

The Shield



September 2020 edition



Praying for the Canadian Military Community

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: 01-06 September

PRAY FOR OUR NATION: It is possible Canada could have a federal election in the fall. Already social media is filling with message pushing opinions. Because we are in a democracy, we can choose the leaders we feel will serve our country, but we should not do this at the expense of alienating family, friends, neighbours and so on with our negative views. When the dust settles, and a government is formed, we are still Canada. Let's pray for good leadership but also a strong united Canada. Let's not forget there is a tomorrow.

Pray: *"Pray for the leaders of our nation, that they will seek the wisdom that comes from above. Pray that each candidate will focus on the issues we face as a country and not on personal attacks on other candidates. Pray that our nation will increasingly see that God is our only refuge amid the troubles of this world. Pray for truth to become valued again in Canadian society. Pray that a holy fear of God will sweep across our nation, leading us back to a place of wisdom and walking in the Lord."*

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS: leadership comes with rewards but also at a cost. There is pressure to be firm and just, while also being compassionate and understanding. We should be thankful for those willing to stand in front, and we should offer our support by kneeling behind them in prayer.

Consider praying: *"Father in heaven, we gather today to ask your blessing over the lives and decisions of those who lead us around the world. Theirs is a mighty task and a noble calling. For upon their shoulders rest the hopes and dreams of billions of people -- not only of this generation but of future generations who know us not. May you guide them in that pursuit, oh Lord. Give them the faith to seek your guidance, the wisdom to make the right decisions and the character to see those decisions through. Help them choose love over hate, courage over fear, principle over expediency. Let them always seek harmony and peace, and to remember that the best leader is a good and humble servant." (Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chair of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff).*

WEEK 2: 07-13 September

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS: We have undergone discomfit and restrictions during this virus. Many want to stay close to their families and remain in the comfort of their homes. However, the virus did not stop disasters, conflicts, or the need for humanitarian aid. Our military continues to be called upon to serve our nation nationally and globally. We must not forget them and should pray daily for those who serve us.

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

Consider praying: *Father, thank you for the privilege of praying for our military. Some serve far from home. We may not even know where they are, but you do. If they're in harm's way, protect them. Surround them with your angels. Shield them from those who seek to do them harm. Thwart the plans of the enemy. For those who already have a relationship with you, strengthen their resolve to honour you with their lives. Connect them with other believers. Draw them to your Word every day. Answer their prayers. Use them as a beacon of hope in this dark world. Amen:*

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS: We are are blessed that God has called men and women to serve Him as military chaplains and to lead our military and help them fight the spiritual battles they face daily. It is not a comfortable calling as they serve where our military serves, leaving behind families who are also in need of comfort and assurance. We should be grateful for them and show our appreciation by speaking with God about them.

Consider praying: *“Father, be with the men and women of the Chaplain Branch who bravely and honourably attend to our military community every single day. We ask that you cover them with your protection, that you be their guiding force who leads the way, and their rearguard who keeps them safe from behind. We ask that you use them to bring hope and truth to those they serve. You are the Truth, you are the Way, you are the Light. Amen”*

WEEK 3: 14-20 September

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES:

Consider praying: *“Father, we ask you to place your hand of protection and peace on the families of those who have sent a loved one to serve in the Armed Forces. During their absence, give the families at home provision for their needs and strength to manage their homes alone. Help them to trust You when they're tempted to give in to fear, help them to take their thoughts captive to Your truth and to rest in Your sovereignty and goodness. Comfort them in loneliness and anchor them in Your unchanging love. We ask You to use the adversity of distance for Your good -- to strengthen their marriages and to deepen the bonds of family. Help the children of parents who've been deployed to feel Your strong love, to know Your comfort, to develop endurance and to learn to trust in You. Amen”*

PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES: Partnering with our military serving at home and abroad, there is a vast civilian workforce willing to stand and serve with them. Their role is downplayed and sometimes forgotten, but they are the cogs that keep the machine going. We must remember them in our prayers as they also need to have the hope and truth offered in the Good News.

Visit the following site to read of the activities of the Public Service Christian Fellowship. <http://pscf-acfp.ca/news.html>

Consider praying: *“Father, we bring each one of our civilian workplace colleagues to You. We thank you for the life of each one and the part that they play in our work together. Thank You also, for those who have made a commitment to You as their Saviour, and I pray that together, we may demonstrate the love of the Lord Jesus as we carry out our daily tasks together. Father, we particularly lift those who have not yet accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and plead Your pity and mercy over them. Lord, I know that it is not Your will that anyone should perish but that all come to a trusting faith in Jesus, and Lord, Convict every one of their need for salvation. Amen”*

WEEK 4: 21 – 30 September

PRAY FOR OUR RETIRED MILITARY: For many, leaving the military is a stressful and challenging time in their lives. Nearly all have spent most of their adult lives around people who have the same heart and desire for service. They have walked beside others willing to give their lives in defence of others. It is essential to remember our veterans as they find ways to fit into new communities. They must not be forgotten but encouraged to find new ways to serve.

Consider praying: *Heavenly Father, we come to You with thanks that You have permitted so many men and women to serve our nation honourably. We thank you for the health and strength that You gave them as they served and ask that Your grace and mercy sustain them in their retirement. We know You were with them during their working life. We ask that You call them into service for Your kingdom, allowing them to serve You in spirit and truth and to draw ever closer to You. Amen*

PRAY FOR MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS OF OTHER NATIONS: It is encouraging to know that in battle, we have brothers and sisters worldwide who will stand with us, and in faith will also kneel with us. Visit <https://www.amcf-int.org/> to learn of the activities of many of the Christian military fellowships around the world.

Consider praying: *Father, we thank You for the testimonies of the great company of military brothers and sisters throughout the world, who are also redeemed by the blood of Christ and members together of His Body. Unite us together as one in prayer and praise, and may we be sensitive to the needs of one another and daily lift one another up to Your throne of grace, so that we may find mercy and grace to help in these difficult times of need and necessity. Help us all to walk in the light as You are in the light. Draw us together in love, unite us together in fellowship, and sustain and strengthen each one of us in our Christian walk. Amen”*

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA: The MCF is lead by volunteers who have joined God on His mission to bring the Good news to our serving and retired military community. We are always looking for challenging ways to get our military family together, and despite the virus, we took advantage of online tools to run an ALPHA course. A similar session will take place in the fall and we ask for prayers for those who will facilitate the course, and also for those who will join us as we walk down the path leading to Jesus.

Consider praying:” *Lord, all wisdom comes from You, and without You, we can do nothing. Help those in the MCF making decisions to go to You and seek Your wisdom and Your guidance. Please give them the insight they need to carry out their tasks and to serve our military family. Give them the knowledge and skill to carry out their functions. May our leaders and members exercise integrity, honesty and courage as they serve. Forgive us from turning away from You. Turn the hearts of our military to You, Lord. We can do nothing without You. Amen”*