

20 December 1954

Chaplain (Major General) Charles I. Carpenter,
Department of the Air Force,
Headquarters, United States Air Force,
Chief of the Air Force Chaplains,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Chaplain Carpenter;

It was good to receive your letter, and I will be glad to send you the desired information. I hope that this article will be written, for I think such an article would be very interesting.

From July 1941 to November 1942 I was connected with the Air Force as I was in Civil Service at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois. I worked in the Special Orders Section at Base Headquarters. From November 1942 to September 1945 I was in the Air Force as an enlisted man, spending 18 months in England with the 452d Bombardment Group (H). Our group flew B-17s. I worked in Combat Intelligence. When I was discharged I had attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. I then went back into Civil Service at Chanute Field as assistant manager of Station Archives. I left there to enter college. In March 1950 I was given a direct commission in the Air Force Reserves Inactive in the Intelligence Department. This I held until June 1953 when I accepted the commission in the Chaplaincy.

My college training included one year at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and three years at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. There I obtained an A.B. degree. Then I attended Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois three more years and gained a B.D. degree, in May 1953. In July 1953 I entered the Air Force Chaplaincy, being stationed at Sampson AF Base, New York.

I chose the ministry when the war days with their air raids in England made me realize that the important things of this life are the things which have an eternal value. The reconciliation of man's soul with God is of the utmost importance, I was convinced. Because of this, I realized God desired for me to proclaim His Word of His Son being "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Therefore, my life's aim is to help people to worship God through Jesus Christ in a real way. Having served in the Air Force before, I have felt a deep concern about ministering to the service man, so I gladly reentered the service, and I definitely feel this is God's chosen field for me.

Sincerely in Christ,

LUCAS W. BUTTRY
Chaplain (1st Lt) USAF