone in our community to be your light? Can you align me with a family so that we can support and encourage each other? Holy Spirit will you fill me with the words to say and the compassion to do, so that I can bring the truths of Jesus to someone who needs you? Amen.”

THE MCF

Each month we speak of the wonderful mission God has invited *The Military Christian Fellowship of Canada* to join Him on. We must continue to seek God's will for the MCF and ask His wisdom to guide our leaders as they make decisions and choice that move the fellowship forward. We also encourage all followers of Christ community to speak with God asking Him how they can be used on His mission and this ministry. We continue to bring our president, Colonel (ret'd) Gerry Potter asking that He bless him and guard Him against the enemy who would desire to interfere with the work he is doing.

Consider praying:

“Father, we are blessed to be invited by you to take the gospel to the military community. We are geographically dispersed around this country but are united by your love. Give us the wisdom to seek and apply your will to the work you have placed before us. Encourage our president Gerry, bless our administrative assistant Nicole, and empower the other leaders you have gathered to on this mission. Open doors for us Lord and give us the courage to step through them and bring others with us. Send more workers so that we can harvest the community in your wonderful name. Amen”

