



The Shield



October 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.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND ITS LEADERS:

It is terrible how our political views can lead to a personal dislike for one another and anger towards those who lead us. As followers of Christ, we are to live with a delicate balance: standing for that which is true while seeking unity amongst ourselves whenever possible; also standing firm in our faith while showing grace to those who do not and holding our leaders accountable while praying for wisdom and their well-being.

Consider praying:

“Father, you allow us to be led by men and women who do not have you as Lord of their lives. Forgive our selfish hearts that causes us to seek leaders who meet our personal needs even if it is at the expense of others. Excuse our foolishness when we think they can save your Church when we should look to you alone. Holy Spirit continue to reach out to our leaders, to draw them to you and, for them to know their purpose, which is to bring glory to you. Amen”.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS:

Our military leaders must consider the whole community which they have been given to lead. They must also consider their physical, mental and even spiritual state to ensure their effectiveness as military personnel and human beings. Leadership is not easy, as leaders must balance the country's needs against the needs of each individual. We have been given the task of supporting them through prayer and friendship and should value these opportunities.

Consider praying:

“God, all wisdom comes from You, and without You, we can do nothing. Help our leaders in our military make decisions by seeking Your wisdom and Your guidance. Give our leaders an understanding to make the right decisions affecting our country and our Armed Forces. May our leaders and troops exercise integrity, honesty and courage as they serve. Turn the hearts of our country and our leaders to You, Lord. We can do nothing without You. Amen.”.

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS:

Our military doesn't just need good men and women who can serve. Our military needs good men and women who will pray for them. If we don't have a loved one active in the Armed Forces, it's easy to forget the daily sacrifice and devoted service of our nation's troops. Their round-the-clock protection of our country at home and abroad puts them in harm's way in both peacetime and conflict.

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

Consider praying:

Almighty God, we ask you to watch over and protect our military members. Lord, as they serve around the world, we ask that you guard their families and loved ones back home. Provide them with peace and surround them with love as they mourn the absence of their loved ones and long for their return. May they find hope and strength in You for the trials of each new day. Be with the military children who endure the problematic burden of knowing their father or mother is in harm's way for months on end. Guard these children's hearts and minds despite the loneliness and uncertainty of having a parent deployed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen".

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS:

There is a measure of “social work” required of chaplains, and we should pray that all their work honours God and not just the work that brings people to the chapel. Our chaplains are deployed, and we should pray they grasp at the deepest level that God is sending them downrange for a purpose. Pray for them to be open to **God's leading** in their lives. Pray for chaplains to have favour in their chain of command. Pray for chaplains as they do spiritual warfare in places others can't go. The chaplaincy can be one of the loneliest positions in a unit. Pray for a strong Christian friend to **come alongside** each chaplain.

Consider praying:

“Lord, we thank you for sending chaplains to shepherd our military. We are grateful for the love you put in their hearts for You and Your people. We appreciate the unique set of guts and talents that enrich their ministry. Help our chaplains sense Your presence in such a sweet way. Fill them up Lord and use them for Your glory today. Show us how we can support and encourage them. Amen”.

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES:

As our military provides round-the-clock protection of our country at home and abroad, they are often placed in harm's way in both peacetime and in conflict. Most serve multiple deployments away from family, missing precious milestones and whole seasons of marriage and parenting. Their families back home learn to pick up the slack and stay strong while always remaining flexible. We kneel with these families, and we bring them before God.

Consider praying:

“Almighty God, we ask You to watch over and protect our military members. Lord, as they serve around the world, we ask that You guard their families and loved ones back home. Provide them with peace and surround them with love as they mourn the absence of their loved one and long for their return. May they find hope and strength in You for the trials of each new day. Be with military children who endure the difficult burden of knowing their father or mother is in harm's way for months on end. Guard these children's hearts and minds despite the loneliness and uncertainty of having a parent deployed. Amen”

PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES:

We were created to live in a harmonious relationship with God, ourselves and others. That should be extended to the workplace, and because there are many distractions in the world and workplace, we should pray for work relationships between military and civilian employees. Visit the following site to read of the activities of the Public Service Christian Fellowship.

<http://pscf-acfp.ca/news.html>

Consider praying:

“Jesus, we are thankful for every day and appreciate those who can go to their place of work. Help both the military and civilian work force express gratitude for colleagues and help them work as a team. Remove comparison and rivalry mentality from their hearts and focus on the greater good, which is our country's service. Let our work environment be enjoyable and allow all to live in harmony with each other. Amen”

PRAY FOR OUR RETIRED MILITARY:

Retirement can be an excellent new beginning. Sadly, for many, that is so often not the case as some feel when retirement arrives, it is the end of the road. We must encourage our retired veterans to seize every opportunity that arises and to explore the skills and gifts that God has given them.

Consider praying:

“Father, Thank You for the seasons of life, for the joy of childhood, the excitement of youth, and the stability of maturity. Thank You for the blessings that come with age, for all the happy memories to enjoy, the wisdom that comes through experience, and the freedom given with retirement. Bless our retired veterans. May their days keep them in good health, joy in abundance and peace in heart and mind. Amen”.

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA:

Teamwork is all around us in every life. We see it in marriages, businesses, neighbourhoods, churches, and so on. God loves to see Christians working together, submitting to His will. The MCF is one of many teams. Some members on our team are wiser, more confident, and have stronger faith than others. We all have different abilities, and our primary focus is God and to serve Him in the advancement of His Kingdom. We serve our brothers and sisters, where and when they need assistance. Thank you for being on this team, God's team. Consider joining our team today. Contact the MCF office at mcfoffice@themcf.ca.

Consider praying:

“Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: Two are better off than one because they can work more effectively together. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him. If it is cold, two can sleep together and stay warm, but how can you keep warm by yourself? Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.”