



The Shield December 2019 edition



Praying for the Canadian Military Community

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

CANADA

Canada does pride itself on its freedoms and openness and its desire to be accepting of all. Sometimes our country appears to adopt policies and a mindset that is contrary to God's will, but we must remember that it is not our country that promises us hope and salvation, it is Jesus. We must be thankful that our military has offered themselves so that we have a country where we can express our faith and share it with others without fear of punishment or persecution. Pray that does not change but also pray that God helps you find a way during this season to share the Christian reason for the season.

Considering using this prayer for Canada: *"Father keep our leaders from adopting humanistic laws, which are so contrary to Your truth. Guard their consciences from being seared by so much that is flooding the corridors of world power today and give each one wisdom, insight and integrity in the decisions they have to reach - and may we live peaceably in this land as we wait for the day the Lord Jesus Christ returns to take His church to be with Him into heaven, in His name we pray, Amen"* (from *Knowing Jesus*)

LEADERS

We all know someone who is a leader. They may be in our workplace, our school, our church, or in our home. Leadership is a great responsibility and we'd all like our leaders to have the compassion of Jesus and wisdom of Jesus. We should pray that they are just and wise. Record a few names of leader you know in a journal and commit to praying for them during this Christmas season. If applicable, pray they come to know the power and strength of the Holy Spirit which comes from faith in Jesus.

Considering using this prayer for leaders you may know: *"Dear Lord, we lift all those that are in leadership positions and ask they are blessed with wisdom, strength and justice to administer their duties in a manner that is right and pleasing in Your sight. For those who do not know You as Lord, open their hearts this season so they feel compelled to ask about the true reason for Christmas"*.

OPERATIONS

Through our military history, many serving men and women have found themselves separated from their families, their church family and the comfort and safety of their own community, during the Christmas season; this year is no exception. The following link <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page> identifies military operations involving our military and so look one up and adopt that mission and the families left behind as your prayer goal. Also, consider sending a Christmas card to someone serving away from home. When filling out your Christmas cards this year, fill out another to send to someone on operations. Include an inspirational verse and comments telling the recipient you are praying. Send to this address: Any Canadian Forces Member - PO Box 5140 Stn. Forces - Belleville ON K8N.

Consider using this prayer as you pray for our military serving away from their homes: *"Lord, we give thanks to you for our men and women who sacrificially serve our country. We pray for your love to lead them and your wisdom to guide them each day. During this Christmas season, we pray for them and their families and ask you to protect them from sorrow and loneliness that can occur during deployments. We pray sadness does not overcome them but that they can experience the joy, peace, hope and love that you offer to them. Amen"*

CHAPLAINS

A Chaplain's life can be full of joy and blessings as they see lives being changed, families reconciled and men and women turning towards you. It can also be filled with discouragement and frustration as those around them reject and mock their message of truth. Continue to bless and encourage these men and women as they bring a message of hope and love to a world dominated by carnal desires.

Consider praying: *Lord, allow opportunities for our chaplains to bring the message of Christmas to our military. Use their words to stir the hearts of those listening causing them to question their relationship with you. Be with those*

chaplains who will serve away from home. Give them strength during this time as they are expected to encourage and bring hope to those missing their families. Bless them for accepting your call to bring the message of reconciliation and restoration to our military family. Amen

MILITARY FAMILIES

Our military families sacrifice much so their spouses or family members may serve their country. Those left behind are expected to be both mother and father, brother and sister, guardian and teacher. This can be a difficult burden to bear and they need the help and support of those around them. We need to be aware of those around us who have been separated by military service and not only pray for them but, we need to find a way to lend a hand.

Consider praying: *“Father we pray for our military families. We pray for the family member holding down the fort while the other serves. We pray for military parents that they have endurance in patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control, and consistency in discipline. We pray for a community of support to serve and encourage those who are parenting alone during deployments. We pray for marriages that military couples will be on the same team, pulling for one another towards shared goals and dreams rather than seeing themselves as competing with one another. During this Christmas season, we especially pray for protection over loneliness that may cause bitterness and resentment because of family separations. Amen.”*

DND EMPLOYEES:

Scripture shares, (I have repeated this thought and prayer from November, but I like its truth and how it defines the military/civilian relationship)

“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:

The advent theme for this week is hope and we know that some who leave their careers to go onto retirement, often feel they have lost a sense of their worth and hope that they will again be recognized as valuable. That is a message spread by the evil one. 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

As the MCF steps out in faith to bring the gospel to our military community they humbly admit they need help and support from the Christian community. The MCF need your prayers as well as your willingness to be good stewards of your resources, talents and blessings. We need you to talk with God about where and how you can help and then trust God and do it. We believe in the mission, which seems impossible for us to do, but we know its not impossible for our God. He has invited all His followers to join Him to bring the good news to those who do not call Him Lord. In the case of the MCF, it means accepting the call to take that news to our serving and retired military and their families. Seek God’s will.

Consider praying: *“Lord, you have called us to bring the good news to our brothers and sisters in the military community and we seek to do your will. Thank you for allowing our own experiences and affiliation with the military to open doors for us. Help us push through those doors, in partner with others around the world, to share your truth and love with those who do not know you as saviour. Nudge the hearts of those brothers and sisters who have yet to talk with you about their involvement in the MCF and if it is your will, draw them to the fellowship to partner with those already working on the mission. It is in the power and authority of your name Jesus, that we offer this prayer. Amen.*