



The Shield



July 2023 edition

Praying for the Canadian Military Community

Please join us daily in this month and pray for the themes identified on each day. Every day, read an article, then take some time to listen to God's guidance on what to pray. We are praying *His will be done*, so trust Him to feed your thoughts before you start to speak.

1 July – PRAY FOR YOUR COUNTRY – Thank God for the country you live in and ask it be God's will that He keep your land Glorious and Free so we can worship Him, however, whenever, and wherever in our nation.

2 July - PRAY FOR YOURSELF – before you set out on this journey, ask yourself, "Am I right with God, with the neighbours, with self?" If you do not have a clear yes, your prayers are not offered with the heart God seeks. If there is unforgiveness, unconfessed sin, or lack of faith or trust in God's promises, repent, confess, and believe. Also, pray that God may use you as part of His plan of salvation to take the Gospel into the world so that others may hear His words and truth.

3 July - PRAY FOR YOUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS that they may seek God's wisdom and judgment as they rule over our nation. They are the ones who commit our men and women to our country's military service, and we pray their motives are moral. Pray God invites those government leaders who do not call Him Lord, to join His family.

4 July – PRAY FOR OUR LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS that they recognize their authority to rule over their communities is given by God and will seek His counsel when making decisions. Pray God invites them to join His family.

5 July – PRAY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY that the love of brother and sister permeates the neighbourhoods. Pray that serving and retired Christian military living in these communities become involved in spreading the Gospel and showing it to those around them.

6 July – PRAY FOR THE LEADERS OF OTHER NATIONS. Internal or external National conflicts do not start without reason, and those in power can control their responses. When countries address internal strife, they may divert attention by bumping heads with other nations. Pray for Godly leaders to seek justice and fairness within their borders. Pray national pride does not lead to unnecessary sabre-rattling. Pray God's will that all leaders bow before Him sooner than later.

7 July - PRAY FOR THE CHURCH that it grows and becomes an influence of truth both in and outside the military. Pray for boldness for the church family so they will respond to the Holy Spirit's nudging to share God's truth. Pray the church, focus on the truth that it is Jesus' church, and He alone is the way to the Father.

8 July – PRAY FOR THE CHAPLAIN GENERAL, Brigadier-General Guy Bélisle, as he provides guidance and advice to military leaders regarding spiritual matters affecting the military. Pray for wisdom as he oversees programs that provide spiritual and religious care, guidance and counselling to our military and their family.

9 July – PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS that they may have the opportunity to share the Gospel with those military communities they serve.

10 July – PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES (parents, siblings, relatives) OF SERVING MEMBERS who express pride in the family member's decision but can become stricken by worry or fear. Pray they can accept Jesus as Lord so they can accept His grace, including His peace.

11 July – PRAY OUR MILITARY LEADERS choose to be Christ's followers. Pray their leadership style is Christ-like in that they speak honestly and wisely while showing concern and compassion for their subordinates.

12 July – PRAY FOR OUR SERVING MILITARY that they serve with honour and respect. Pray for their protection as they sometimes work in dangerous environments away from home and family.

13 July – PRAY FOR OUR RECRUITS, who have chosen to serve Canada, often taking them away from their community, family, and friends.

14 July - PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS - The following web link lists the current operations and military exercises involving the Canadian military. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/list.html>

15 July – PRAY FOR OUR INJURED MILITARY that they can receive treatment, care, and guidance on living with their physical or mental health injuries. Pray they come to know Jesus as saviour and Lord so His peace can reign in their lives.

16 July - PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES who follow the serving spouse/parent to a location away from their family support networks. They often sacrifice careers because of posting and act as a sole parent and household manager as the serving spouse is deployed or in training.

17 July – PRAY FOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL, SOCIAL WORKERS AND MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST who care for our military personnel and their families.

18 July - PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY WHO HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES HOMELESS. It is unfortunate that military members, for various reasons, find themselves homeless or destitute. Mental health issues often interfere with the VET, hindering their ability to make reasonable choices.

19 July - PRAY FOR OUR CIVILIAN WORKFORCE, who work alongside our military and often take up the workload when military personnel are deployed or on training.

20 July– PRAY FOR OUR RETIRED MILITARY, who often feel lost and unappreciated when their military career ends. These men and women still have much to offer the military community.

21 July – PRAY FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITIES NEAR OUR MILITARY FACILITIES, BASES, STATION, AND DOCKYARDS. Pray would open their hearts to the military community and offer spiritual and holistic.

22 July – PRAY FOR THE MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OTHER COUNTRIES. Many men and women are serving worldwide, sacrificing much for their countries. They face similar danger, hardships, and isolation as their Canadian counterparts and often do alongside them.

23 July – PRAY FOR AGENCIES SEEKING TO HELP THE MILITARY COMMUNITY. Pray they continue to receive the resources needed to assist in whatever areas they serve. Pray their focuses are not only on the physical requirements of the individual but also on their spiritual needs.

24 July – PRAY THAT SERVING OR RETIRED MILITARY CHRISTIANS will find boldness and encouragement to be part of God's mission to take the Gospel to our military community who do not know Jesus as Saviour.

25 July – PRAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD. We read daily of corrupt governments using their military to terrorize and even kill Christians within their area.

26 July – PRAY FOR PEACE around the world. It is God's will that we live in harmony with each other, so we can pray that His will comes sooner than later.

27 July – THANK GOD FOR OUR MILITARY who are willingly seeking to bring justice, aid, and peace to volatile regions worldwide.

28 July – PRAY FOR ONLINE DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMS, such as ALPHA, to allow our military to connect with gospel discussions regardless of time zone or geographic location. **PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA.** Pray the MCF will continue to seek understanding of God's will in its mission and effort brings Glory to Him alone.

29 July – PRAY FOR UKRAINE – We can only imagine what is happening in Ukraine. There are cries for sanctions, revenge or more military support because that is what humanity does in these seemingly hopeless situations. American Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman offers this reminder, “It is only those who have neither fired a shot, nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell”. We forget we have been offered God’s kingdom on earth. We must seek after the King of heaven to save us.

30 July – PRAY FOR RUSSIA - It seems wrong to pray for someone you believe wants to bring pain and suffering to others. We are not praying for Russia’s success in this war or the death and destruction of Russians or their communities. We know this action is evil. We pray for the Russian leadership, starting with President Putin. We pray they fall on their knees and repent for being deceived by Satan's temptation of dominance. We pray they apologize to the people of Ukraine, the world, and Russian citizens for the harm they have done. We pray for peace.

31 July - PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

Consider praying this scripture: *“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13*

