less inclined toward a homogenized "ecumenical" religion, however, and the long-range result of conservative ascendency, coupled with the growth of cults and sects, is likely to be greater pluralism in religious practice.

Emerging Picture of the Chaplaincy

The emerging picture of the military chaplaincy of 2000 AD, which may be summarized on the basis of projections from the foregoing trends, is something like the following. The composition of the chaplaincy will be more pluralistic, with less domination by the liberal establishment and greater representation from the evangelical churches, including newer sects. It will no longer be solely Judeo-Christian. A few chaplains from formerly "fringe" religions such as Buddhist sects and the Black Muslims, will probably be included. There will be far more female chaplains—probably up to one-third in the lower grades—by the end of the century.

The ministry, too, will be more pluralistic, with fewer Army-wide programs based on a liberal consensus. There will have been some movement away from ministries aimed at human development and potential, in the direction of more traditional and "spiritual" ministries, but a thorough-going and self-conscious pluralism will allow for optional human growth-centered ministries.

The ministerial environment will be a military community with more minority persons in the upper ranks, and with far more woman soldiers, integrated into combat as well as non-combatant specialties. Unionization, with a limited kind of collective bargaining replacing the paternalism of earlier patterns, is likely to make for a military service which is far less a "total institution" than at present. This trend will have been balanced to some extent, however, by stronger demands from the military establishment for on-the-job discipline and professionalism. Such a new context will offer 21st century chaplains enlarged opportunities for reconciling and bridge-building ministries, along with their traditional duties.

Yet, "the more things change, the more they remain the same." When all these trends are projected into the future, the fact remains that basically the chaplain's ministry will be similar to that of the present. Continuity is still the most significant factor. A 1976 Chaplain Van Winkle awakening in the year 2000 AD, would adjust quite readily.