



The Shield  
August 2019 edition  
Praying for the Canadian Military Community



Join us throughout the month of August  
As we reflect upon and pray for the following

### **CANADA**

In 1982 Canada adopted the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom as part of Canada's Constitution. The Charter is meant to protect every Canadian's right to be treated equally under the law and guarantees broad equality rights and other fundamental rights such as the freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion. The first statement on these rights reads as follows: Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the **supremacy of God** and the rule of law. We need to pray that our country remembers God is our sovereign rules and only He can change hearts and minds to love Him and neighbour.

#### **Consider praying the following:**

*“Lord, we thank you that in our nation today, we are free to worship. We are free to pray. We are free to read your Word. We are free to speak. We are free to share. For this, we are incredibly grateful. Yet, we understand how quickly these freedoms can be taken away. Give us an increased awareness of the spiritual battle we’re in. Help us to stand strong in you and for your purposes. Amen”*

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### **LEADERS**

The word “leadership can bring to mind a variety of images. Leaders help themselves and others do the right things. They set direction, build and inspire, and create something new. Leadership involves pointing others in the right direction so they can win. Leadership is nothing without people. Good leaders have wisdom, compassion, courage and a sense of fairness so that all benefit from their leadership. Our prayer is that our leaders are motivated by morals and ethic shared by God and not those created by popular worldly opinion. To be this leader, they need God’s hand and our prayers.

#### **Consider offering this prayer for our leaders:**

*“Lord, please turn your gaze to those men and women who as military leaders have sacrificed time, comfort, strength, ambition, health and prosperity for the peace and safety of family and friends and for those they lead. Bless them far beyond all their expectations. Be with our nation’s leaders as well and all those who make decisions for our military. Give all our leaders wisdom and discernment in everything they do. Amen”*

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### **OPERATIONS**

Visit the CAF operation link at <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page> and pray for those on operations home and abroad.

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

*“Almighty God, you know every man and women serving away for home by name. You know their deeds, their hard work, and their perseverance. You know their needs, both material and spiritual. Please draw each one closer to you and grant them all the peace that passes understanding allowing the peace of Christ to rule in their hearts. Amen”*

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**CHAPLAINS**

Our Chaplains have a powerful role in the Forces as they attend to the overall well being of our military. They are under pressure to provide “social work” type services to the military while providing spiritual care. We must pray for all aspects of their service including the spiritual, personal, relational and professional areas.

**Consider praying:**

*“Lord, give our chaplains wisdom and courage for the unique challenges they face, that they may obey Christ even as they must obey their commanding officers, that they may live for Christ, even as many of their friends and fellow military colleagues live for the world, and that they may preach Christ, even as they must work side by side with others preaching a different gospel. Amen”*

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**MILITARY FAMILIES**

August can be a very hectic time for our military families. Some have moved or are still in the process of moving as the result of postings. Moving means saying goodbye to friends, colleagues, and in many cases to a spouse’s employment. It generally does take a little time to get adjusted to the new environment and often a sense of loneliness does creep in. Our families need support

**Consider praying:**

*“Father, we lift up our military families to you asking that you bless them with an abundance of courage as they continue to serve our country. Calm any anxieties they may have about starting over in a new location and help them not to take out worries on each other. Fill them with comfort and surround them with the community to stave off feelings of loneliness. Father, we pray they would feel Your presence and be reassured that you are with them. AMEN”.*

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**DND EMPLOYEES**

There is no doubt the Canadian military community is stronger when the whole community works together. Included in this community are the men and women of our civilian workforces who are dedicated and supportive of their military colleagues. They contribute to the success of the CAF’s mission by their hard work and loyalty. They are also subject to stress, family discourse and physical and mental health issues because of their service to our country. The same God who loves our men and women in uniform love those working alongside them.

**Consider praying:**

*“Father, your word reminds us that when we are united together in the same cause it makes us stronger and the enemy’s attempt to destroy us will be made more difficult. We bring our civilian colleagues before you and ask that your saving grace fills their lives, so they find purpose in their lives that bring glory to you. Protect them from harm that may come about because of their often-dangerous workplaces and bless them as they serve our nation. Amen”*

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## RETIRED MILITARY

Although many will joke about looking forward to their retirement from the military most can not help but feel a sense of loss the moment, they hang up their uniform. The closeness and comradery they have experienced are found in only a few work environments. The dependences on colleagues to help them survive difficult and even dangerous situation does create a bond that is hard to break. They will always be part of the military family and we should not forget them and even draw on them to support the community.

### Consider praying:

*“Father, we ask you to bless on those who have served and are not retired. We especially ask that your grace be extended to those who have left because of injuries. Remind them of the purpose you created them for which goes well beyond serving their country. Remind them all that they still have value and purpose and their experience can still be an asset to the military and to the communities they live in. Bless them and their families and they experience a new life as retired military personnel. Amen.”*

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## THE MCF

The Canadian military community is unique in Canada. By its nature, it is an institution, a system and a distinct culture that is separate from all others by virtue of its values, history, norms, behaviours, language, operational experiences, social hierarchy, social expectations and lifestyle; characterized by mobility, separation and risk. Yet, it is inclusive of persons from diverse ethnicity, spirituality, gender, age, and sexual orientation; thus, the military is a microcosm of the Canadian mosaic. This community consists of those who are serving and have served in both the Regular Force and the various components of the Reserve Force, civilian employees of the Department of National Defence and their respective families. It is estimated that the size of this community in Canada, exceeds one million (taken from (<https://mcf-canada.ca/mcf-ministry-concept/>)). God has invited the MCF to join Him on the mission to bring the gospel to this wonderful community and the prayers and hard work of many makes this possible.

### Consider praying:

*“LORD, watch over the leaders of the MCF and continue to govern their actions so that they may not mar the perfection of Your Plans for our fellowship. Show the leader how to give their very best. Let them not avoid the hard work and diligence that is necessary to complete the MCF’s success. It is you they serve and let their works be honourable and glorifying to you. Amen.”*

