



# The Shield

## March 2020 edition



Praying for the  
Canadian Military Community

Join us throughout the month of March  
as we reflect upon and pray for the following:

**Preamble:** Below are themes we want to focus our prayer on during this month. Each topic has a suggested prayer, but you are asked to reflect on the theme, consider using our prayer, but also taking time to talk with God in your own words about each theme.

### WEEK 1: 1 - 8 March

**PRAY FOR OUR NATION:** Much is happening in the world today that harms the people of Canada and other nations. For many, there is a fear that tragedy is looming just around the corner in the form of disease, economic hardship, and even possible terrorist action. It must be very difficult for those who do not know Jesus as saviour as they lack assurance that the God of the universe is present and with them during hard and good times. God has allowed the nations to exist, and He desires they all look to Him, but we know that is not the case. As an individual, we can pray for those within our circle of influence and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus' truth so that they refocus their priorities and both experience and share God's love. .

**Considering using this prayer for Canada:** *“Father, you created us with the ability to love as you do. However, many have not sought your assistance to love and have made a mess of things. We know you want us to reach out to the infirmed, the homeless, those with addiction issues, just as much as we seek justice for our families and churches. Help us see that you invited us to be on mission with You so that your truth and grace can be shared with all. Amen”*

**PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS:** A day does not go by without hearing about a leader struggling with moral issues. Although we generally hear about politicians, these battles are in places where leaders exist. The evil one wants to derail the hope in people by attaching leaders and tempting them to make choices that seem OK in the short term but, in the long run, are destroying the characters of many. Our leaders need our support both with prayer and with our actions.

Will you take some time to identify a leader you know and pray for them by name?

**Consider praying:** *“Holy Spirit, will you reveal the love you have for humanity and reveal yourself to **NAME** so that they may seek your wisdom and guidance as they lead others. Will you plant the truth of salvation and eternity in their minds and help them see their priority, which is to bring glory to God? Protect them from the evil one who will tempt them with pride and power that can and will destroy their service to others and you. Amen.*

## WEEK 2: 9-15 March

**PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS:** Many men and women enter military service with a desire and expectation to go on military tasking that seeks to bring peace to our world. They are very aware of the dangers and the sacrifices they and their families will have to make yet continue to volunteer. Worry and fear accompany many on operations, and it can distract them from their mission as well as interfere with them giving their best. We desire safety for their physical bodies as well as their hearts and souls.

There are several ongoing operations involving Canadian Military personnel, each important and each with risks. Will you visit DND's operations website and this week, adopt an operation and pray for the troops serving on that operation.

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

**Consider praying:** *“Father, we are thankful for those who volunteer to serve our nation in the pursuit of harmony throughout the world. We ask for your hand to be over them and protect them from physical harm. We also ask Holy Spirit, that you reveal God’s plan and purpose for humanity so that these men and women can carry out their responsibilities with an assurance that the God of the universe is by their side and with their families, Amen.*

**PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS:** Since Adam and Eve’s fall in the garden, the world has become increasingly selfish, prideful, and angry. However, God continues to make His presence known, even using His creation to bring hope to others. Chaplains are part of God’s plan, and He has called men and women to be His voice in the military community. Those serving in the military are not exempt from the consequences of society's moral decline. Often, while on the mission, they see the ugly side of humanity up close. It is easy to be tempted to ignore or engage in what is happening around them, and they need someone to provide a moral compass for them. That is where our chaplains come in. They serve to remind others that they can overcome evil, even while serving in evil environments.

**Consider praying:** *“Holy Spirit, gift our chaplains with your wisdom and knowledge to serve our military well. Protect them from the evil one who will try to destroy or discredit their witness and let them be a shining light to those blinded by the world around them. God grant our chaplains the strength to serve both home and on operations in a manner that brings glory to your name. Allow them to declare your truth wherever and whenever they are able. Amen.”*

## WEEK 3: 16-22 March

**PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES:** No one truly knows what happens behind the closed doors of military families unless they have experienced it themselves. Although they face the same challenges and pressure as other families, the presence of spousal absence is very real. The coming and going of family members on course or operations can create disharmony in families who have not found the way to love, trust and rely on each other during these times.

**Consider praying:** *“Heavenly Father, you are a family God. You ordained and blessed the idea of family and have shown by your example and throughout scripture how important it is for families to love and honour each other during the bad times as well as the good. Amen”*

**PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES:** Our military family is large and includes those both in uniform and those we call our civilian colleagues. They are aware of the military commitment to service and willingly align

themselves with the DND mission. They often bear the brunt of the workload in garrison when the military is deployed. They experience frustration and worry and, as their military colleagues and are united in a similar cause, world harmony. We desire our whole military family to be unified in one service to God, and we know that is only possible with God. We are grateful for our civilian workforce and can show our gratitude by bringing them before the Lord and ask that He draw them to Him.

**Consider praying:** *“Loving Father, our military and civilian workforce work alongside each other developing friendships and mutual respect. We ask that your love extends to them so that their eyes are open to the salvation offered by Jesus. We ask that they serve loyally and with respect serving their humans masters as if they are serving you directly. Protect them from the dangers of the workplace and protect their families from the challenges of the world that seeks to bring about disharmony. Thank you for the partnerships that have been forged in the DND environment. Amen”*

**PRAY FOR RETIRED MILITARY:** The nature of the military service is that much of our working life can be spent in service to our country, but when we retired from the military we do not retire from life. We leave the military still ready to live and bring hope to others. With all our experiences, we can contribute significantly to our families and the communities where we live. However, when we leave the military, we are often older and maybe a little slower physically, but many are still capable of being a positive influence on those around us. We must accept and acknowledge this and continue to remind ourselves that we are all still part of the military family, albeit in a different capacity, and we have something to offer.

**Consider praying:** *“Father, we ask your grace and blessing upon those who have served their country and have now retired. We especially ask that your grace be extended to those who have left because of injuries. Remind us daily of our purpose, which goes well beyond serving their country. Remind us that our retired brothers and sisters still have value and purpose, and their experience can still be an asset to the military and to the communities where they live. Bless them and their families as they experience a new life as retired military personnel. Amen.”*

## **WEEK 4: 23-31 March**

**PRAY FOR THE MCF:** The Military Christian Fellowship of Canada has been invited by God to be on mission with Him to bring His love and truth to the world. We especially have been invited to bring hope to the military community not because the rest of the population does not deserve our attention, but because our common bonds allow us to communicate and interact effectively. We are purely a volunteer organization and not only desire your prayers but your willingness to come alongside us to share the Gospel with our military family. We remind you that the harvest is great, but the workers are few. We invite you to contact our office and let us know how God has called you to help with this mission.

Also, we are asking for prayers for our MCF Administrative Assistant, who is currently serving in Israel at the Garden Tomb as part of a ministry to reveal Jesus’s truth to the world.

**Consider praying:** *“LORD, we know you do not need us to bring your glory to the military, but you have prepared us in advance for the good works that we can share with the military, We thank you for allowing us to develop military experiences, understanding and skills so that we can be more effective as we connect with people who are like us. We ask you to continue to bless the MCF executive in their activities and continue to give wisdom to our president, Col (ret) Potter and Gerry and his right hand, Nicole Lalonde, as she serves in Israel. Father speak to those who follow us in newsletters and Facebook and inspire them to be part of your mission to bring the gospel to the military community. Amen.*

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