

## **Advent message instructive for all**

I feel compelled to share part of a text from the prophet Isaiah, heard Sunday by millions in many different churches. Written 2,700 years ago, how long will it take for us to listen and rise up to embody these words of hope? "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (*Isaiah 2:4*).

They are words our country's president probably heard in worship Sunday. Think where we might be today if the more than \$1 trillion a year spent by the world's nations on war and military hardware had been invested to meet the desperate physical, mental, social and spiritual needs of people on planet Earth. We reap in anguished human suffering what we have sown in failing to put our priorities in the right place.

Sunday began the time to prepare for the light of God's "coming to" us with peace. "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord" (*Isaiah 2:5*) and learn not to learn war anymore.

**—PAUL L. HAMMER**

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