



The Shield

May 2020 edition



Praying for the
Canadian Military Community

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

Preamble: Below is 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 issue, consider using our prayer, but also taking time to talk with God in your own words about each theme.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION: The COVID 19 virus has had an impact on the day-to-day lives of Canadians. We can't gather as families, go to work, engaged in the leisure activities that took our minds away from our troubles, or meet as groups to worship God. Thousands have been infected, and many have died. It is a tragedy, and there will be residual fallout long after the number of infected declines. During these past few months, we have seen what it means to be Canadians on display. Many stepped up to show gratitude to those working on the front lines. People struggling with mental health issues have received calls from strangers who lent a comforting ear during these difficult times. During this worldwide pandemic, we have also seen the ugly side of humanity. Hoarders took from others, people tried to price gouge each other, Nations blamed nations, conspiracy theories feed the anxiety and we were subject to a senseless massacre in Nova Scotia that still defies understanding. In all of this we are still Canada and hopefully lessons will be learnt, and those who turned to God asking for answers will continue to seek after Him.

Consider using this prayer for Canada: *“Father, we sing asking you to keep our land glorious and free, and at this time ask your blessing be on us as a nation. Be with those who have struggled with the isolation and inability to see care givers. Protect our front-line workers from the coronavirus. Speak to your children and remind us to reach out to someone to offer them encouragement during these difficult times. Be with our pastors and church leaders and they seek to take care of your sheep. God, we know you are with us during these times and pray in your mercy, that you see a quick end to this mess the world has gotten itself into. Amen”*

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS: It is during times like this when we see what our leaders are made of. There have been difficult choices to make and it can be easy to shift blame. We are thankful that our federal, provincial and municipal leaders have put aside political differences, choose to seek expert advice and make some wise decisions. Pray for their leadership in the upcoming days and weeks.

Consider praying: *“Holy Spirit, will you reveal the love you have for humanity and reveal yourself to our leaders so that they may seek your wisdom and guidance during this pandemic affecting our country. 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 May

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS: We have seen the news and read headlines suggesting we will be sending our military into some communities to provide care as our health workers are overwhelmed. This is a wonderful task but not without danger. We must keep our military in mind during the pandemic, but we must not forget those who are serving away from home.

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 blessed as a nation to have men and women volunteer to serve our country, thankful for those who volunteer to serve our nation. During this pandemic, we pray for our troops who will be on the front line helping provide care, and we also pray for those away from home, those who can't be beside their families during these times. We ask for your hand to be over them and protect them from any type of 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: This pandemic has disrupted the way our chaplains serve our military. Some can connect virtually while others are challenged to provide the spiritual and moral care for our troops. Our chaplains need our prayers to carry on serving God and the military in this unfamiliar environment.

Consider praying: *“Holy Spirit, gift our chaplains with your wisdom and knowledge to serve our military well during this time of physical disease and isolation. 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 May

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES: All Canadians, including our military families, are undergoing a new kind of family life currently. However, in addition to isolation, home school, and finding ways to obtain daily essentials, some of our families are doing this without a spouse who may be serving elsewhere. Also, we are approaching the posting season, and some families may feel burdened with the prospect of moving to a new location. Although postings are cancelled per se, the APS could carry on until December, causing havoc with schooling, housing hunting and so on. Our families play a role in the morale of our troops and do affect their ability to serve, and so we must keep them in mind.

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: 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. The disruption caused by the virus has caused strain in families and worries for those who were working casual or on term employment.

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 human 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”*

WEEK 4: 23-31 May

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 recently began an online alpha course, and this Sunday will be week three of the eleven-week program. We have visitors from across the country and are pleased with what is happening. We will offer Alpha in the future, so keep your eyes peeled for announcements. Also, 9 May, 2020, some of our MCF leadership were part of an international seminar associated with Moral Injury faced by our military. As a fellowship, we are concerned for the whole soldier, body, mind and souls, and this conference can provide some insight into working with those hurt during military service.

Consider praying: *“LORD, we are blessed that you have invited the MCF to be part of your ministry on this earth. We are grateful for the connection we have to the military community ask for your wisdom to use our experiences and gifts to reach out to our servicing and retired military family. We ask for your grace to use Alpha effectively and ask that you grant a blessing for the attendant and leadership team of the Moral Injury Conference. 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.”*