



The Shield

November 2019 edition



Praying for the Canadian Military Community

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

CANADA

It is worth repeating the thought, “God is our king regardless of which elected leader rules our country. One day every knee will bow before Him included those who hold power today” Our election has come and gone, and we have both old and new members of parliament. Will you make a point of finding out the name of the elected federal member in your area and pray for them? Pray God’s grace falls on them so that they become seekers of our Lord and accept His gift of salvation. Pray they seek God’s wisdom to rule with morality and justice.

Consider praying the following: *“God, we praise you as our king and creator of the universe. We know that all that has been and will be is because of Your sovereign will. You have allowed men and women to rule over us and so we bring them to you, Lord. We ask that you plant your saving grace in their hearts and stir it up, so they seek you. We ask that they seek your wisdom and love so they can rule as just, loving leaders. Lord, we know none of that is possible without your presence in their lives so please, draw them to you. AMEN.”*

LEADERS

Leadership was never considered an easy role especially since it calls for a combination of intelligence, wisdom and even compassion. Men and women are bombarded with messages of individualism and seeking what pleases them. This makes it difficult for our leaders to bring individuals together to focus on the same cause. Our military leaders seek to draw their subordinates towards the common mission given to them by our nations. Our leaders almost seem incapable of leading without some higher power guiding them. Our God is that higher power and we desire that our leaders both recognize and accept this.

Consider offering this prayer for our leaders: *“Jesus, may our leaders recognize you as the ideal role model for leadership. Help them see there is a higher power at work in all our lives and they can draw on Him to succeed at what they do. Help them build their team focusing on good relationships and not self-promoting ideals. Help them to conform to crisis without fear and to be courageous in the face of adversity. Guide them to turn to 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: *“All-powerful and ever-living God, when Abraham left his native land and departed from his people you kept him safe through all his journeys. Protect our military. Be their constant companion and their strength in service, their refuge in every adversity. Guide them, O Lord, that they may return home in safety. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen” (taken from Catholic Bishops Conference, USA).*

CHAPLAINS

In a world of lost hope our Chaplains are in an even tougher situation as they serve men and women who may be called to give their lives for their nations.

Consider praying: *“Lord, thank you for placing your mission on the hearts of the men and women serving in the chaplaincy. We pray that they may be a positive influence and godly witness to those around them. We pray they have a sense of your peace whether in the midst of danger or in the workplace they serve. We pray they are courage in the presentation of the Gospel during their counselling and worship services. Father hold them in your arms and protect them from the evil one who will want to destroy all their efforts. Amen.”*

MILITARY FAMILIES

There is no doubt that military families face unique challenges, frequent moves, deployments and even coping with the effects of physical and mental injuries of the military members can take its toll on both the parents and children of military families. Not only do they need our prayers, but they also need our companionship and support.

Consider praying: *“Father, we come before you in unity asking for your love and support of our military families. We ask you protect them from the anxiety associated with military life. We pray for the spouse left behind so they may have the endurance to “hold down the fort”. We pray that all their moves, school changes, employment changes go smoothly. Lord, we pray for unity in the marriage, so they pull for one another towards shared goals and dreams rather than seeing themselves as competing with one another. Amen”*

DND EMPLOYEES

Scripture shares, “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Our civilian workforce is a key strand in helping the mission of the Canadian Armed forces come to fruition. The defence mission relies on the agreement of cause and unity in action, so we pray this occurs.

Consider praying: *“Loving Father, we pray that the hands and feet today of our DND workforce be in harmony with the vision and mission of the Armed Forces. May all members of the team speak; bringing comfort, healing and care. We pray that each worker is filled with heavenly truth and that they feel compelled to seek you out. We pray they allow God to lead them through each moment of their life. Father watch over them as they serve this nation. Amen”*

RETIRED MILITARY

Often when an individual retires there is a sense of loss and a feeling of worthlessness. The work they choose and enjoyed is taken from them and the comrades they shared their days with are no longer accessible every day. Retirement does not change who we are as people and can be a time to do the good that God has prepared for each of us.

Consider praying: *“Father help our retired members be grateful for the tremendous blessing that has come from the military service. We pray that they see their retirement as a new beginning, where they can find a beautiful balance between rest and engagement with life. We ask Lord that you bless them with good health, joy in abundance and peace in heart and mind, from this day forward and each day that follows. Amen”*

THE MCF:

When we commit our work to God, He wants us to succeed. The MCF is on mission with God, doing His work in our military community. We desire to bring the message of God’s saving grace. They (MCF), of course, need helpers to plant and harvest seeds and ask that you partner with them in prayer asking God’s fruitful blessing on the MCF ministry.

Consider praying: *“Heavenly Father, the LORD of our Kingdom Success, we ask your blessings on the MCF. We ask that you grant its leaders wisdom, strength and understanding as they seek your will in the service of the military community. We humbly pray that you grant them opportunities that go beyond their understanding and brings glory and honour to you. Give them courage to strive beyond their imagination and to dare to be divinely different; Lord, guide them with your spiritual code, so that with their faith held high they may be true representatives of You on this earth. Amen*