



# The Shield

## September 2019 edition



### Praying for the Canadian Military Community

Join us throughout the month of September  
As we reflect upon and pray for the following

#### **CANADA**

*A Mari Usque Ad Mare* "From Sea to Sea" - Thirty seven million people, second largest country land mass, three oceans, world longest unprotected border shared with another country, cultures from all around and a willingness to allow more immigrants to join us, ten provinces, three territories, a history of mistakes and wonderful decisions. Freedom to pray, to honour you, to love one another. This is who we are as a nation and our goal should be to make us greater by seeing God's word guiding the lives of all our citizens.

**Consider praying the following:** "Lord, keep our land glorious and free. Be with our country inviting its people to lean on you for wisdom and courage. Inspire your children, those who love you, to reach out to their families, friends and neighbours to tell of your love for them and gift of salvation. Help us remember that as a country our family name is Canada, but our desire should be that we reach out to all nations and invite all your creation to be part of your family. Amen"

#### **LEADERS**

We want to trust our leaders. We want them to do right by us and those we love. We know trust is a function of character and competence and so we pray our leaders' character is based on integrity and right motives. Their job is hard, and it can be easier if we surround them with prayer. Identify a political and secular leader each day this month and pray specifically for them. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

**Consider offering this prayer for our leaders:** "Father, we know there is a fear amongst political and secular leaders to declare their trust in you. When they seek to serve popular opinion instead of caring and looking out for those you have allowed them to lead, their views, decisions and actions are skewed. Father, we know you are our Lord and allowed human leaders to guide us but help them seek you. Help them trust you. Amen. "

#### **OPERATIONS**

Visit the CAF operation link at <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page> and pray for those on operations home and abroad.

**Consider using this prayer as you pray for our military serving away from their homes:** "Almighty God, you know every man and women serving away from home by name. You know their deeds, their hard work, and their perseverance. You know their needs, both material and spiritual. Please draw each one closer to you and grant them all the peace that passes understanding allowing the peace of Christ to rule in their hearts. Amen"

#### **CHAPLAINS**

We are at the end of the military posting season and we all know these moves cause turmoil and stress in households. Over the next little while Chaplains may have more meetings with individual who are struggling to deal with the family upheaval. Pray for them so they may provide wisdom and be an encouragement to those they see. Also, remember, many of our chaplains have families and they themselves may have moved this summer. Pray they can balance their family life with their calling so that God is honoured with the way they deal with both.

**Consider praying:** "Lord, thank you for calling men and women to step up and be pastors to your military families. Be with them in their daily live reminding them to seek you first as they start their day. Bless their efforts and service so your name is glorified and spread amongst our military families. Protect their spouses and children from attacks of the evil one

who will go after the chaplain through them. Jesus, you are Lord of their life and they serve you. Help them remember: You are the vine and they the branches and they cannot produce fruit unless they remain connected to You. Amen”

## **MILITARY FAMILIES**

For many military families September mean a new life in a new location. New schools, new neighbours and new challenges. The life of military families is sacrificial in many ways; as spouse, children and even serving members put service needs ahead of their own. Moving is stressful and can even be costly and so the evil one will use these moves to pick at families and initiate disharmony.

**Consider praying:** “Father, we know that military life can take its toll on family unity. We pray that families are connect to You so that You remain their stabilizing factors as they move from place to place. We pray that as families move, they can quickly adapt into their new environment. We pray your children can find a new church home so they can remain connected to the body and that the Christian community in these new locations are willing to reach out to all new families and invite them to worship You. AMEN”.

## **DND EMPLOYEES**

Our Canadian military community includes booth those in uniform and those out. At times many forget they are on the same team seeking to fulfil the same mission. Unity and harmony in the DND family is necessary to serve this country and so we must do all we can do (whether in or out of uniform) to see that we are the non-anxious presence in the workplace and that we set the example of reducing unhealthy conflict.

**Consider praying:** “Father, your word tells us two is stronger than one and a strand of three is even stronger. Help our DND employees see this and be willing to reach out to all with a desire to help, respect and encourage. Father, we pray that You become the third strand in many of these relationships so that their common bond to You will keep them focused on what is important. Amen”

## **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 situation 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 on them to support the community.

**Consider praying:** “Father, our true retirement begins at glory when we stand before You and are welcomed into eternity. We ask that You remind our retied military that there is much to do in your earthly kingdom, and You still have something for all to do. We ask Lord that You protect them in their retirement and help them connect with brothers and sisters who love You so that together, they can serve You. Amen.”

## **THE MCF**

The Military Christian Fellowship has been invited by God to be on mission with Him to take the gospel to all nations. Because of our unique connection and relationship to the military community, we know we have been called to reach out to our serving and retired military members, their families and those who have served the Canadian Armed forces. The harvest is certainly plentiful but the workers are few and so we call on all believer to join us as we bring Jesus to our family.

**Consider praying:** “LORD, we thank You for trusting us with these responsibilities and we want all we do to be for Your glory. Give strength to your leaders so they may give their best so that your lost children can be reached. We ask that You convict those who love You to find a way to serve You through the MCF so that we may become stronger and overcome the obstacles that the evil one places before us. Thank You that You love us, and we acknowledge it is the power and authority of y our name Jesus, that we can continue to move forward. Amen.”