



The Shield

August 2020 edition



Praying for the
Canadian Military Community

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

Preamble: Below are themes we feel 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. This month our prayers will be taken from Psalms. Consider offering the whole Psalm as your prayer.

WEEK 1: 01-07 August

PRAY FOR OUR NATION: It is terrible what Coronavirus has done to Canada. Many are focused on the immediate and how they can survive. We are forgetting about those around us who do not know Jesus as the instrument of salvation and peace and are suffering and even dying as a result of the virus. Many are looking to the world to save them and assume a fix will happen, but our security will only be temporary as we wait for the next crisis to hit, and it will come. It is difficult to accept that our time on this earth is limited and our afterlife is forever. Our focus should be on the Gospel message as we work at alleviating the suffering and misery around us, starting with our family and neighbours. But many minds and hearts are turned inwards. We need God to mend our land and our hearts so we can live glorious and free.

Consider praying ALL OF PSALM 33 as you pray for your nation:

“The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place He watches all who live on earth - He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.” (verses 12-19)

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS: It seems we are on a roller coaster of emotions when it comes to our government leaders. When things are going well, we sing their praises, but when we identify a shortcoming, we fall into despair and call for their firing and conviction. God calls on us to pray for our leaders whether we agree with their opinions or not. He has allowed them this time to lead us and we pray they seek Him and His wisdom so they can serve Him and the people. God wants all to be saved.

Consider praying ALL OF PSALM 2 for our leaders:

“Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. Kiss his Son, or he will be angry, and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him” (verses 10-12)

WEEK 2: 8-14 August

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS: We have read that as the virus ravished communities, our military was deployed within our borders and on worldwide operations to assist by bringing comfort and relief to those in need. Many selflessly put themselves in harm's way to serve others and we must remember this as we pray. We pray for their willingness to serve and we ask God to protect them from harm. We must also not forget to pray for their salvation.

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

Consider praying ALL OF PSALM 35 for those on Operations:

May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay. May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away; may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them”
(verses 4-6).

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS: We are blessed that we have so many men and women who faithfully have taken God's call to minister to others and be the needed light in the darkening world. We are also blessed that our government and military allow these servants to bring words of peace and comfort to our military personnel regardless of whether they are serving. Remember our chaplains in your prayers and ask God to bless them with wisdom and protect them from the evil one who wants to destroy their work.

Consider praying ALL OF PSALM 37 for our chaplains:

“Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, AND he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.” (verses 3-6)

WEEK 3: 15-21 August

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES: Military family life can be hectic, stressful and worrisome and military spouses work long hours, away from family, and in situations that may cause them harm. Our military personnel may be doing good things around the world but that does not stop their hearts and minds from thinking of home. We can help those serving by remembering to pray for their families as well as find ways to help them with our friendship.

Consider praying:

“Father, we pray for our military families. We pray for the family member holding down the fort while the other serves. We pray for military parents 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 so 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: Our defence team not only includes those serving in uniform but brothers and sisters in civilian attire who work side by side in stations, ports and garrisons. Our team works because of mutual trust and respect. We must pray for our civilian colleagues that they can find God's peace and joy at work and home so that our defence team continues to be strong.

Consider praying PSALM 23 for our DND workers:

“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever”.

WEEK 4: 22-31 August

PRAY FOR OUR RETIRED MILITARY: Our identity should not be linked to what work we performed during our lifetime but the attributes and character traits we developed and strengthened during this time. Too often individuals experience a deep sense of loss as the military men and women leave the service. We must remind them they are still part of the military family and the role is different as we call on them to find ways to encourage and develop those serving and those retired.

Consider praying ALL OF PSALM 71 for our retired military:

“Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone. For my enemies speak against me; those who wait to kill me conspire together. They say, “God has forsaken him; pursue him and seize him, for no one will rescue him.” Do not be far from me, my God; come quickly, God, to help me. May my accusers perish in shame; may those who want to harm me be covered with scorn and disgrace. As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.” (verses 9-14)

PRAY FOR MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS OF OTHER NATIONS: You may be unaware that there are Military Christian Fellowships in most nations around the world. Sadly, some operate in secrecy because of the nature of their government but many more are out in the open telling their leaders they can serve God righteously while serving their nation. Take some time to do an internet search on military Christian groups and find one to pray alongside.

Consider praying Psalm 117 for our worldwide gathering of Military Christian fellowships:

“Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD”

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA: The mission of the MCF is to bring the gospel into our military communities and share God’s love with them. We want to encourage people to seek God, support their local church and pray for those who do not know Jesus. It seems a difficult task but it’s the mission Jesus gave us before He ascended to heaven, and we gratefully accept His invite. We cherish the prayers of our brothers and sisters and continue to ask for God’s grace and mercy as we seek to obey His will for the MCF.

Consider praying ALL OF PSALM 37 for the MCF:

“Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways when they carry out their wicked schemes”. (verses 3-7)