



The Shield

October 2019 edition



Praying for the Canadian Military Community

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

CANADA

God is our king regardless of which elected leader rules our country. One day every knee will bow before Him including those who hold power today. Israel asked God to allow them a human ruler and He granted it with the warning that rulers would not necessarily look out for the interest of their people and in fact would misuse them for their own gains. On 21 October the country will go to the polls to elect a government to rule over Canada. All candidates will make promises that will satisfy some of the people, but regardless which party will come to power, they can never give the freedom and salvation offered by God. They cannot make people honour God. We are called to obey our leaders and pray for them as they seek to fulfil their duties. Identify the candidates in your community and before you vote, commit to pray for them. Pray they make correct moral decisions and pray for their salvation.

Consider praying the following: *“Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down, upon those who choose to hold office in this country, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (taken from The Book of Common Prayer)

LEADERS

It seems every day a world leader chooses to poke another in an attempt to show their might. This poking is pushing our world closer to unnecessary conflict which will engage our military. We can only imagine the stress it places on our military leaders who do not know from day-to-day whether they will be sending troops into battle or home to their families. They need strength and courage to make the right decision when the time comes.

Consider offering this prayer for our leaders: *“Dear Lord, help our military leaders find a love for You so they can be guided by that love in their everyday actions. Teach them to place their trust in You so that when they can't see the path ahead of them clearly, they can call on You. Help them to trust in You more than their own abilities. Help them to not to say yes when the right answer is no. Remind them of those they lead and the impact they can have on their lives. Bless our military leaders so that Your name is glorified. 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: *“Father, we bring our military before you and pray they find a way to depend on you during difficult and often dangerous situations. We pray for those who know you and ask you to use them to provide comfort to their peers. We pray for their spiritual and emotional resiliency so that regardless of what they face, they are effective in their military roles and responsibilities. Amen”*

CHAPLAINS

Our Chaplains are responsible for fostering the religious and pastoral care of the Canadian Armed Forces. This is both difficult and challenging as they not only battle our culture but the spiritual forces seeking to take them down. They need our support and prayers.

Consider praying: *“O heavenly Father, Shepherd of your people, we give you thanks for our Chaplains who are faithful in the care and nurture of Your flock. We pray that, following their example and the teaching of their holy life, our military may, by your grace grow, into the stature of the fullness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen”* (modified prayer is taken from The Book of Common Prayer).

MILITARY FAMILIES

Stressful situations often exasperated by military life can damage the family unity. Our desire is that our military families come to know the peace Jesus offers so that when they are faced with life’s challenges and difficulties, they can recognize the true enemy is not each other, but the evil one who wants nothing better to destroy relationships. We can pray they find Jesus and build a relationship with Him which leads to a stronger family.

Consider praying: *“Lord, we lift up military families and ask You bless them with an abundance of courage and fill them with comfort. Please surround them with the community to stave off feelings of loneliness. Above all, we pray they would feel Your presence and be reassured that you are with them. 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 is capable of serving the Canadian Armed Forces. Together, DND and the CAF make Canada proud.

Consider praying: *“Dear 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 planet 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 to the communities they live in. 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”.*

THE MCF:

There are many who voluntarily serve the MCF community and do so not for their glory but for God’s. We are thankful they want to stand beside the military community to pray with them and to guide them towards Jesus. We are looking for people to be part of our weekly prayer team. We will send weekly prayer requests and praise reports and ask that you join us in prayer. If you wish to be part of the team let our office know by sending an email to mcfoffice@themcf.ca

Consider praying: *“Heavenly Father, unite your military family in the Holy Spirit 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.*