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'War is still on,' says Mr. Armstrong

PASADENA — The following is a transcript of a message from Herbert W. Armstrong over a direct telephone hookup from Tucson, Ariz., to the Pasadena church congregations Sabbath afternoon, Feb. 24.

Well, greetings friends and brethren in Pasadena. I want to tell you that God is still on His throne. Of course, you know that He won another battle for us this week. The receiver is gone. But the war is still on — it's not over yet.

Our attorneys are doing a fine job, but the massive court action was started secretly without our knowledge and without the knowledge of our attorneys. Two judges were already committed to this thing, and once they have acted — and in this case two of them have been involved already — other judges on the state level, as I understand it, are inclined to render no decisions contrary to these other judges. Because they don't want to get in bad with one another. And usually they know one

another. Perhaps they go to dinner together and all that sort of thing.

But much as our attorneys are doing — and what they are doing is absolutely needful — that is just their part. But we have our part, and that is to look to Christ. Because this is something that we are not going to win just by attorneys and by beating them in men's courts. We're going to have to rely on God to change the minds of some judge somewhere to turn this thing the right way. And He will do it.

In the meantime, this may turn out to be a great deal of good for the Work. Remember that all things work together for good to those who love God (Romans 8:28). And if we do, and this is a trial and a test on us to bring us back closer into God's grace, then we must be sure that we look to Christ first — the living Head of the Church, not to the attorneys — for the final decision from this persecution.

Now brethren, we need to remember that God's people have

always been persecuted. That may be one of the proofs that we are God's people. But we should not be like some whom I have known who go out seeking persecution, so they can claim they are God's people. We try to avoid it all we can. But we are getting plenty of it, and we are going to get more.

Before God called the children of Israel under Moses, they were terribly persecuted under slavery by the Egyptian government. And that was a case of the government. They were the Israelites or the Israelis of that time. They were descendants of Abraham, and he was a man of God. Well, God called Moses to lead them. He led them out of that slavery, and then Moses was persecuted even by his own people.

Later on, King David was persecuted a great deal and continually. The people of Judah were persecuted, and they were taken into slavery by government, by the Babylon government, or the Chaldean empire.

In the book of Daniel we have the account of Daniel's three friends persecuted by the government of man, thrown into a burning, fiery furnace. And they didn't have attorneys there to rescue them. They relied on God. And they were actually thrown into the furnace heated seven times hotter than normal and still not even the clothes that were on them were scorched. God took care of them and performed a tremendous miracle.

Now although Daniel himself had risen up, because of his abilities, till he became virtual prime minister —

he was over all of the presidents and the others in the government. of the Chaldean empire — yet he was persecuted for the very reason that he worshiped God three times a day. He was thrown into a lions' den. And he didn't have any attorneys to defend him. But God delivered him. And I hope that you will remember that, and that this is the history of the way it has been with God's people all along.

Now, Jesus, the Son of God, was persecuted continually and finally put to death by government. And He (See 'WAR IS STILL ON,' page 3)

Subscriber renewals high; newsstand 'PT' changes

PASADENA — A Plain Truth subscription renewal rate of 50 percent for 1978 was as high as many of the nation's leading consumer magazines, it was reported March 8 by Boyd Leeson, circulation manager for The Plain Truth. The results signal a higher-than-expected reader interest.

"We had always thought because of the magazine's 'religious' undertones that renewals would not run as high a percentage as some of the general interest or specialty magazines on the market today," said Mr. Leeson. "We did just as well in 1978, however, as many of the large national publications. That's a good sign."

Mr. Leeson based his judgments on a report by a national fulfillment house (subscription service), which serves a number of major publications. They reported that 40 percent is a respectable overall renewal guideline, and that their renewal rates ran just above the 50 percent mark.

Renewals not only keep the subscription list free of "deadwood," they often revive dormant co-workers and donors, who begin to support the Work financially again. Last year 3,500 former co-workers and 15,000 former donors became active again financially. The largest

source for new donations to the Work was the renewal program, Mr. Leeson said, with more than 9,000 people donating for the first time.

Another area of publishing that is showing positive signs, said Mr. Leeson, is the newsstand distribution program. The Plain Truth newsstand program is now the largest source of new subscribers to the magazine, and the program is going through some changes that it is hoped will inspire a greater influx of interested readers.

Beginning with the March issue, all newsstand editions will drop from 32 to 16 pages, adopting a tighter format with condensed, straight-to-the-point articles from the regular magazine that will offer easier reading for the uninitiated, according to Roger Lippross, director of Publishing Services. Although budget restrictions will require a drop in the number of magazines printed — from one million to 600,000 — the circulation staff hopes to see a rise in reader response from 3 percent in 1978 to 5 percent in 1979.

The greatest thrust of renewal efforts, especially in the newsstand area, is in the United States. Subscription personnel hope that the success of the program in the United States will help similar programs begun in countries around the world.

Treasurer describes court order as 'unconstitutional, repugnant'

PASADENA — Church treasurer Stanley R. Rader announced at a press conference in his office in the Hall of Administration March 8 that the Worldwide Church of God is making a major change in its position toward allowing the State to audit the Church's books. According to Mr. Rader the change is a result of Judge Julius M. Title's latest order giving the State Attorney General's Office more authority than was granted to the receiver.

Even though the receivership was removed, Mr. Rader stated that the court order signed March 2 by Judge Title is "unconstitutional and repugnant to the members of the Church." Attorneys for the Church filed a Notice of Appeal to the District Court of Appeals on the same day to stay the order.

A large accounting firm, Arthur Anderson & Co., has been engaged by the Church to complete the annual audit for the year of 1978. The result of that audit will be made public, Mr. Rader said.

Mr. Rader also revealed that he now has evidence that a conspiracy existed prior to the proceedings in Judge Jerry Pacht's chambers Jan. 2.

"We now have incontrovertible evidence that Mr. [Hillel] Chodos [attorney for the State and six plaintiffs] and Mr. [Lawrence] Tapper [deputy attorney general for the State] knew that all allegations in their complaint as filed on Jan. 2 were false. . . . Notwithstanding the knowledge that Mr. Tapper and Mr. Chodos had . . . they persisted in filing their lawsuit. In the opinion of our attorneys here and in Washington, D.C., this lawsuit presents the most clear evidence of malicious prosecution and the abuse of judicial process that all of our attorneys have ever witnessed or have been aware of."

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Title ruled Feb. 21 to lift the receivership imposed upon the Church Jan. 3. Remarking that the receivership did not appear to be an aid to the investigation, Judge Title, however, ruled that the court retained jurisdiction and ordered the audit of the Church's financial records to continue under the direction of the attorney general's office.

Judge Title also questioned whether the Church should pay the costs of the audit. Those expenses, he suggested, should be borne by the State, through the attorney general's office.

The seven-week-long receivership was a result of a lawsuit brought by the state attorney general on behalf of six dissident members of the Church. Retired Judge Steven Weisman was named Jan. 2 as receiver to monitor records and assets of the Church while an investigation was made. Prior to the court's ruling to lift the receivership, Judge Weisman resigned his court-appointed position Feb. 6 for, he said, health reasons and the difficulties of his task.

The outgoing receiver is required by the court to submit an accounting of his administration's expenses. An example of items listed in this report, which covers the period of Jan. 3 through Feb. 9, is included in a box on page 2.

The battle is not over, said Mr. Rader. All churches and individuals are guaranteed certain rights and privileges by the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. According to Mr. Rader, until all rights and protection are affirmed by the courts, the Church, and all churches, remain vulnerable to the capricious activities of State officials.

Mr. Rader said tithes and offerings of brethren from around the United States will never again come to a

state where they can be confiscated. Pasadena will never again be the financial headquarters of the Work, he said, even though other functions of the Work in Pasadena will continue as usual.

Continuing, Mr. Rader said the hardest single concept the press has had to grapple with is that "the Church is not the buildings," and it is not a "corporation" either. He said that buildings and a corporation are merely physical means of accomplishing the Church's spiritual Work around the world. The Body of Christ — the spiritual Church of God — is not and could never be, the buildings. He said members do not join a corporation, they don't worship a corporation, and they don't tithe to a corporation.

'Plans are go' for Ambassador

PASADENA — Despite financial cutbacks forced on the Work during its present crisis, Raymond McNair, deputy chancellor of Ambassador College, said, "We're still planning to have a four-year liberal-arts college" next year. "All plans are go, full speed ahead. I think next year will be our best, hopefully, ever," he added.

The budget had to be trimmed by 12 percent to just over \$1 million for the entire school year, he said. "But we were able to do that without impairing the main functions or departments of the college," said Mr. McNair. "We'll be able to carry right on."

Mr. McNair emphasized the importance of the college and of the four-year, liberal-arts type of education, which Herbert Armstrong has stressed is the most balanced and best

for producing well-educated students with the breadth and depth of knowledge needed to become leaders.

"We feel the Work, and the world, in a sense, needs the product of Ambassador College," said Mr. McNair.

He said the college benefits the Work in more ways than just producing men who will be hired full-time by the Work after graduation. Students go back to their church areas and become pillars in the Church, having received their training at "the West Point of the Work." While students, they contribute needed relatively low-cost labor to the Work through the work-study program. Under the program, students can work to pay off their college bill, and the Work doesn't incur the cost of expensive full-time employee benefits.

Mr. McNair pointed out that the student body is a vital resource for volunteer assistance also.

"I think the Work would be a lot poorer without Ambassador College," he said.

In line with the college's planned expansion, a slight increase in enrollment is expected for the coming school year. Including sabbatical ministers and part-time students, total enrollment is now just under 350, but will probably increase to between 350 and 400, said Mr. McNair. The scholarship fund will also be increased by about \$5,000.

Ron Wroblewski, director of financial aids, said there was a basic redistribution of the funds to help those who would need it most, such as the international students who incur great expenses to attend Ambassador College.

YOU tournaments pick champs

By Mike Blackwell
PASADENA — February marked the beginning of the fourth annual YOU regional basketball and cheerleading competitions nationwide. Play in 11 sites decided 11 of 12 regional champions in both Division I and Division II basketball and cheerleading. (The Great Lakes regional competition had not been held at the time of this report.)

In the Mountain regionals in Denver Feb. 10 and 11, Rapid City, S.D., defeated Colorado Springs, Colo., in a close game, 68-65, for the Division I championship. Greeley, Colo., captured the Division II title. Cheerleading competition was won by Denver, with Colorado Springs coming in second.

The next weekend, Feb. 17 and 18, saw several more championships decided. In Eugene, Ore., the site of the Pacific Coast regional tournament, the favored Tacoma, Wash., Trojans were defeated by Oakland, Calif., 45-43 in a cliff-hanger for the Division I title. San Jose, Calif., captured the cheerleading trophy and Modesto, Calif., finished second.

A Georgia snow job

In Georgia it's never supposed to snow enough to cause difficulties, but the weekend of Feb. 17 and 18 was an exception. Teams and fans attending the Southeast regional tournament in Gainesville, Ga., literally got a snow job. More than 15 inches of snow forced all the teams to postpone departure. The snow, however, didn't dampen the spirits or the level of competition. In a closely contested game Jacksonville, Fla., hung on to beat Atlanta 40-37 for the Division I title. Rome, Ga., held off Lakeland, Fla., 44-39 for the Division II title. Tampa, Fla., took the trophy for cheerleading, and Atlanta finished a close second.

At Memphis, Tenn., site of the Mississippi Valley regionals, all the games were close. New Orleans, La., finally prevailed by 2 points

over Tupelo, Miss., for the Division I title. Hattiesburg, Miss., outbusted Jonesboro, Ark., for the Division II title. The cheerleaders from Jackson edged the girls from Jonesboro for the cheerleading trophy.

Defending champs edged out

On Feb. 24 and 25, in Joplin, Mo., about 800 fans saw the Mid-America regional finals. The defending national champions from Little Rock, Ark., were edged out by Tulsa, Okla., 53-51 on two free throws made after the buzzer. The Division II title was equally as exciting, as Wichita, Kan., beat back Harrison, Ark., 46-44 in a nip-and-tuck game decided when Harrison missed a shot that would have tied the score at the final buzzer. Oklahoma City copped the title for cheerleading, and Fay-

etteville, Ark., finished second.

In Minneapolis, Minn., the chant that "The Fire is back" filled the stands. The Chicago Fire, a power in the first couple of years of YOU, came roaring back to life as it edged Minneapolis-St. Paul 61-59 for the Division I title. Stoux Falls, S.D., defeated Wausau, Wis., for the Division II title. Cheerleading competition was won by Duluth, Minn., with Milwaukee finishing second.

In the first year for the Allegheny regional tourney in Cleveland, Youngstown, Ohio, a perennial power in YOU, was defeated by Akron, Ohio, 69-63 for the Division I title. Detroit East overpowered Pittsburgh 60-53 in the Division II title game. Cheerleading honors went to Detroit and Wheeling, W.Va., in that order.

At Springfield, Mass., site of the Northeast regional finals, competition was again close. In the Division I championship game Brooklyn-Queens, N.Y., pulled away from Buffalo, N.Y., in the final two minutes to win 41-28. Rochester, N.Y., nailed Boston for Division II honors by a score of 61-56. The cheerleaders from Philadelphia topped the cheerleading competition, and Buffalo finished a close second.

The Wind prevail

The Ambassador gym in Pasadena was again the site of this year's Southwest regionals March 3 and 4. The Santa Ana, Calif., Wind squeaked by the Pasadena Imperial Suns 51-49 for the Division I title. The cheerleading competition had the opposite ending as the Pasadena Imperial cheerleaders edged the Santa Ana girls in close competition.

Good weather and a crowd of about 800 people made the Mid-Atlantic tourney in Greensboro,

N.C., a real success. The host team from Greensboro pulled away from Washington and won the Division I title 63-50. Bluefield, W.Va., outlasted Pikeville, Ky., 71-64 for the Division II championship. Greensboro won the cheerleading competition, and Charleston, W.Va., finished second.

The former Ambassador College campus in Big Sandy, Tex., was the site of the South Central regionals March 3 and 4. In the Division I finals Longview, Tex., outgunned Houston by 6 points. Texoma (Denison, Tex.) sneaked by San Antonio, Tex., by 3 points for the Division II title. Host Big Sandy captured the cheerleading title, and Dallas finished second.

The regional games this year all turned out to be close and exciting, with sportsmanship and quality of play continuing to improve as has been the trend for the last few years. Next year, of course, we expect to see even greater improvement.

'War is still on,' Mr. Armstrong tells Church

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said if they persecuted Him, they would certainly persecute us. On the other hand, He said He would always be with us. He would never leave or forsake us. And He is the one we have to look to now.

The early Christians were tortured to death by the government of man. And I tell you, this thing of government — assailing God's people — has been ever since Adam. You see, back in the time of Adam and Eve, when they rejected God and looked to Satan and took to themselves the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil, God, in effect, said to them, when He drove them out of the Garden of Eden, "I am shutting you and all your progeny, all of the world that will come from you, I'm shutting them off from me. Except those that I shall call."

Now God has called some. He has called a whole nation, ancient Israel. But every time God has called any of the governments of man have persecuted them. Now God had said back there to Adam and Eve, "You go and your people, it will be the human race, form your own government. Form your own religions. Form your own kind of society." And that's happened. We are in that kind of society today, and it is really swayed and influenced by Satan the devil.

Now the early Christians, I said, were persecuted. God's Church will be persecuted again much greater than we are being persecuted right now. Though that will happen in a mass martyrdom in the yet future Laodicean era. And don't let anyone tell you that there are not eras of the Church. There are! And we're in an era where there are some of the conditions that are a little different than they were 200, 300 years ago or 2,000 or 1,900 years ago.

But God's people always have suffered persecution. Now this world is Satan's world. And the persecution is always instituted from Satan. He hates God's people. He hates God's truth. He doesn't want us to believe it. And yet, Satan himself can do only what God allows. Now that means that this persecution could not have come on us if God had not allowed it.

And God did allow it. God is letting us suffer this persecution, and we need to wake up and realize that. Why has God done it? Simply because the Church of the Philadelphia era was becoming lukewarm. We were drifting apart from God. Some of our ministers even were watering down doctrines. We were getting more in-

terested in the things of this world and the ways of this world than the things of God. Many were trying to see how close they could come to Satan's world and its ways and its ways of life and its life-styles. But just so they could still somehow get into the Kingdom of God.

We needed an explosion. We needed an explosion to awaken us. To drive us to our knees. To drive us back to God. And to set God's Church back on the track. We've been doing that. Christ has been doing that now for almost a year. Without our impassioned, heart-rending prayers to set ourselves right first and then to set the Church right — and when you pray, pray that God will help you get yourself set right before you pray and ask Him to set the Church right, and deliver us from this persecution.

Without that prayer and reliance on God, our attorneys could very well lose this whole war. We must get back into contact with God. We must rely on God more than the attorneys. The attorneys will do their part, and we should cooperate in whatever way we can. And the way you people all rallied when the receiver was trying to take over all of our property was just a wonderful example. You know how I thank all of you for it.

Let me just say that it's an ill wind that doesn't blow some good, and God says that all things work to-

gether for good to those that love Him.

I have before me the copy of a full-page advertisement that is soon going to appear in the Los Angeles Times, the Pasadena Star-News, the three newspapers up in San Francisco, papers like the Chicago Tribune, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, metropolitan papers over the country. The heading is very sensational: ALL CHURCH PROPERTY IN CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN CONFISCATED BY THE STATE. That in big type over the head of the whole page advertisement.

Brethren, God has opened up to us by this very thing a new source or a new medium to reach the public with Christ's last message. And that is big full-page advertisements in leading newspapers around the United States. Maybe the 30 years I spent in advertising was not all for nothing after all.

I think the next ad will be something like this: the headline — WHO IS LORD? CHRIST OR CAESAR? Because I heard on a religious broadcast this week where they were referring to this very thing that we are doing. This broadcast, by the way, came from over near the Atlantic Coast, and a man said, "Well, what this is all about," referring to our trouble, he said, "it's a matter of who is Lord. Is Christ Lord or is Caesar Lord?" Now God has given us something here to attract the public eye. We must take advantage of it.

While this is hot we must get these ads out and start people thinking. And we will get the Gospel to perhaps many more people who might have heard the broadcast at one time or another, but like in the parable of the sower and the seed, like those that drop by the wayside, it never took any root, and they paid no attention to it and forgot all about it. Now maybe we'll get through to some of those people.

I just wanted to tell you that and tell you that this can be made something to do a great work for us and for God's Work through us. And it's just like taking the lemons that people throw at you and turning them into lemonade. And we certainly can do that.

But the first thing is to pray and rely on God and ask Him first to show where we are wrong. I'll do the same over here in Tucson. And in the meantime, I'll just say, God bless all of you.

I don't want to take up too much time because just hearing something coming over a telephone without seeing anybody is not very much of a church service. So I will break off here. I just wanted to give you that hopeful note. That we're taking advantage of this. The Work is going to go forward as never before. God is bringing us together as we've never been before. We are now in unity. And we're going forward full speed ahead!

America

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been badly strained by economic tensions arising out of the weakness of the dollar and the continuing trade deficits the U.S. has been running. The sad decline of U.S. influence in the past decade has been associated with the flight of investors and speculators alike from the dollar and the inability of U.S. goods to compete in world markets.

"The same policies of deficit financing and undisciplined government spending that have wrecked the domestic price structure have kicked back to weaken the alliances that the U.S. built in its time of strength."

The awesome \$3.1 billion deficit in U.S. foreign trade for the month of January was hardly reassuring to its trading partners.

On the way down

The United States is on the way down — fast! (And with it, "brother Ephraim," once-Great Britain, wallowing in endless public "servant" strikes and general labor turmoil.) Paralyzed by the Vietnam trauma — which broke America's pride in its own power — the United States stands by helplessly while one strategic region after another falls by default into the Soviet camp. How true the prophecy of Isaiah 3:12 (Living Bible):

"Oh my people! Can't you see what fools your rulers are? Weak as women! Foolish as little children playing king. True leaders? No, misleaders! Leading you down the garden path to destruction."

Businessmen meet on campus

PASADENA — Four hundred business leaders from the Pasadena community attended the Chamber of Commerce Social Mixer held by the Church in the Ambassador College Student Center Feb. 28.

Ellis LaRavia, facilities manager,

said while the Church and college both have strong support from many Pasadena area leaders, "we have not had any general impact with the community to the degree, perhaps, that we should."

"The Chamber of Commerce So-

cial Mixer . . . afforded us this opportunity. It cleared up a lot of misconceptions both internally and externally and provided a vehicle whereby the community is not only more aware of the Church and college but also became more supportive of our activities."

A letter of thanks from Rolfe G. Arnhym, chamber of commerce executive vice president, reads in part: "It was an outstanding event . . . We, in the Chamber, look forward to a close working relationship with you."

Mr. LaRavia said because of the many years we were not represented in the community, "There were, and are, many misconceptions about the role of the Church and college in the community as well as the rest of the world . . . the message that we were called upon to impart to the rest of the world has been basically unknown. As a result, the very reason for our existence has been clouded and not understood by the members of the community."



SOCIAL MIXER — Members of the Pasadena business community meet at the Chamber of Commerce Social Mixer held in the Ambassador College Student Center Feb. 28. (Photo by Ken Evans)