



The Shield

October 2023 edition

Praying for the Canadian Military Community



Preamble: October is highlighted by our Thanksgiving Holiday in which we gather with our family and give thanks and express grateful acknowledgment for blessing and favours bestowed on us by God. The idea of giving thanks is a mindset we should start and end our days with acknowledgement that all we have is dependant on God.

Below are themes relevant to the Ministry of the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada. Our mission is 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 pray in your own words. Keep in mind the attitude of giving thanks.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND ITS LEADERS: The book of 1 Samuel explains how God allowed men and women to rule over His people. Samuel asked God for a human king, and God allowed it. However, God warned the people of the consequence of a human ruler, but they persisted. We have seen the secular worldview dominate all nations' politics throughout the ages and how dependence on God has declined to the point where many leaders don't even recognize His existence. That should not stop us from bringing our political leaders before God's throne and asking Him to invite them into His kingdom.

Consider praying: "Father, you warned us that those who rule over us would look out for their interests even if they don't realize it. Forgive us for choosing another king other than You. We look forward to when Jesus will be our king, but will You help our leaders? Will You reach out to them and draw them into Your family? Will You open their eyes to Your love so they can serve You and the people You have put under them? Amen."

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY LEADERS: It would be rare to hear about a Canadian military leader leading their troops in prayer before an upcoming operation or significant activity. In a sense, they must hide their faith to serve our nation. However, we know many men and women who lead our military who love God and want to do so with honour and justice. We can stand in the gap on their behalf and pray for our military leaders and those they lead.

Consider praying: "Jesus, You said those who love You will be hated by everyone because of You. We see how our leaders are expected to care for their men and women without telling them what they truly need to be safe. Father, we stand before You on behalf of those who cannot publicly display their love for You. We ask that You continue to grant them wisdom and love for You, our country, and those they lead. Amen"

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OPERATIONS: It takes great courage to join the military, knowing that your signature implies you are willing to go where you are asked. Our Forces' strength has relied on those men and women who sign on that dotted line without question. Today, women and men are located across this planet and away from their families and communities. They need our prayers. The following link provides details on the Operations where our military serves. Please visit the site and select an operation to pray for, not just one day, but choose an operation each day:

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

Consider praying: “Lord, we know worldwide disharmony is not Your desired plan for humanity. However, we are thankful for the many who are prepared to stand for justice. Military operations can place a physical and spiritual strain on individuals, so we ask You, Lord, to fill them with Your strength and courage to serve as they must. As they operate away from home, we ask that You protect family relationships so they can honour each other and You. Amen”.

PRAY FOR OUR CHAPLAINS: We are blessed to have Chaplains serving our military in 2023, especially considering our increasingly secularized society that wants nothing to do with God. These men and women are found wherever our military walks the ground, and so they face the same trials and dangers as they do. They need our support and prayers to derail the evil forces seeking to neutralize their message of hope and salvation.

Consider praying: “Father, your word reminds us there is strength in unity. Would you please help us do our part to care for our chaplains, who support the men and women of the military? Thank you for inspiring, nourishing, and uniting us with a community vision. Grant us the wisdom that comes through the unity of faith and action. Help our Chaplains be Your people of faith in all places where our military family dwells. Amen.”

PRAY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES: Often, when a serving member is away from home, they leave behind a significant other who must ensure life continues as normal as possible. The stress of running a household alone is difficult but compounding this with loneliness complicates the situation. We acknowledge this strength behind our military and ask you to pray for the spouse left behind.

Consider praying: “Loving God, we offer our prayers for the home front spouse and ask Your blessing over their lives. We pray they would trust You, be firmly rooted in Christ, and draw strength from Him. We pray for their joy, hope, endurance, strength, patience, protection, and safety. We pray against fear, loneliness, fatigue, despair, and depression and that support would be present when needed. We pray that friends, family, coworkers, and neighbours will rise and extend assistance and encouragement. Amen”

DND EMPLOYEES: The success of Canada’s Defence depends on our people, both military and civilian. Our government strives to create a high-performing workforce that represents the population and can serve the Canadian Armed Forces. Together, DND and the CAF make Canada proud.

Consider praying: “Lord, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the men and women who serve in our civilian workforce, supporting our Armed Forces. Surround them with Your mighty angels; protect them in Your mercy; cover them with Your grace. May they look to You for the strength and peace only You can give. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen”.

RETIRED MILITARY: There are thousands of men and women living across this world who, at one time, were in uniform serving their country. Many don't realize that God created them for something beyond serving their country. They have value and purpose, and their experience can still be an asset to the military and their communities. We must not forget them.

Consider praying: "Father, we ask You to bless those who have served and are now retired. We especially ask that Your grace be extended to those who have left because of injuries. Bless them and their families as they experience a new life as retired military personnel. Bring someone who loves You close to them to understand their true purpose of service is to You. Amen".

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA: Since its inception, the MCF's mission has been to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the military community in Canada and abroad. The task is God's, but He has invited us to bring His grace and glory to those who do not know Him. It can be sometimes daunting, especially when we think about how large our military family is and how many are lost. We trust God has a plan to let all know who He is, so we remain obedient to His truths. Prayer encourages and strengthens the MCF, so we ask that you join us and pray for our MCF leaders, our mission, and those who do not know Jesus as Lord.

Consider praying: "Heavenly Father, unite your military family that we may serve you with all our hearts and work together with unselfish love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN

