



The Shield

July 2020 edition



Praying for the
Canadian Military Community

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

Preamble: Below are themes we feel are relevant to our ministry to bring the gospel to serving and retired members of the CAF, DND and their families. Each topic has a suggested prayer, but please feel free to offer a prayer in your own words.

WEEK 1: 1-10 July

PRAY FOR OUR NATION: On Canada Day, we celebrate 153 years as a Nation. Although many of us have not experienced a Canada Day whilst the world was in a crisis, it has happened. There have been times in our history when people were less concerned about the anniversary of Confederation and more concerned about surviving their circumstances. Over the past few months, anger has been vented at the government at all levels, fears created by imposed restrictions, and people misbehaving as they hoarded supplies or flaunted safety guidelines. The past few months have also shown the kind heart of those around us who have made an effort to reach out to the poor, the sick, the widowed and the prisoner. It is hoped that followers of Christ also have made an impact as they reached out to help and, when given the change, spoke of the peace and comfort God offers during our everyday life. We have progressed as a Nation but are still motivated by the will of the world and not the will of the Creator of the universe. We must pray for our nation.

Considering using this prayer for Canada: *“Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endowed with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.* (taken from The Book of Common Prayer)

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS: These have been difficult days for our leaders, and they have tried to control a crisis that seems uncontrollable. None have faced a similar dilemma and it is visible when they are seeking to help, vice wants to retain power. We pray God’s wisdom is granted them so they can be truthful, just and caring for the people they lead.

Consider praying: *“Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this Province/city/town) of _____ the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with a steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (taken from The Book of Common Prayer)

WEEK 2: 11-17 July

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS: Our military willingly goes anywhere to bring a sense of peace, safety, and contentment to people they do not even know. These operations can be rewarding but also are dangerous. Will you visit DND's operations website and this week, adopt a military action and pray for the troops serving on it.

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

Consider praying: *“Father, we bring our deployed military before you and pray that they find a way to depend on you to keep and sustain them during difficult and often dangerous situations. We pray for those who know you and ask you to use them to provide comfort to their peers. We pray for their spiritual and emotional resiliency so that regardless of what they face, they are effective in their military roles and responsibility. Amen”.*

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS: The mission of the chaplain's branch is to support and enhance the effectiveness of the CF through the provision of comprehensive religious and spiritual support, advice, and care. It requires them to face action wherever our military is deployed while rising above their concern for their safety to become a light of hope to those struggling with uncertainty.

Consider praying: *“Father, we pray for our chaplains that you would protect them from sickness and disease. Please give them your energy to keep serving faithfully. Please help them to find periods of rest and recovery. Could you give them your wisdom? Help them know the way to go even when the road is not clear. Give them discernment to know right from evil, even when evil is dressed as good. Help them apply your word to even the most confusing situations. We ask in the power and authority of Jesus' Name. Amen”.*

WEEK 3: 18-24 July

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES: Our military families sacrifice much so their spouses or family members may serve their country. Those left behind are both mother and father, brother and sister, guardian and teacher. This responsibility can be crushing, and they need the help and support of those around them. We need to be aware of those around us who have been separated by military service and not only pray for them, but we need to find a way to lend them a hand.

Consider praying: *“Father, we pray for our military families. We pray for the family members holding down the fort while the other serves. We pray for military parents so that they have endurance in patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control, and consistency in discipline. We pray for a community of support to serve and encourage those who are parenting alone during deployments. We pray for marriages in that, military couples will be on the same team, pulling for one another towards shared goals and dreams rather than seeing themselves as competing with one another. During this time of crisis, we especially pray for protection over loneliness that may cause bitterness and resentment because of family separations. Amen.”*

PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES: There is no doubt that 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 through their hard work and loyalty. They are also subject to stress, family discourse and physical and mental health issues because they serve our country. The same God who loves our men and women in uniform love our civilian colleagues.

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 the harm that may come about because of their often-dangerous workplaces and bless them as they serve our nation. Amen”*

WEEK 4: 25 – 31 July

PRAY FOR OUR RETIRED MILITARY: Although many will joke about looking forward to their retirement from the military, 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 dependence on colleagues to help them survive difficult and even dangerous situations 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 upon them to support the community. Experience can still be an asset to the military and to the communities where they live. We must not forget them.

Consider praying: *“Father, we ask you to bless 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 meaning, and their experience can always be an asset to the military and to the communities they live in. Bless them and their families, as they experience a new life as retired military personnel. Amen.”*

PRAY FOR THE MCF: As the MCF steps out in faith to bring the gospel to our military community, they humbly admit they need help and support from the Christian community. The MCF needs your prayers as well as your willingness to be good stewards of your resources, talents and blessings. We need you to talk with God about where and how you can help and then trust God and do it. We believe in the mission, which seems impossible for us to do, but we know it’s not impossible for our God. He has invited all His followers to join Him to bring the good news to those who do not call Him Lord. In the case of the MCF, it means accepting the call to take that news to our serving and retired military and their families. Seek God’s will.

Consider praying: *“Lord, you have called us to bring the good news to our brothers and sisters in the military community, and we seek to do your will. Thank you for allowing your own experiences and affiliation with the military to open doors for us. Help us push through those doors, in partnership with others around the world, to share your truth and love with those who do not know you as Saviour. Nudge the hearts of those brothers and sisters who have yet to talk with you about their involvement in the MCF, and if it is your will, draw them to the fellowship to partner with those already working on the mission. It is in the power and authority of your Name Jesus that we offer this prayer. Amen.”*

French version available “Le Bouclier”