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Corporal, U.S. Army
Fifth Army Division Headquarters
Peacetime
1953-1955

The Korean Conflict was still going on when I joined the United States Army in September 1953. By the time my basic training was done, the armistice had been signed. I was very fortunate. Next I was sent to the Military Police School in Camp Gordon (now known as Fort Gordon) in Augusta, Georgia. From there I went to Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, for eight or nine months. Finally I was transferred to Alsbury, Germany, where I was assigned to Personnel in the Fifth Army Division Headquarters and spent my remaining nine months of duty.

When we landed in Bremerhaven, Germany; officers kept going through the ranks asking for clerk typists. I volunteered. That's how I got a chance to go into Personnel instead of the Military Police.

I really enjoyed my tour of duty in Europe and was able to travel a good deal. Normally, one had to have been in the service for two years before transferring to Europe. But they needed men over there at the time, so soldiers like me who only had nine months left to serve were able to go. Everything was very peaceful there at the time.

I'm glad that I spent time in the military. I was a Christian before I joined the service, though I backslid for a number of years. But I knew the Lord. Looking back, I can see God's providence in my life. I was blessed that I missed the Korean Conflict and that I was married with children when the Vietnam War started. I met my wife 30 days before leaving for Europe, and we married 30 days after I returned home to Florida.

I was discharged from the Army in September 1955 with the rank of Corporal. The GI Bill still was in effect, so I used that to purchase our house in Florida at an interest rate of about 4.5%. Before joining the service, I had gone to The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, but had not finished. When I came home, I attended some classes at the University of Miami. Then I went to work for Burdines Department Store. Next I went to work in Palm Beach for a New York apparel firm. Three years later, they transferred me to Dallas, where I spent about thirty

years.

Joan and I moved to Tyler in 1993 and almost immediately began attending services at Green Acres Baptist Church. My father-in-law was a member of the First Baptist Church, so we had also gone there. David was gone the first Sunday we came to Green Acres, and Stan Toussaint was preaching. Stan was the minister at the first church we went to in Dallas. Of course, we loved David, and we loved Green Acres. I am a past president of John Child's Sunday school class and am finishing my third year on the Personnel Committee. My wife and I also work three nights a month at the Good Samaritan Outreach Center.

We have been so blessed. One of our daughters lives in Tyler with her husband and four children. Our other daughter is in Dallas with her husband and three children. So we have seven wonderful grandchildren — three in college, two in high school, a 13-year-old and an 8-year-old.