



The Shield

February 2020 edition



Praying for the
Canadian Military Community

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

WEEK 1: 1 - 8 February

PRAY FOR OUR NATION: Many in our country are stuck, standing on the fence afraid to offer an opinion or stand up for a cause for fear of those who bully those who don't hold the same opinion. It seems if you disagree with one of those individuals you will be labelled a bigot. More and more opinions are linked to social justice causes, but sadly, too often these angry opinionated people are looking to validate their own ego, look for special treatment, or seeking attention.

Biblical references to the word "justice" mean "to make right." Justice is, first and foremost, a relational term with people living in right relationship with God, one another, and the natural creation. The scriptural point of view for justice means loving our neighbour as we love ourselves and is rooted in the character and nature of God. As God is just and loving, so we are called to do justice and live in love. Pray that our nation gets on board with justice that comes from love and not anger.

Considering using this prayer for Canada: *"Father, you created us with the ability to love as you do however, we have not sought your assistance to love and have made a mess of things. We know you want us to reach out to the infirmed, the homeless, those with addiction issues, just as much as we seek justice for our families and churches. Help us see that you invited us to be on mission with You so that your truth and grace is shown to all. Help us show your presence and justice. Amen"*

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS: These are difficult times for leaders who are tempted and pressured to comprise their own values for the sake of votes or acceptance. Many are required to take an oath declaring their willingness to serve others above self but in this egocentric world, the temptation to look after self is great.

Will you take some time to identify a leader you know and pray for them by name.

Consider praying: *"Almighty God, our heavenly Father, send down upon **NAME** who is in the position to lead, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with a steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WEEK 2: 9 - 15 February

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS: Serving on a military operation is unpredictable in terms of safety and security. Our military is often working amongst people from cultures who see the world very differently from us. There is a significant humanitarian flavour to all Canadian operations,

regardless of the type of presence, and we want our soldiers hearts and souls to be protected as much as their bodies.

There are several ongoing operations involving Canadian Military personnel, each important and each with risks. Will you visit DND's operations website and this week, adopt an operation and pray for the troops serving on that operation.

Operations: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page>

Consider praying: *“Father, we know world wide disharmony is not your desired plan for humanity. However, it is in our nature and so we have many prepared to stand for us for what is just. 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. As they serve away for home, we ask that you protect family relationships so that they can honour each other and You. Amen.*

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS: In this increasingly secularized society, we are blessed to have Military Chaplains serving our military in all the places our military serve. They leave family, enter danger zones all the while facing the evil that seeks to neutralize their message of hope and salvation.

Consider praying this version of the Serenity Prayer: *“God grant our chaplains the serenity to accept the things they cannot change; courage to change the things they can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as they would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if they surrender to His Will. We pray that they may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.”*

WEEK 3: 16 - 22 February

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES: God created humanity to live in a harmonious relationship and modelled this behaviour in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bond. Unfortunately, we are not always good at showing love for those we said we'd love forever. Stressful situations often exasperated by military life can damage the family unity. Our desire is that our military families come to know the peace Jesus offers so that when they are faced with life's challenges and difficulties, they can recognize the true enemy is not each other, but the evil one who wants nothing better to destroy relationships. We can pray they find Jesus and build a relationship with Him which leads to a stronger family.

Consider praying: *“Heavenly Father, we offer our prayers for the home front spouse and ask your blessing over their lives. We pray they would trust You and that they would be firmly rooted in Christ and the Word and draw strength from Him. We pray for their joy, hope, endurance, strength, patience, protection and safety. We pray against fear, loneliness, fatigue, despair, and depression that may be caused by separation. We pray that support would be present when needed and that friends, family, co-workers, neighbours would rise up and extend assistance and encouragement. Amen”*

PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES: We are fortunate that many of our civilian colleagues have the same desire and passion to serve Canada. They support military operation with their skills and knowledge and step up when their military colleagues are away on a mission. We are grateful for them and so we can show our gratitude by bringing them before the Lord and ask that He draw them to Him.

Consider praying: *“Loving Father, we thank you for our partnership with our DND workforce and ask that all of us can work in harmony with the vision and mission of the Armed Forces. May all members of the team speak, bringing comfort, healing and care. We pray that each worker is filled with heavenly truth and that they feel compelled to seek you out. We pray they allow God to lead them through each moment of their life. Father watch over them as they serve this nation. Amen”*

PRAY FOR RETIRED MILITARY: Many will joke about looking forward to their retirement from the military, but most cannot 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 creates 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 your blessings for those who have served and are now 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.”*

WEEK 4: 23-29 February

PRAY FOR 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. It is also 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. God has invited the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada to join Him on the mission to bring the gospel to this wonderful community. We know that the prayers and hard work of many make this possible.

Consider praying: *“LORD, we thank you for inviting us to be on mission with you and trusting us with responsibilities to reach our military community. We want all we do to be for your glory. Give strength to our leaders so they may give their best so that your lost children can be reached. We ask that you convict those who love you to find a way to serve you through the MCF so that we may become stronger and overcome the obstacles that the evil one places before us. Thank you that you love us, and we acknowledge it is the power and authority of your name Jesus, that we can continue to move forward. Amen.”*