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Airways & Air Communication Service
Korean War
February 8, 1951-November 29, 1954

On February 8, 1951, I entered the United States Air Force. Though I was a college student looking forward to finishing my college career, the Selective Service was very active in those days. I enlisted in the Air Force and I received basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. I was assigned to a technical school in Wahpeton, North Dakota. Eventually, I was assigned to the Northeast Air Command. This command furnished transportation support services and weather services, as well as conducting an early warning system. The purpose of the early warning system was to report any penetration of enemy aircraft over Canadian airspace.

One of the things I learned, being of a fairly young age, was that God has a plan for the life of everyone. I thought that I was in control of things and the direction of my life. When I had to go into the service, I found out that I had to go along with His plan which I did not fully understand through the years. I've learned that His plan is the best plan. If we just trust Him, things work out, and He eventually blesses us. My experience in the Air Force was a very positive one. I became a lot closer to the Lord during that time.

In the Northeast, our bases were located at places like Thule Air Force Base in Greenland; Keflavik, Iceland; Argentia, Newfoundland; and St. Johns, Newfoundland. The bases were very lonesome, very cold, and very bleak. A circuit chaplain made the rounds, flying into each base as weather permitted. We were active in church. Actually, that was about the only thing available in that part of country. But I enjoyed great fellowship with the other men and women, and had the opportunity to grow spiritually. Unfortunately, I don't keep in touch with my Air Force friends any more. My squadron was a part of a large support group called the Military Air Transport Service in the Northeast Air Command.

While I was in the Air Force, the primary concern was that Russia would enter the Korean War at any time and there probably would be an attack on the United States. A warning system was designed to respond and retaliate to enemy aircraft that might penetrate Canadian airspace. Fortunately, by the grace of God, that didn't happen.

After I finished my training, I married my present wife, but soon after our wedding, I was sent overseas for approximately six months. One of the greatest days of my life was the day I came home on leave to see my wife again. Later she was able to move with me to St. Johns, Newfoundland.

I believe I was in Newfoundland about two years, maybe a little over two years. Then I was transferred to the Strategic Air Command Base in Fort Worth, Texas. I was discharged on November 29, 1954, and was able to return to college. Since the World War II GI Bill didn't expire until three months after I entered the service, I was able to receive that benefit. I went to the Baylor University School of Law and earned my law degree. We had our first child while I was in college.

My law career began when I went to work as an assistant district attorney for the District Attorney's Office in Tyler. I'm in private practice now. My son practices law in Tyler and my daughter is married and also lives in Tyler. We have been blessed with four granddaughters.

We became members of Green Acres Baptist Church in 1958. The nursery originally attracted us because we had two small children. I believe the church was founded in about 1955. Though we were not charter members, it was a very loving and caring church. We found great fellowship here. I started teaching Sunday school soon after we joined Green Acres and have been teaching there since then.