

“War of the Wills” Preview Pages #1
Written by Frederick Passmore Copyright Sheep Laughs Publications

Pamela: This is Pamela Parfay, reporting live for WWWW TV. We're on the scene of the previously reported disturbance, which you can see is still raging behind me. The violence which has broken out seems to be limited to the grounds surrounding the church, although we are still unable to determine the cause of the conflict. It could be anything from gang warfare to terrorists, but at this point we just don't know. Considering the attacks on the freedom of Christians to speak out concerning what the Bible says about sin, it's a good bet that the believers here are undergoing persecution for standing up for what they believe.

(A man, Refugee #1, runs onstage, stopping and looking around to make sure the coast is clear.)

Pamela: Just a moment... it seems we may have an eye-witness here. Excuse me, sir? May we speak to you?

(The man moves toward them and stops as Pamela approaches him with the microphone.)

Refugee #1: *(Defensively.)* Yeah? What do you want?

Pamela: Pamela Parfay, with WWWW TV News. May I ask you a few questions?

Refugee #1: *(Relaxing some.)* Fine by me. Hurry up, though, I'm getting out of here.

Pamela: Thanks. First, who are you? Do you belong to the church where the combat is raging?

Refugee #1: No, I've just been visiting for a few months with my family. I sent them away for safety, but now it's time for me to get out before I'm shot by one side or the other. I'm not interested in joining the battle.

Pamela: What's going on here? Who is fighting and why?

Refugee #1: Isn't it obvious? It's a church war! It started out small, just a minor disagreement about the color of the new carpet. Then the decision about the padding on the pews drew in more, and finally, the issue of the new songbooks versus the old hymnals broke out into full-scale battle! It stayed inside the doors for awhile, but now it's broken out into the open.

Pamela: Who is making up the opposing groups?

Refugee #1: The progressive camp is over by the children's play area, and the conservative camp is in the parking lot. The cars seem to be offering a better vantage point for protection and sniping than the slide and see-saws. The conservatives have the advantage of age, experience and money. But the progressive army has the advantages of youthful energy, stamina and ideas. It's hard to tell who will win; the battle is getting ugly but no-one seems to be gaining any ground. The church is taking the brunt of the artillery, it won't be standing much longer at this rate.

Pamela: So, this is about minor issues? How could that lead to all-out battle like we're seeing?

Refugee #1: Well, no-one wanted to listen to the other opinions. Everyone thought they were right, and when it comes to matters related to worship, there seems to be no compromise or middle ground. One thing's for sure, who-ever wins, there are going to be a lot of losses on both sides. The church itself could be destroyed by the fighting. Then where will they go?

(Begin Track #2: (SFX: Cannonfire with close explosion, debris.)

Refugee #1: That's it, it's starting to spread out into the neighborhood. I'm getting out of here and never coming back. I wouldn't get too close if I were you, either side might start sniping at you! *(He runs off, ducking and weaving.)*

(Pamela turns back to the camera.) Well, we seem to have confirmation that the conflict originated in the church, and threatens to engulf the surrounding homes. We're going to try to get closer and see if we can talk to some of the combatants and get the whole story.

(Another man, obviously wounded, staggers onstage toward them from behind Pam, from stage left. He is groaning and holding his side.)

Pamela: Sir! Please, I'm with the TV station, please tell us what's happening over on the front?

Refugee #2: *(Stops and leans over to catch his breath, holding his side the whole time.)* Just a minute while I get my second wind.

Pamela: We've been watching the battle from over here, but you came from the heart of the conflict. Whose side are you on?

Refugee #2: I'm on the side of the right!

Pamela: And what is your side fighting for? What are you hoping to accomplish here?

Refugee #2: We want to do God's will! And God's will is that we use His money wisely, and spend it on the best. His house should look and sound better than any of the other churches around! New carpeting, new songbooks, new padding in the pews, new everything! If you don't move forward, you're standing still!

Pamela: I'm a little confused here. If the other churches are also God's house, why are you trying to make them look bad by comparison?

Refugee #2: *(Looking at her askance.)* You ask the dumbest questions. Ours *has* to look better than the others to show that God is more pleased with **us** than **them!**

Pamela: And that is determined by which has the most money?

Refugee #2: Now, you're catching on! Financial blessings are a sure sign of God's approval. The more we spend to look and sound good, the more we show that we are making God happy, and that we're doing His will! And the more we do His will, the more money we'll have!

Pamela: That reasoning sounds a little circular. So you feel God is on your side and not the other?

Refugee #2: *Of course* He's on our side! Our side is the *right* side, and God is always with the right side, because He's always right! And with God, you're on the winning side!

Pamela: Then, why aren't you winning?

Refugee #2: Well, we... *(He does a double-take, then narrows his eyes at her suspiciously.)* You must be from the enemy's camp.

Pamela: No, I'm just a neutral observer.

Refugee #2: No, neutral you cannot be. If you're not with us, you're against us! *(He starts to back off and leave in the direction he was going.)* Light can have no fellowship with darkness. Flee from the wrath to come!