



The Shield

December 2020 edition



Praying for the Canadian Military Community

Preamble: Below are themes we feel are relevant to our Ministry to bring the gospel to serving and retired members of the CAF, DND and their families. Each topic has a suggested prayer, but please feel free to offer a blessing in your own words.

There is no doubt that we are living in unprecedented times. Anxiety, fear and anger are widespread as people try to comprehend this pandemic sweeping the world. Sadly, the pandemic, or possible preventive measures, can't openly be discussed because many have taken one side and are unwilling to listen to others. Unreliable information is being spread across social media at an alarming rate, adding to this world's worries. Many need to heed to guidance provided in Exodus 30:1(a), which shares, "Do not spread false reports." The world needs prayer, and we are blessed to play our part and bring those we know and don't know before our Almighty God. He wants to hear our prayers and use us to be a part of the change this broken world needs.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND ITS LEADERS:

Some of the most challenging tasks facing our government today are determining how to stop the virus' spread and save lives while maintaining steady economic and social stability. These are not easy tasks because of the uncertainty surrounding the virus. We can help by identifying one or more political leaders, whether at federal, provincial or municipal levels, and bringing them before God, asking Him to grant them His wisdom to serve His creation wisely and justly. Many of our leaders may not be believers, but that doesn't mean God cannot reach and change them. Our social media proves that anyone can offer a critical opinion, but we know that only a few can do what is necessary to keep this country together. Our prayers will let God know we care about our neighbours and trust Him to help our leaders make decisions that will support our country through these challenging times.

Consider praying: Father, you allow us to be led by men and women who do not have you as Lord of their life. Holy Spirit will you continue to reach out to our leaders to draw them to you to recognize and understand their purpose, which is to bring glory to you. Lord, grant wisdom and sensibility to our leaders during this pandemic as they seek to make decisions that affect our nation's health and safety. We know You are in control, Lord, as you allow our leaders to lead us, please aid them. Amen"

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS:

The uncertainty of the pandemic has also made military leadership difficult. They must ensure their forces are ready to serve whenever and wherever while ensuring that their morale is high. Reduced number in the workplace has made it more difficult for leaders to know what is going on in their subordinates' lives. We can support our military leaders through prayer and feel blessed that God has invited us to do so.

Consider praying: God, will you reach out to our military leaders and let them sense Your presence and make them feel comfortable that their backs are covered. They need your wisdom and guidance to make the right decisions during this difficult time. Give them strength as they reach out to their subordinates. May our military leaders exercise integrity, honesty and courage as they serve. Lord, we know all is possible for You, and we ask that You turn the hearts of our leaders towards you. Amen.

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS:

Regardless of the world situation, this is still a season of joy and celebration. We recall and rejoice because of the gift that God gave to this world many Christmas mornings ago. This is the season when families worship and celebrate together; however, because operations do not stop, many men and women cannot be with their families during Christmas. If you have not yet sent a Christmas card or letter of encouragement, it is not too late to do so. Visit the following website to find out how you can send a card:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/contact-us/write-troops/instructions-for-mailing-overseas.html>

Consider praying: Almighty God, be with our military every step of their deployment. Please give them the strength and courage to do the duties asked of them. Shield them all from danger and provide them with comfort when needed. Bring them back home healthy and safely to the arms of their loving families. Let them know that they are never alone, for you are always in step with them. Be their forever protector each day. Amen

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS:

Consider praying: Father, may our chaplains teach the truth of the gospel. May they preach Christ Jesus as Lord, not in fancy words but in the power of Your Spirit. Use their preaching to open the eyes of many soldiers and civilians so that they can see the glorious light of the gospel shining upon them. May those who are believers be renewed in their faith so that they can be a light to others who are serving. Amen.

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES:

Consider praying: Lord, may the families of our military personnel - their spouses, children, siblings, parents, and friends - cast all their cares and burdens upon You. Instead of being worried or anxious, may they pray about everything that concerns them. As You promised, may Your peace, which transcends all understanding, guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Grant our loved ones and all our military this same peace and let them feel the love we have for them even though we are far apart. Amen.

PRAY FOR DND EMPLOYEES:

Consider praying: Jesus, we are thankful for every new day and for those who can go to a place of work. Help both the military and civilian workforce express gratitude for colleagues and help them work as a team. Remove any judgement and rivalry from their hearts so they can focus on the greater good, which is our country's service. Let our work environment be enjoyable and allow all to live in harmony with each other. Amen

PRAY FOR OUR RETIRED MILITARY:

Consider praying: Lord, open the eyes of retired military sisters and brothers so that they may know the hope of eternity to which You have called them and Your incomparably great power for those who believe in You. Root and establish them in love so that they may grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Lord do more than we can ask or imagine in their lives. Amen

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA:

Consider praying: Father, help us fill the gaps of love that may be missing in our servicemen and women's lives. May we continue to sense Your everlasting love for them and be allowed to provide for some of their needs out of Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. May we be purveyors of the hope, and in Your power share the message of joy and peace. Father use us to be Your hands and feet to those You have placed before us. Amen.