



The Shield



January 2021 edition
Praying for the Canadian Military Community

Preamble:

Well, 2020 was a different year. If anything, the pandemic has shown us how much we need each other. Even people who may otherwise have not been social, found themselves wanting to be with others. God created us to live in harmonious relations with ourselves, others, God, and even the planet. When we pray, we strengthen relationships, and so we invite you to pray with us.

Below are themes relevant to the Ministry of the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada. Our mission is 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 pray in your own words.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND ITS LEADERS:

The book of 1 Samuel shares the story of how God allowed men and women to rule over His people. Samuel was pressured into asking God for a human king, and God allowed it. However, God warned them of the consequence of a human King, but the people persisted. Throughout the ages, we have seen the secular world view dominate all nations' politics and how dependence on God has declined to the point where many leaders don't even recognize His existence. That should not stop us from bringing our political leaders before God's throne and asking Him to invite them into His kingdom.

Consider praying:

"Father, You warned us that those who rule over us would look out for their interests even if they don't realize it. Forgive us for choosing another king other than You. We do look forward to the time when Jesus will be our king, but, in the meanwhile, will You help our leaders. Will You reach out to them and draw them into Your family. Will You open their eyes to Your love so that they can serve both You and the people You have put under them? Amen."

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS:

It would be rare to hear about a Canadian military leader leading their troops in prayer before an upcoming operation or significant activity. In a sense, they must hide their faith to serve our nation. However, we know many men and women lead our military who love God and want to do so with honour, justice and would love to pray with their troops. We can stand in the gap on their behalf and pray for our military leaders and those they lead.

Consider praying:

"Jesus, You said those who love You will be hated by everyone because of You. We see how our leaders are expected to care for their men and women without telling them about what they truly need to be safe. Father, we stand before You on behalf of those who cannot show a public display of their love for You. We ask that You continue to grant them wisdom and love for You, our country and those whom they lead. Amen"

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS:

It takes great courage to join the military, knowing that your signature implies you are willing to go where you are asked. Our Forces' strength has relied on those men and women who sign on that dotted line without question. Today, women and men are on operations located on the four corners of this planet and away from their families and communities. They need our prayers.

The following link provides details on the Operations where our military serve. Please visit the site and select an operation to pray for, not just one day, but choose an operation each day:

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

Consider praying:

“Lord, we know worldwide disharmony is not Your desired plan for humanity. However, it is in our nature, so we are thankful many are prepared to stand up for what is right. Military operations can place a physical and spiritual strain on individuals, and so we ask You, Lord, to fill them with Your strength and courage to serve as they must. As they operate away from home, we ask that You protect family relationships so that they can honour each other and You. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS:

We are blessed to have Chaplains serving our military in 2021, especially considering our increasingly secularized society that wants nothing to do with God. These men and women are found wherever our military walks the ground, and so they face the same trials and dangers as they do. They need our support and prayers to derail the forces that seek to neutralize their message of hope and salvation.

Consider praying:

“Father, Your word reminds us that there is strength in unity. Please help us do our part to support our chaplains, who support the men and women of the military. We thank you for inspiring us, nourishing us, and uniting us with this vision of a community. Grant us the wisdom that comes through the unity of faith and action. Help our Chaplains to be Your people of faith in all places where our military family dwell. Amen.”

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES:

Often when a serving member is away from home, they leave behind a significant other who must ensure life continues as normal as possible. The stress of running the household alone is real but compound this with their loneliness makes the situation more complicated. We acknowledge this strength behind our military and ask you to pray for the spouse left behind.

Consider praying:

“Loving God, 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 would draw strength from Him. We pray for their joy, hope, endurance, strength, patience, protection and safety. We pray against fear, loneliness, fatigue, despair, depression, and that support would be present when needed. We pray that friends, family, co-workers, neighbours would rise and extend assistance and encouragement. Amen”

DND EMPLOYEES:

The success of Canada's Defence depends on our people, military and civilian. Our government strives to create a high performing workforce that is representative of the population and can serve the Canadian Armed Forces. Together, DND and the CAF make Canada proud.

Consider praying:

“Lord, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the men and women who serve in our civilian workforce, supporting our Armed Forces. Surround them with Your mighty angels; protect them in Your mercy; cover them with Your grace. May they look to You for the strength and peace that only You can give. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.”

RETIRED MILITARY:

There are thousands of men and women living across this world who, at one time, were in uniform serving their country. Many don't realize that God created them for something which goes well beyond serving their country. They have value and purpose, and their experience can still be an asset to the military and their communities. We must not forget them.

Consider praying:

“Father, we ask You to bless on those who have served and are now retired. We especially ask that Your grace be extended to those who have left because of injuries. Bless them and their families as they experience a new life as retired military personnel. Bring someone who loves You close to them so they can understand their true purpose of service is to You. Amen”.

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA:

Since its inception, the MCF's mission has been to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the military community in Canada and abroad. The task is God's, but He has invited us to bring His grace and glory to those who do not know Him. It can be daunting at times, especially when we think about how large our military family is and how many are lost. We trust God has a plan to let all know who He is, and so we continue to be obedient to His truths. Prayer encourages and strengthens the MCF, and so we ask that you join us and pray for our MCF leaders, our mission, and those who do not call Jesus Lord.

Consider praying:

“Heavenly Father unite your military family that we may serve you with all our hearts and work together with unselfish love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN.”

