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Oral History/Richard Howard

Caleb Howard

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Student Interviewer's Name: Caleb Howard
Interviewee Name: Richard Howard

Time and Location of Interview:

The interview was conducted in one session on November 8, 2015, and lasted approximately an hour. It was conducted over the phone between Caleb Howard at Southern Adventist University, and Richard Howard at his son Mark's home in Vestaburg, Michigan. No one else was listening to the interview, although some members of Mark's family overheard parts of it as he was in an adjacent room.

About Richard Howard:

Richard Howard was born on October 17, 1938, in Columbus, Ohio. He joined the Air Force in 1959 and served during the Cuban Missile Crisis. After converting to Seventh-day Adventism in 1964, he was court-martialed for not attending Air Force meetings on Saturday—which his conscience would not allow—but found innocent. Shortly before the Vietnam War, he received his honorable discharge from the US Air Force. He lived in Columbus, Ohio, for many years, until he moved to Cherry Valley, California, where he currently resides.

Interviewer: Caleb Howard (CH)

Interviewee: Richard Howard (RH)

RH: I think you got a certain train of thought, so just fire away, man.

CH: So, like in the first place, what made you want to join the Air Force?

RH: Oh, well, when I was, you see I was born, I was born, the year that World War II started, the year Hitler invaded P—Poland (hesitation). And when I was a kid, uh, you know, you can look up in the sky, to me, the most amazing time in the history of the world, and one of the most amazing battles that ever took place, took place two years after I was born, or three years, and my brother was born just a week before it (unintelligible word), and that was the battle of Britain, you know, England, England standing up against Hitler, and that was, that was, that was the battle where people were saying, Looks like we're going to have to rewrite Daniel 2. Hitler was already conquered every country over there, and the only thing that stood in his way, uh, to basically uniting that old world, was England. And England stood, you know after France fell, England stood, and Churchill said, you know, the battle of Fren—France is over, the battle of Britain is about to begin. Well, that's when I was, I, I was really, even as a little kid, planes, airplanes, were always flying over the house, and they were—there was no such thing as restricted airspace or controlled airspace, and they would dogfight, right over the cities, right over the fields, and everything else, and you'd see 'em up there wheeling and soaring and swinging and all that sort of stuff, and just way up, high altitude, and next

thing you know they'd be buzzing the field, or buzzing down where we were at, and you could wave at the pilots. So you know, I got fired up. That's what happened with me, I got fired up with airplanes, and always loved those things, wanted to fly, so uh...after a lot of years, usual high school preparations, took academic course and so forth, and I just happened to go by the post office, I was only out of high school, I had an academic course, and so forth, but I was on the National Honor Society, I liked science and math and all that such, I saw this ad on becoming a commissioned flying officer. And I took the test and passed it, you know. Well then they sent me to Dayton, and you had to go there for three days and take a lot of tests, and I managed to get through all that. However, I was, I didn't really get what I wanted. I got navigator training, which was still an officer, officer program, but the thing about it is, you know, I went in at the worst time you could possibly go in, I went in after the Korean War was over, and before Vietnam, so the demand was low, and there was only six out of a hundred and twenty getting through the program I went in, and only six of us got in out of high school, the rest of 'em were college boys and stuff like that. So it was kind of a bad deal, but that's, as far as that goes, as far as competition and all that, but, that's why, when, I wasn't in the Air Force to fly because I wanted to fly, I liked airplanes, but I didn't really get to become a pilot because you know, they took the same test, but there was some things I just didn't know, there was six questions on airplanes, and if I didn't know 'em, I could have passed that then, I would've probably stayed in the Air Force, but as it was, I went in, and uh, I went in, and just served my basic time, I mean, I didn't make a career of it. My brother, my brother went through the same thing, and course he flew all kinds of planes, but he was a navigator also, and he flew big cargo planes, and all that sort of stuff, and he wound up in Vietnam and all of that. So I wound up getting out of it, because I didn't want really make a career of being a navigator, I still wanted to be a pilot. And after I got out, of course, I wound up, uh, I wound up, to make a long story short, getting involved in, with Seventh-day Adventists Bible studies, and so forth, and (not sure what he said here), I met Diane, you know Di, and we were sitting there talking one day, and we went out to visit my mom, and there was a woman who was an Adventist that was visiting her, and I started arguing with her and so forth, but she said, Well, that's not the way it is, my boy gives Bible studies and all that, and what you need to do is just take a look what the Bible says about hellfire, cause that's what was really bugging me a bit. And so we went on, we went on the study, Carol and Bill Paulson, and that's what started the train rolling. I mean, when I got back here out of the Air Force, I became, I got into aerial photography with the Ohio State Department of Highways, big cameras and all sorts of stuff, and I went from aerial photography to Ohio State University to be a medical photographer, but that transition right there, we took the Bible studies and that's what we went through, a conversion, both of us, and uh, just sort of airplanes went in the background for a little bit, so that's basically what happened to me in the Air Force. The Air Force was uh, you know, it was about five years, but when I got out of the regulars, I went into the, like a, program you have to go through

after that, and that's when I sort of ran into the court martial deal, you know, so. I became an Adventist, and so forth, and there was the problem of the Sabbath, and normally, I mean, and I went before lieutenant colonels, majors, and everybody, and you know, they liked me because I wasn't trying to get out of anything, basically, I just felt convicted on keeping Saturday and so forth, and I told them, it wouldn't matter whether it was Saturday or Sunday, I said, if I'm going to do this, I got to be serious, and if it was, well, if it was time of war, I wouldn't hesitate, but what we were doing, I mean, they were just setting up a program, and guys would sit in the room, and tell jokes all day, so I just says, I can't do that, but I says but look, If you guys let me have Saturday off, and what I'll do is, I'll just come every day through the month, I'll make up for it.

Anyway, they had one of the guys from our general conference came from DC and he talked lieutenant, they scheduled a hearing and I had to go to a hearing, and uh, it was really kind of amazing, cause you know all big high-ranking officers, and uh, you know, I just told 'em, they asked me a lot of questions, and amazingly, that day, Pastor (Cale?) had been on the radio, and I recorded it at work, and almost all the questions people phoned him and asked him had to do with our church and military service. And man, he gave some good answers, and I played that again and again, and that night, almost everything they asked me was the same thing. They had good answers, and I could bring up, you know, like Doss and some of those guys who really did some unbelievable things, they didn't try to get out of fighting or anything else, they were medics and all that sort of stuff. They were not really conscientious objectors; they were conscientious cooperators. And, to make a long story short, after the whole meeting was over, the guys, the officers and everything said, they basically told me something had happened a couple weeks earlier, I was offered a flying job a couple weeks earlier from Lane Aviation, and that was unheard of in those days, that was back when it was hard to get flying jobs. But, it was on the weekend, and I had to turn it down, because it would have been on Saturday. So, and they knew that because it was on the same field, based on the same field, airport, and so they knew I wasn't really trying to get out of everything, and they told me, well, we sort of figured you'd do this, and we were just testing you, we wanted to see if, how far you would go, if your faith...

(Beep)

Are you still there?

CH: Yeah, I'm still here

RH: Ok, I don't know what that was. But anyway, they were just testing, they were just checking, to see whether I'd really stick to it under the pressure, but they knew I turned down the flying job, so it wasn't trying to get out of anything, and to make a long story short, they let me, they let me have the Sabbath off, and I just went through, I went there, and all we had to go in every

weekend, so that was four to one, and everyone was happy. In fact, there was guys started asking me questions, guys in my squadron, cause they knew about that, even my commander, was a captain, had me take him home one day, which is, you know, you don't, ask a, because I was low ranking at the time, I was out of the military, I mean, out of the active service, and uh, he asked me to take him home. And, course, I had all the books *Desire of Ages*, and he saw them sitting on the front seat of the car, and he picked them up, and he was really interested, and I says well man, Captain Warner, you can have that book, I, I give those away, and he says, man, I'd love to take it, I really would love to take that, but I'm not allowed to, and I knew then he was a Catholic, and because they sort of dictated what he could do, and what he couldn't, but I did have some guys who wound up giving Bible studies to him and everything. Turned, it turned into a good experience, plus, I got to, I got to fly, and I had three chances to go to the airlines, one to go to Federal Express, and had some really interesting flying, because I flew lifeguard and hazmat, I could fly, I could fly when the airlines couldn't, I could fly and bring a plane down when you couldn't even see the ground, so, I can't squawk about what's happened to me, of course my health is goin' now, my eyesight and anyway, I just thank God I got to do it when I did, not everybody gets to do that, and I, so really blessed and comforted when I went through that, cause I didn't know, you never know, when you're going through something like that was during the Cuban crisis, and your mind plays all kinds of things. Everybody thought we were going to see World War III, so my mind said, Oh my goodness, this is coming up, I'm getting shipped off to Russia (laughter) you know, you start thinking all kinds of weird things, but I mean, it worked out really good, which I look back on, and which I'm thankful for.

CH: What—

RH: Uh, you know, yeah, go ahead,

CH: Like, you know, during the Cuban missile crisis, were you already out of the Air Force, like—

RH: No, I was still in it, that's the only thing, that's the only thing I saw, I really lucked out. I got in right after the Korean War was over and I got in, I got my honorable discharge just before Vietnam hit. I mean, it was cranking up, but I just had my five years in, and I got my discharge before that, so I would have gone, but I would not have wanted to and I felt sorry for anybody who had to go to that because that was really horrible, and you know, I have cousins that went, and really miserable, guys all around them getting killed. My brother went in, my brother, the older one, he was the one who was in the Air Force, he was a career man, he was a major, and he stayed his twenty years, he retired as a major, and, you know, 40 what, 40 years old and he retired, you can't beat that. He flew all kinds of big planes, like big cargo planes, C-124s, and got into the jets too, and he did air, sea, and rescue when he was in Vietnam, they'd

refuel, they'd be refueling the helicopters, and you could hear, he played some of the tapes from one of the guys, somebody'd get hit, and a Phantom F-4, or something like that, they'd just give a (not sure what he said) bearing, and they'd head out to sea, and of course the helicopters would break away from his plane, and head out to pick up the downed pilots, because they, the Vietnamese, apparently wouldn't go out over the ocean. I don't know what the deal was, but it was, you know, I missed all that, so I was, yeah, I was out, and the thing that got me was, I wound up, that was when I was really getting into the church strong, I mean, Bible studies, it was, it was just a real, the Bible says, I went through it, I don't have it now, but I had a real conversion, just like it was supposed to be, a whole change of ideas, and some of my most amazing experiences to me, was when that happened, I mean, different experience that I had or something like that, so everywhere I went, I worked at the hospital. Good grief, when I was at the highway department, all the guys who used to go down and watch the girls and stuff at (some place), I took my Bible study stuff right to work, and I'd have a whole roomful of guys just watching the Bible studies. And I went to Ohio State University, where you got a whole hospital, it's a good, that's a big hospital, and I was (unintelligible) the hospital there, and I had crowd of people around me, students and everything else, and I gave the books away, and I'd have discussions all the time, and campus crusade for Christ, I wish I had never, when I went through the divorce I went backwards quite a bit, I mean, God was always close to me, treated me good and so forth, but in life, you have a lot, you have a lot of ups and downs, and all I can say to anybody now is don't give up, and don't quit, no matter what happens to you, because God will still take care of you, and he'll do good for you, and as long as you stick with him, you're gonna have some amazing experiences. So I got caught up in flying again, quite a bit, and uh, I faced the Grim Reaper several times, and I can see how the Good Lord spared my life, many a times, when I should have died, being planes on fire, planes crashed, planes that have lost all the instruments at night in a fog, the whole east coast fogged in, how are you going to get down, you've got to have ways out, just a lot of times, you thank the good Lord that you made it, and you got through all that, so that's uh, yeah, I was completely, out of all military when most of that happened, so that's like two different phases of my life, and several really good jobs, I've had jobs that people would die for, and all that sort of stuff in life, but um, lot of really good people I've met in life, spiritual experiences and stuff that, so—

CH: So, like—

RH: But—Yeah, go ahead.

CH: So more about your time in the Air Force, what did you do as a navigator, like what did they do?

RH: Well actually, when I went in, they were washing out. I went in, actually, I didn't, I went into the next to the last class on navigators that the Air Force

took under that program. It was, so it was where you could go into the Air Force with a high school degree if you had if you had all the math, and physics and stuff like that, you know what I'm saying. It's the only program that you could go in as a high school senior, and uh, with good grades, and uh, become a commissioned flying officer; any other program was ROTC, or OCS or something like that, so when I went before the board there was only six of us got out of high school, six, so that's how slim the pickings were. But the washout rate was high too; you only had six out of a hundred twenty getting through, so basically, I didn't go all the way through that. And uh, I didn't care so much, because like I say, I wanted to—I wanted to be a pilot, and not so much a navigator. But navigator, you know, I did, I did, I was doing some of the training and all that, you know, it's basically, it was, there was no GPS in those days, and I wound up becoming a commercial pilot, and then an airline transport pilot, and in the early days, it was extremely difficult, because you didn't have, the only thing the Air Force had that most people didn't really was celestial navigation. And I had taken some of that, and did, that, and you know, it's obsolete now, but in those days, you used a sextant to take a shot of the stars, you had to take three fixes with the sextant, while you're moving, of course, the airplane's moving at a certain speed, and so you got in effect a triangle. You just take a position. That's if you can see the stars, and the only time you really needed a navigator was going across the Atlantic or the Pacific, then the guys were valuable, but now, you know, with GPS's, they're completely, there no such thing as a navigator now, with all the electronic devices and GPS and all that sort of stuff, you can go to the same spot and be 15 feet off, so all you got to do is have your phone in your pocket, if you lose the most complex equipment you got, you still got a backup in your cell phone, so it's nothing like it used to be, I mean, in the old days, you had complex, complex navigation, you had what they call dead reckoning, I mean you can figure this out yourself because you're smart, but when you're looking at instruments in a plane, everything is strictly relative. The altimeter, because you're flying at a gas, and it's subject to temperature, pressure, and all that sort of stuff, and positioning the aircraft. Same with your airspeed indicator, and all your other things. Everything is indicated. So you have to convert all that stuff to true, and that's based on other variables, like temperature lapse rates. You know, normal lapse rate is three degrees Fahrenheit or two degrees centigrade for every thousand feet, but I mean, it may be five degrees, if it's wet air or something like that. So, your calculations may be a little bit off, and uh, these are, you wouldn't think this means a whole lot. Like if you're doing an approach down to the low, like you're in Alaska, doing an approach, you've got critical altitudes, because you've got canyons you're going down, and everything else, and you're doing an approach, and all you've got to do is to get one of those little factors wrong, and you're dead, you know, it's just that simple. They had, in the old days, they had what they called rangers, which are extremely difficult, you know. They'd have four legs, aimed anywhere they wanted, maybe from Anchorage to Point Barrow, or something like that, and the other two would go to some other destination, or some other fix. Well you

know, what you had to do is, they would have Morse code on all four sectors. You know, one sector would be an N-sector, one would be an A. You'd have two N sectors and two A-sectors. And one would be a di-da, and the other would be a da-dit. While, when you're on course, they overlap, and they have a continuous hum. But if you're flying, and trying to orient yourself, and all you here is a di-da, you'll know you're at an A, or somewhere in that area. Well, then if it gets louder, you're going towards the station. So you can see, you could waste a lot of time, run out of gas, it's just really hard. But they came up with a bit, you see by the time World War II started, they did have, they started coming up with LORAN and a lot of other deals, and of course ADF, the Japanese used to have a down in on Pearl Harbor, so, um, navigation equipment and all that sort of stuff, I got in to a lot of that, and of course, I used it in flying. I just got out, when I, I had the recommendation to go back in, the guy told me, if you get a little bit of college behind you, he gave me high recommendations, he says, you come back, I'll take you on a ride in the F-84, you'll do a lot better, you could go through this now, he says, if you want to, but you're going to wind up at the bottom of the class, but you're going to wind up at the bottom of the class because you're going to, cause you're not a college grad and all that sort of stuff, so I took his advice and went back to Ohio State, and I started my flight training too, along with everything else, but that's when I met Diane, that's when I met Diane, started have Bible studies, I mean, my whole direction in life was changed. I didn't really have the fire for military flying, I mean, I did, and I flew some of the military planes. But, I guess, the spiritual, it was just a complete radical change in my life, for a long time, anyway, and now I sort of got back in to it, by the time of the divorce and all that sort of stuff, so, then I flew commercially, back here, I think I've flown into every airport back here that you can fly into, from Kennedy, O'Hare, and all of 'em, California, everything in Florida, Alabama, and everywhere else, and all the west, everywhere from Alaska to the Caribbean, from South America to Central America. You know, I got my brother, my brother, my brother who was a navigator, actually I used to take him up after he retired from the military, he's still a young guy, but he never, he always (laughter) tried to become a pilot, he took two pilot tests in the military, but he could never do it because they wanted to keep him as a navigator because he was a master navigator. But, when he came back, I'd let him fly the plane, and all that, so he was always kind of glad, he was a little disappointed that I didn't go through it at first, and completely, and but after he got to see what I got to do anyway, he was kind of wishing he could have done it to, but it was the way it was. Anyway, I could go on for hours and hours on some of that stuff, but...

CH: So, I hear in those days there was big fear of communism, like—

RH: What's that? Yeah, there was. But well, that's what the Cuban Crisis was, that was the Cold War, I mean, everybody. I'll tell you what, even when I went in the Air Force, you sort of get a lot of brainwashing, and lot of guys don't see it, but a lot of guys do see it. You know there's human beings in every country,

it doesn't matter who they are. Some want war, and some don't want war; it's just the power struggle. You've got brainwashing in the military, because they want you to know that this is the enemy, and you have to do the enemy in, so, uh. Yeah, it was the Cold War, a war of threats. Nuclear, everybody trying to outdo the other person. Mean guys, like Khrushchev and many others, and some of America's guys were pretty crooked too, I mean, it was probably the worst jumble of politicians on the face of the earth. Kennedy came along, he was a good guy, he was the one that made the standoff at the Cuban crisis, but that was the closest we came to World War III, and the Russians actually backed down. Kennedy said, you're not going to put those missiles that close to United States, and because, they were nuclear, they could wipe the whole country out, we're talking atomic bombs, and hydrogen bombs, and somebody got mad, they could do it, so it was kind of a crucial situation, everybody was on edge, we were on alert, and we had planes based, and we were out there, we had to stay out there until it was all over. It didn't last that long, but it was pretty scary for a while, then of course Vietnam hit after that. And it was nasty, really nasty. Anyway, military is always had some kind of something going on. You just, you think, everybody, as a rule, most people, today, have looked back over the terrible things that's happened since World War I, actually, and they're geared, its going to be part of the final crisis, we're geared to where we hate all this stuff, and we want world peace, and this is where you get people stepping in. Like the pope. He seems to be, actually I think, he's a good guy, I mean, he seems to be doing good, but he doesn't know where he's going. I'm not saying he doesn't know, he may know, but it's going to backfire, that's the problem. I mean, people, the average person does not want what we've had in the past. They're fed up, they've seen Korea, they've seen Vietnam, they've seen a lot of these genocides, the (unintelligible word) and Pol Pot, and the Romanian genocide, and there's a—good grief, how can the people in charge do this. And the average person is ready. They're ready for a big world peace movement, they want, because we like the easy life. But anyway, yeah, it was that time, it was probably the most paranoid season that America ever had, you had guys going around, like and uh, calling everybody communists, everybody was afraid they were gonna get thrown in jail, just for being accused of being a "Commie" as they called them, you've probably read all that, you'd probably been into all that too, but it wasn't a good time. Not really a good time at all.

CH: I heard they had a lot of shelters and stuff, like underground shelters in case the Soviets did fire their missiles.

RH: Oh yeah, oh yeah, they did. That was a big thing; build your own nuclear shelter. And uh, out west, of course, that's where they have, they actually had the missile silos, and Kansas, and places like that, and there was a lot, you've probably seen a lot of the movies where they actually set them off, you see Russia setting theirs off, and also ours, and of course it's the end of the world, you know. It was a big deal, because everyone and their brother was really

afraid of a nuclear end, and if you didn't know, it's like right now, it's the same deal, I don't know whether you listen to a lot of it, but there's so many conspiracy, today, all you hear in conspiracy theories, you get everybody and their brother, my golly! It's either, it's either political, or illuminati, or something else, but I guess my attitude is, you don't have to worry, God says he's, it's not going to end that way. Those, yeah I tell other people these things exist, but it's because there's somebody else behind it. There's a Satan, and he's got massive intellect. I know it sounds kooky, but these guys are puppets. And, God is in control. He says its going to end a certain way and he's going to give everybody a fair chance, and he says fear none of those things will come upon you, I'm going to hold back the winds of strife until God's people are sealed. Until they see, and understand, and then I'm going to let them go. Because the whole world is waiting, they're just itching to get into something. Now, it's not big countries like Russia, it's your people like the Muslims, you know what I'm saying, Muslim controlled countries or others, just like hate groups, like the Japanese were religious. It was a religious war, and the same way with Muslims and a lot of others. But, I personally think the whole world is going to be converted, Muslims and all. And I say that because I read a statement. It's going to look like the whole world's being converted over to Christ, the ushering in of the long expected millennium, and I believe that's what this new pope is doing, he's the man for the hour. He's got the charisma, he's lived with the poor, he knows how to, that part's good, I'm all for it. But it's when they step over the line and try to force, the only reason we're here today, the only reason for our wars, like Vietnam, I mean, we've done a lot of really bad things, but this is the only country that you can burn the flag and not get killed for it. You know what I'm saying? We have, one thing that we've got that nobody's had—that one thing we've got that nobody's had has been freedom. And that's why men fought and died, and went into the military, most people, they love and cherish that thought, that we have true freedom. My dad, my dad was in World War II, and he got wounded, he got shot twice. They even finally sent him home; he got to Pennsylvania; he nearly died. Both my brothers went in, my one brother's in the Navy, the other brother in the Air Force, for one thing, we stand for freedom in this country. That's the one thing this country's the greatest at. But once we take that away, and that's not Sabbath that's going to upset God, it's that people are going to try to force people who believe in something like the Sabbath, to disobey God, force their conscience. That word, cause, in Revelation 13, is what pushes God over the edge; take away our freedom in other words. The only reason we're here, so, that's a big element with all wars. The devil will use any means, whether it was communism in my day or, it's always some issue that's got people excited and fire up. All you got to do is say the right word, and you'll fire up a million people. You've seen it yourself, already. And if you get the wrong, you get the wrong spirit, and you can get a lot of people riled up over the wrong thing, and that's what's probably going to happen. But anyway, sort of, sort of, that's the way I see it. Yeah, it was a nasty time to live, but it's still a nasty time to live in some ways (laughter).

CH: You mentioned a lot about the end of time, did a lot of people think, when they heard a lot about the missiles and stuff, did they think, did some people think that that might be the end of time or something?

RH: Oh yeah, a lot of people. A lot of people have all, I'm sure you hear it, all people, there's millions of different ideas about how it's going to all end, I hear it every day, and not only young people, but the geniuses, and the big talk shows, I mean, people have all kinds of ideas how it's going to end, and I work with guys all the time, and I tell them look, and they're supposedly Christians. Of course, you got an in, you can quote a couple texts. It says the whole world. The whole world. We're talking about believers, non-believers, Muslims, Buddhists, the whole world will worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. I said, you know. And it will be a world, a New World Order, a world that looks like it will end all its problems, we've looked at all these things, cause these guys will get caught up with flying...I mean, I've heard things you could not believe. But you would believe them, flying saucers, all these survivalists with their arsenals and stuff, (mimicking voice) The government's going to take away our guns, and we see them get all worked up about everything, you know, really, what's going to happen is, you know, none of these things are going to happen right off the bat, they probably will after. It's so far out of control now; there's no way you could take all these minds, the spirits in this country, I mean you look at two people. Two people can't even get along without arguing, I mean you've got different points of view, and here you've got millions. So God has got to use something simple. He's got to be fair, He's got to wipe away all this confusion, He's going to use simple means, he's gonna make an event. The event's going to be the mark of the beast. The beast is easy to identify. Luther, all those guys identified it. So what they're going to do is identify the beast, ask them what their mark is, you don't even got to prove it, ask them what it is. They know what it is. And what, what I read, a good statement I read is, when this country starts to step on the rights of the people, when church is so controlled with government as to cause it to enforce its decrees, and sustain its institutions, it will by that act have formed an image to the beast, and in the books of heaven it will be registered as national apostasy. Now get this statement, right after that. And this is horrible! National ruin will follow national apostasy. So you're talking about the downfall of America, only took us two hundred years to do it. And it's, it's not a good picture to come to, but God is going to be fair, give everybody a fair chance, and it's going to be as clear as the noonday sun. Then, probably, after probation closes, he says He'll hold back the winds until people make the decision, they know, they make that choice. Then He'll probably let everything happen. Their hearts are just set, for war, for everything else under the sun. So, I—I guess that's the way I see it now, I actually believe those statements, but I don't think anything will happen really radical until we really force conscience, until we actually make the law, well, I mean it sort of builds up to it, but you know, that's just the way I see it now. And uh, it's just different,

different from when I was a kid, I guess, went into the military, all they used to do is form our—our—opinion as a country to, we've been through these things and they shape who we are as a country, so we're America the great, and we've always come out of this, and so forth, so whatever we do is going to be good. And uh, it just may not be. Anyway, so be it.

CH: How do you think the Cuban missile crisis shaped our country?

RH: How do I think what?

CH: How do you think the Cuban missile crisis shaped our country? Like how do you see, what did you see, about how it happened?

RH: Well, first, it was just, a lot of it was unknown fear and propaganda, like they do in a lot of countries, but everybody had to be on alert, because all you had to do, all you had to do was release one of those things, and that was what everybody was afraid of. So, probably in every generation there's been something, it basically, it basically, made us actually anti-, anti-Russian. And, of course, you know, I guess a Christian person sees things different, in Russia, those people had it really hard. And uh, they went through, more hardships than this country or other country. Of all the people that's ever lived, they've been through horrible, horrible. And they lost more people in World War II than even America did. They were good people—noble people—in that country, but they were brainwashed the same way as we were in that country, and every country goes through this. If you've get people at the top presenting a certain point of view, those Commies, the Humphreys, that era, that era when, it wasn't Humphreys, I forgot his name now, I don't know how I forgot it, but he was always bringing people to trial and everything, But there was a paranoid, a paranoid fear, and it was fed day by day by missiles, silos, talk of it, all that sort of stuff. And I have an idea that Russia was the same way, Khrushchev was doing the same thing to the Russian people, so, it's the Yanks, it's America versus the Russians, you know what I'm saying, and, that, to me it's a bad thing. All over the world, that's how countries have controlled their people. It's not the way God would control them, because every person is their brother. It's just like in World War II; some of the Germans were Christians. They were Adventists. Mark, your dad, tells a story, in fact, he put it in on my TV up there, you know, the guy who had the Daniel 2, and was reading it to, he wound up reading it to the officers and stuff, and before it was over, he'd been on the Russian front too, there was good guys and bad guys everywhere. The propaganda, a lot of the propaganda, and the blowup, and exaggeration, did more for fueling people's characters than anything else, and it made them paranoid, so we lived in it, we lived through that time. And I'm glad, because remember, God's always in control, you've got to remember that, and sooner or later, good wins out over the bad. And pretty soon, the wall came down, but look what happened. It was heart-touching, when you watched it. And when I listened to the Russian leader, uh, come over here and give the talk, he

actually spoke at Crystal Cathedral. And the guy was so amazing, he was more of Christian than Americans was, you know what I'm saying. It's the spirit; you know what I'm saying. He told everybody in America, it happened just because it was the right time, and he was just the right man at the right place, you know. There's truly good and bad everywhere, and they truly shape events, bring about wars, it could have sparked war then too, but it didn't, because you've got a Holy Spirit that's trying to prevent that, but yeah, it did a big job. All I can remember is that the whole country was paranoid about the Commies; everybody's a Commie. The Russians. Kids were drawing pictures of American planes shooting at Russian tanks, and all that sorts of stuff (laughter), and all sorts of stuff, you know, it's the way it is; it's been that way from beginning to end.

CH: So, you were saying that you just realized most of the people in the Russians were just ordinary people like Americans, they were just brainwashed by their dictator—but—

RH: Oh yeah, listen, once you live long enough, and no matter what country. The guy, the guy who is the worker, you just need a guy who's a hard worker, can walk up to anybody, any country, even if you don't understand the language, because I've done it, you can put your arms around it, and they understand that. You can put your arms around them, and you can say brother, you can say anything you want, even if they don't understand you, they understand that compassion, and that's the language that Jesus used, and it works. But, uh, yeah, it's, uh, the hard working people don't really want war, and they get sucked into it, and they're the ones to pay the price. If you look at some of these documentaries, even the German soldiers who were brainwashed, the Nazis. My heart goes out to them. One of the most amazing stories I ever heard was (unintelligible word), was a (unintelligible word) television theater, all black and white TV when it first came out, but they followed three Nazis, all through World War II. And of course, when they were young, they were gung ho. Hitler took them from their families, brainwashed them, taught them to beat up, fight, everything, if you ever look at the documentaries, you can get them on YouTube, and just their minds. Hate the Jews, hate everybody, trained to kill, be tough, they lived like little hoodlums, you know. Well, eventually they wind up going to war. They keep writing letters back home, so they followed, they actually had a compilation of these letters, and you see the change, the change over all, these three especially, because they all came to the same conclusion. First, their gung ho, ah, the Führer, the thousand years, we're gonna win, we just trumped over these people. Of course, they're killing men, women, children, and everything else, and every now again they get shot, or something happens, and they have pain, suffering, it's not pleasant. Even though they were young, and gung ho, they feel it too. And they get a little bit more sympathetic. You know. But pretty soon, to make a long story short, they all wind up in Russia. On the Russian front, that cold winter, and like 1941/42. Stalingrad. And they gave them—

they had summer clothes. Hitler didn't do anything for them, and they, they died miserable deaths. They had miserable, miserable experiences. The weather was wicked. And that's the way God works. He does. To get to their hearts, what he had to do is make them sick of what they had done. And all three of those guys, you can get—they have this on YouTube too, Letters from Stalingrad. They gave them five minutes to write a letter home, and these three kids, the one thing they had in common was they all came to the same conclusion. Hitler is a fanatic. He is wrong. We've been duped. Look at all the trouble we've caused, the pain and suffering we've caused, and now we're going through it too. He said, if only I had another chance, I would never do this again. Now to me, that's like the thief on the cross. They saw. They saw, through pain and suffering and hardship. And that's the way God works, it's the Psalms 107 route, you know what I'm saying. There's been people from good to bad all over every country who've been through terrible things, who've been brainwashed by idiots, and basically, they've paid a horrible, hellish price many times—their lives, you know. But, you know, the average person doesn't want to fight. You know, they work hard, you watch documentaries, even today, groups of people, a lot of them are happy, hard working, and they want the same thing we want. They want to have a happy family; they don't want to have pain and suffering. Everybody wants that. So, therefore, we get the leaders, sometime they get in their power struggles and stuff, they suck all these poor people in, next thing you know, they're dying for no cause at all. World War I was a good example. Anyway, you could go on for hours and days about that. I actually watch, I watch these videos and documentaries probably every night until the sun starts coming up, and it's just horrible what people have gone through, and what people have been brainwashed into. I know, where we're going, we're part of the biggest event to take place. And so it's kind of amazing that we're alive to see this. I always hoped I'd live long enough to see it, but I'd love to have a part in it. Therefore, you're off to a good—so you know, at least you're thinking right, and thinking straight, and the good Lord will bless you, and use you in a mighty way, because you have a good brain, you know, and it's an amazing time to be alive.

CH: Were there some people in the Air Force with you that just wanted to take out the Russians; that were pretty angry at what they had done, and just really hated them?

RH: Now, say that one more time?

CH: I know you said that most good people didn't want war or whatever, but were there some people in the Air Force with you, or that you knew, that just wanted to take out the Russians, that were really angry at communism?

RH: No, no, most of them, most guys, when it comes to like going in the Air Force, most of them, most of them, the motive for most of them, people, is I want to fly. You got a government paying you to fly really great airplanes; the

average man can't afford to do that. They really do it for an adventure. World War I was the same way, World War II, and little did they realize what they had to go through. They finally got into it, many of them died, and all that sort of stuff, and it's that way with everybody. There's very few that really go in, they go in because they hate the Russians, you know what I'm saying. I've have an idea, I have an idea the Russians are the same way, there's got to be some, there's got to be a lot of them. A lot of people do hate people, and they go in for that reason. They go in to... (trails off) I think World War I was a big one, mainly because of political leaders, they were trained in Scotland and that; hate the Germans. They were actually trained from early ages to hate them. And so, when that finally broke loose, people were itching, they were itching to get into the trenches, and just end this and wipe out the Germans. But it turned into a horrible, horrible situation. And probably one of the most amazing, and this is a little on the side, but one of the most amazing things, if you want to see something really interesting that sums up the feelings, that really ties it together, and I think in everything, in every age, in every war, there's people like this, is look at the, if you get a chance, get on YouTube, and look at December 24, 1914, Christmas Eve, 1914, the Miracle Christmas. Have you ever heard of that one?

CH: Yeah, where they went together and sang, right, and celebrated Christmas?

RH: Oh, yeah, yeah, and there's a Frenchman, made a movie of that, and he did, he went in, did more research than anybody else, and that was... (trails off). The thing that staggered my mind on that one was that one of the Germans; he was a singer. And his wife, and they sang Silent Night. And World War I was horrible, it was seemingly almost worse than World War II. People would get up, make charges, be twenty-five, thirty thousand people killed in one charge, just getting out of trenches, I mean, unheard of losses, and live with rats in those trenches, and stuff like that. And that story, early in the war, that happened. And really, the true spirit of Christmas, of the men who were going through hell on both sides, God could reach them through the suffering they were going through. But, that spirit of Christmas. If everybody had latched onto that, World War I would never have gone any farther. But it was the powers that be, the hate powers. I mean, they sent some of those guys, they couldn't even get them to start fighting after that. That didn't just happen for one night, it went on for days, and those guys refused to fight. It was the Spirit of Christ, really, that stopped that. That night, and they had to force, actually force that war to start, and then after four more years, they, the number of millions of people that died, and it could have been avoided, and everything, everybody, that was a war that never had to happen, because it was a feud over a couple of the emperors and stuff like that's where it started, and they dragged England into it, Americans into it, Italians into it, French into it, and everybody else. And I guess the thing I really got out of it, that really touched my heart, was the love that those troops that really, and when I say they went through hell, they went through more than hell. They just stopped fighting.

Somebody sing Silent Night, man, and it changed the spirit of everyone there. That was an amazing story to me, and really, I, that's the way I look at the Russians, I look at anybody. If they, you know, cause I feel like the average person does not want to fight, they just want to be left alone, they want to be peaceful, they don't want to hurt anybody, they don't want anybody hurting them or the family, that's your average family, and they got people fired up who think different, and World War II was a little bit different, because you had a very real enemy, trying to take over the world, doing horrible things, Hitler. And people could see it, in World War II, the thing that made that so great was we stayed out of it, we didn't want in. The world had to beg us to go in there; we were isolationists. So when we finally did go in, we were viewed in the eyes of the world as heroes because of the way we went about that. But after that, we stuck our nose in everybody, and people hated us. We'd go to different countries, and there's anti-American this, and anti-American that, just hard to say what causes what, our cocky a—a lot of it's, some of our, some of our cocky attitude, but there's always good people. There's good people on our side, there's good people on their side, and when they get together, it's like Jesus said: Blessed are the peacemakers. There's peacemakers on both sides, and on every side that fights. So they're the ones that Heaven looks at, I'm sure. And anybody that goes in the military has to keep an open mind, and realize that even though these guys are military geniuses, they're brainwashers too. A lot of them. I could see it when I went in, and I was only what? Eighteen or so, I don't know. But uh, I started, and I've always been sort of a loner, and I don't always believe everything I hear, so you know, you sort of got to just test it, and prove it, or have somebody prove it to you, I don't just blindly accept everything anybody says. Anyway—

CH: How did they brainwash people?

RH: What's that?

CH: How did they brainwash people? What kind of stuff did they say and do, to like, all the military geniuses and those people?

RH: Well, what happens is, when you get back and say, the Russians are your enemy, when you get in common, and you get guys, who you can tell by the way you, the tone of the voice is sort of hate. Not always, but I mean, when you start hearing someone say they're all bad, in my mind, I know better, because I had studied, I, just before I went into the Air Force, that's when my mom ran into the first Adventist. I didn't know who it was, but HMS Richards, is a, was a prophecy speaker years ago, and I didn't know he was an Adventist, I wasn't an Adventist, but I loved that guy, his tone, his voice, I lived to hear that Sunday talk on the radio. I was a farm kid, you know, and all that sort of stuff. But, that's where I start thinking about. Of course, we had kind of a rough life too, and didn't know it was rough, but it nice, it was farm life. So when you do that, you run into a lot of kids, high school kids, we have nice kids and all that

sort of stuff, when I was growing up, you see, that not everybody in the world can be that, like that. And when you hear people all the sudden say that everybody in the world is like this and you read, you read, of course Mom used to read from the Bible how people, and what we should do, and do unto others, we've got, there's people all over the world that are good, and you can't just say all Americans are good, and all Russians are bad, you know better. There's people everywhere that are amazing, and they've done amazing things. That's where you know that it's not real. And when you get someone getting up there, and saying these are our enemies, we need to go over and wipe out their cities. If somebody talks like that, then to me that's brainwashing. And I'm not trying to say it was all that way, we got good guys and bad guys, I'm just saying you had to be able to see where the brainwashing was coming from. And you'd hear the history, they'd give you the history on Russia, well, a lot of it was bad. For them. They went through hell. That's not the part you heard (laughter), you know, so there's another thing. People read history that's slanted. It's hard to sit down and read a real history book anymore, you're not allowed to say what really happened. So, anybody, just to give you an idea, just like the papacy during the dark ages. It's almost like against the law to write what happened. And you people, you keep living in the past. Well, it's history. You've got to read what really happened is real history; you can't change that. You can't hide it; you can't cover it up. If you cover it up, you've got a false picture; you see what I'm saying? And people do that; people have done that. They try to slant things. Hitler wouldn't let people listen to radio, get the other side of the people. That's what you call brainwashing, you just gotta... And you know something's wrong, because there's the Holy Spirit saying, there's a wee small voice behind your ear saying, This is the way, walk in it. Do it, it's right, and not everybody's bad, and do unto others and all that sort of stuff, so you just got to balance it all out, it's something everybody goes through to a certain extent, anyway, that's the way I see it. Yeah, brainwashing, comes in a multitude of different things, everything from peace to hate, you know what I'm saying. You can brainwash in any way, shape, or form. Biggest thing is, I honestly believe the biggest way, if a guy reads the Bible, he can discern. It's a discerner. It says the Bible is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. So when you read that, it gives you something to go by, to judge what you're hearing. Motives. And like I say, discerner of spirits. Your ideas. That's what it is. And you can sort of, sort of look at stuff like that based on what you read, but you got to have a standard, and the standard to me is the good book, that's—it's become that way. I believed a lot of crazy things when I was a kid, but to me, that's just the way I look at things, and I have since I was a teenager, so. (Pause) Okay?

CH: So it was good talking to you, it was really interesting, a lot of the things you said.

RH: Yeah, well, it just, I ramble on, but there's a lot of things you look at, golly, I look at, I look at it, and even today, there's a few things where it brings me to

tears, what's happening, and what has happened, with people in the past. And you gotta still remember, because I do believe, you and I, we're gonna face, especially you, you're young, you'll definitely see it, and I personally believe, it's happening. As it were, the biggest event in my life, the year I was born was Hitler's invaded Poland. That was the beginning of the greatest crisis the world had known, even up 'til now, you know what I'm saying. But you and I are alive, and I've always wished be alive—I should have died a million times—but to see what happened, I'd love to have a part in it, I mean, I see people, they have no clue at what's happening. We're being conditioned, just like people in World War II, only we're being conditioned in a different way. There was a clear-cut power, Hitler, invading the world, and Japan, and they had plans for conquering the whole world. Today, it's a different, it's the worst, it's the worst situation that could ever, and it's battle, not between kingdoms, because the whole world's going to be converted. They worship—the whole world, small and great, rich and poor, freedmen, worship the first beast, and for one purpose only, the battle against God Almighty. It'll be a different type of battle, where you'll be considered the most vile criminal in the world if you stood up against it. So I want to be able to do this, I want to be able to see the past, see what's happened, and identify, because God is the one that sets up kingdoms, he's the one who set up this country, and the reason why we're here in this country is because we've had freedom, and now we're destroying it, that's the appeal I use. When this country takes away the freedom of conscience, which is what the final crisis will be about, and we can relate to that through all the wars we've gone through. We've gone to military in this country for one reason only; preserve that. When we take that one reason away, we've destroyed ourself, and that's exactly what we're going to do. The lamblike beast will speak as a dragon, and you and I will face that, but I want the best testimony that I can possibly come up with, and what's happened in the past is sort of ammunition for that. You know what I mean, you're alive, and you can see it. All history ties together through what we're talking about now, you know what I'm saying. But anyway, sorry to ramble on like that, but I can go on and just say nothing for hours. I do that, I watch this stuff every night, and I think about it, it's on my mind every time, and I'd like to be able to have a clear picture, not just rambling, I'd like to be able to have a clear picture and say something that carried a lot of weight and would help a lot of people when it really hits, and that's what you really want too, so that's what I pray for you, and that's what I hope for all my boys, and everybody. All the family. That we can do some mighty thing for God. You know, at least something, anyway. Anyway, Caleb, it was good talking to you, too, my boy.

CH: It was good talking to you.