

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### Use of Members' Homes During the Feast

With everyone beginning to make definite plans for the Feast, it is necessary to address a problem that occurred at the Feast last year. At one site there were hard feelings over how much should be paid for the use of a member's home during the Feast. This kind of problem can be easily resolved if both parties are willing to do one thing--give.

The fact that motels and other establishments might charge large amounts for their accommodations is no justification to also rent one's own home to a member for a large sum. If the renter only uses the home for eight days, that's only one-fourth of a month. In no case should the amount exceed the normal monthly rent or mortgage payment.

On the other hand, the Feast-goer who wants to live in another member's home during the Feast should not assume that it should be cheap. If he feels there are advantages to renting a home instead of a motel or condominium, he should be willing to pay for them.

Any of you ministers who are aware of members wanting to rent a home or rent out their own home should advise them to be more willing to give than to get.

### Charter Bus to SEP, Minnesota (ANNOUNCE WHERE APPLICABLE)

A Church member is currently arranging a charter bus for SEP campers along the route from Florida to Minnesota. This is not a bus trip organized by headquarters, but the Y.O.U. Office was asked to inform the local churches. If interested in having your child ride the bus, call Mr. Frank Hindman at 803-232-2628 or 803-879-2771 for details. Those wanting their children to ride to the first session must notify Mr. Hindman by May 24th. June 1st is the notification deadline for the second and third sessions.

### Questions and Answers

Question: Is it all right to have a woman director for the Church choir?

Answer: Women should not direct adult choirs in God's Church. There are a number of reasons for this. The primary reason is that the choir director is in a position of leadership and therefore must exercise authority over the individual choir members--both men and women. Having a woman in this position would be contrary to Paul's instruction concerning women's conduct within the Church and does not set a right example for the congregation.

International News

German-speaking Area In the month of April the KLAR & WAHR subscription list totaled 105,000 for the first time in the 21-year history of the German-language edition of The PLAIN TRUTH. As a result we are beginning to feel the impact of increasing mail response. One hundred percent more mail arrived this month as compared to April last year when our subscription list totaled 55,500.

Regular mail (letters and postcards) for the month was up 85%. Among these cards and letters was a noticeable trend in requests for visits and information about God's Church. It's very encouraging to see how the magazine, along with the 61% more booklets sent out thus far this year, are bringing about such a positive response.

The PLAIN TRUTH ad in Germany's largest TV magazine, HORZU, has resulted in 15,580 responses to date (May 6th). Although not as high a response as hoped for, we still have reached our goal of less than DM 10 per subscriber. Our cost per response is presently DM 8.07 or \$3.36. The ad in DER SPIEGEL is still the most successful with 21,933 responses to date, which is a DM 4.13 or \$1.72 cost per subscriber.

For the Feast of Unleavened Bread, 662 German-speaking brethren met in five locations on the first day, including one in East Germany. The attendance was up 11% over 1981 and the offering up 12.4%.

New Zealand The brethren in this part of the world were blessed by a visit from Dr. and Mrs. Herman L. Hoeh during the Passover-Unleavened Bread season. Dr. Hoeh gave sermons in Auckland, Wellington, Fiji and Tonga during his visit, and about 85% of the members and families in the region were able to travel to one of these locations to hear him.

A total of 626 brethren took the Passover this year in 12 locations, and 1,074 attended Unleavened Bread holy day services. The holy day offerings showed an increase of 10% over last year's figures, and a 65% increase over the 1980 figures.

God is continuing to bless us with fine increases in income. This month's income topped last April's by 24.7%, bringing the year-to-date increase to 26.9%. Over 8,000 items of mail were received during April, and the year-to-date mail increase now stands at 41.5% over the first four months of 1981. White mail for April was 500% higher than last April, reflecting our current series of newspaper ads and our stepped-up PLAIN TRUTH newsstand distribution. At present we're receiving about 500 newsstand responses per month, and almost exactly 50% of these people are requesting THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY along with a regular subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH.

The newsstands in Wellington, the capital, are being noticed by members of Parliament. During April one MP wrote to request a subscription, plus a number of booklets, and another, New Zealand's Minister of Maori Affairs and Police, the Hon. Ben Couch, quoted The PLAIN TRUTH to a newspaper reporter who later published the quote in an article. Dr. Hoeh and Regional Director Peter Nathan were invited to spend sometime at Mr. Couch's home while Dr. Hoeh was in the Wellington area.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's editorial, "Why Churches are Divided," in the March, 1982 PLAIN TRUTH evoked much interest. Two months later we are still receiving requests for more information about the Church, particularly as to why we claim to be God's only true Church. A noticeable influx of visit requests nationwide was generated by this extremely effective article.

The month ended with two separate radio stations showing signs of interest in The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast. This represents quite a breakthrough as the program has been off the air in New Zealand for the past few years. We're hoping and praying that the broadcast will be back on radio here in the very near future.

#### Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We've just returned from the fourth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program, round number two. Thank you very much for giving the ministers and their wives the opportunity to come in to headquarters, and thank you for coming over to speak to us on the second afternoon. We want to thank all the ministers and others who spoke to us, and we appreciate the warm hospitality and fellowship. The second round did seem better than the first, especially in that it covered some of the areas not gone into before. The information we received will help the Church grow in love and unity even more.

David and Sandra Mills

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Carolyn and I wanted to express our deep appreciation for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. I know God gives us all meat in due season and I feel as though the whole program was tailored just for me. I really appreciate it. As I have told the brethren here again and again, God has truly put together a fine, converted, loyal team in headquarters, all of whom have been "tried by fire" through the years. It was very inspiring to us to see the beautiful attitudes and spirit of cooperation that exists at headquarters. Thanks again.

Marc and Carolyn Masterson

Mr. Tkach:

Recently a member told me he thought the spring holy days were super--very beneficial to him. But then he thought to himself that he'd better wait to see if fruit was produced from what he'd received.

That's the same way I feel about MRP II, and fruit is being produced. We are breaking all kinds of attendance records out here. Also, there have been several spectacular healings. We came home very enthusiastic and inspired. The inspiration has not faded yet. I hope it never does.

Linda and I have commented often about the unity that was very evident at HQ. We are trying to carry that unity over to this area in every way we can.

Thanks so much to you and all the others who helped to make the program so beneficial.

Art and Linda Dyer

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.--LARRY W. GREIDER: I really appreciate Mr. Armstrong's fabulous example and know that the Church here feels the excitement of the Work on the move. I see a real desire on most people's behalf to work on personal problems and get more solidly behind HQ. By the way, I also appreciate Mr. Tkach and the rest of the MS staff and thank them for their example and hard work.

GLENDALE/RESEDA, CA--RONALD W. LAUGHLAND: Number and quality of new PM's encouragingly up! Have so many asking for baptismal counseling that I can hardly keep up with new contacts. This is the kind of hard work I love. Mr. Armstrong's positive leadership and Christ's blessings are very apparent.

BALTIMORE, MD--ROY DEMAREST: Large increase in the number of new PM's. These PM's are for the most part good prospects. Most are coworkers and taking the Correspondence Course.

HARRISBURG, PA--JIM ROSENTHAL: Last year was a very slow year for new letters of all kinds. So far this year we have received 19 which is three times last year's number at this time. The total last year was 41. The most responsive seem to be women living alone. About 60% of the congregation is composed of females. It would be interesting to know what the percentage is worldwide. Thanks very much for instituting the new section "Questions and Answers" in the PGR. It will be just one more way we can be back "on the track."

SAN JOSE/APTOS, CA--LEROY COLE: Unemployment is still a problem in the Monterrey area and is affecting several Church members. However, the general attitude of the Church is very positive and a number of new people are attending. Mr. Waterhouse's sermon was very encouraging to the brethren.

KNOXVILLE, TN--DAVID ORBAN: More people suffering financially as a result of U.S. economic conditions and spreading unemployment. This is also causing men with unconverted wives more difficulty when paying tithes.

SOMERSET, KY--MEL DAHLGREN: The Y.E.S. lessons are absolutely superb. Our children are REALLY enjoying them! Thank you very much for all the work that's gone into them. It's going to pay off greatly!

GREENVILLE, S.C.--RON JAMESON: PLAIN TRUTH distribution is booming in the area. The brethren are excited about that and also about Mr. Armstrong's great programs on television that we have been privileged to see in our area since January.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

This week (May 10-14) and the first day of next week are a time of "testing" for the College. Graduation is now set for Wednesday, May 19th instead of Friday the 21st, as previously planned. This earlier date was chosen so that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong could give the commencement address before leaving on his trip to Britain and Greece.

Last Sunday, Imperial School had its annual field day and there was a good attendance. This coming Sunday, May 16, we will have the Ambassador College field day, which all of us are looking forward to very much.

God has really blessed the College during this present year. Mr. Richard Ames, Director of Admissions, just informed me that during the entire college year we have lost only six students out of the 200 who enrolled in the freshmen class last August. We feel this is probably the lowest number of students ever to drop out of A.C. (of a class anywhere near that size) in the history of Ambassador. We may have to drop a few students due to personal academic inadequacies, financial difficulties, etc. at the end of this semester, but we will not know exactly how many until some time next week.

Last evening (Tuesday, the 11th) we held the senior banquet in the beautiful lower lounge of the Ambassador Auditorium. Besides the senior class, members of the Advisory Council of Elders and various College administrators were present. Even though Mr. Armstrong had a very busy day, he attended the senior banquet and really enjoyed being with the graduating seniors on this gala occasion.

After a delicious dinner served by the juniors, the senior class of 1982 presented Mr. Armstrong with a beautifully-executed coat of arms of the "Armstrong" clan. (The name "Armstrong" was first given to a loyal subject of the King of Scotland for a valorous deed in the 1300's.) I thought the following quote concerning the history of this ancient Scottish family would be of interest to you ministers.

There is a traditional story that the progenitor of the Armstrong clan was Fairbairn, an armourbearer of a king of Scotland who went to the assistance of his master when the king had his horse killed under him in battle. Fairbairn, grasping the king by the thigh, set him on his own horse. For this service the king granted Fairbairn lands on the Borders, and gave to him the name Armstrong. The first family of the name on record in Scotland is found in Liddesdale in 1376 (The Clans and Tartans of Scotland, by Robert Bains).

On the Armstrong coat of arms appears "An arm embowed, proper" with the motto: "Invictus Maneo" (I remain unvanquished). In the coat of arms which the seniors presented to Mr. Armstrong, they substituted the words "Recapture True Values" in the place of "Invictus Maneo."

It is interesting to note that there are many names in the Bible God had a hand in choosing. He saw to it that various ones were given a name at birth which would in some way tie in with their lives, or with the lives of their

descendants. For example, Jacob (Heb. heel-catcher or supplanter) had his name changed to Israel (Heb. prevailer or overcomer with God).

Is it not possible that when God decided to choose a man to be the human head of His end-time Work, under Jesus Christ, that He chose one who would be a strong-armed warrior for God? The Bible reveals that we are all spiritual warriors (II Tim. 2:3,4; Eph. 6:10-17). It is also interesting that Mr. Armstrong's first name, Herbert, means "bright warrior" or "glorious warrior."

Of course, we know Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly said that our real strength is not physical, but spiritual. Just recently Mr. Armstrong reminded the ministers attending the MRP that we all need to keep in mind the true source of our accomplishments in God's Work: "Not by [human] might, nor by [human] power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6). (Also see Isaiah 40:1-10.)

It is very good to have another group of ministers and their wives here in Pasadena attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Mr. Armstrong gave them an inspiring address on Monday. We ministers here at HQ always look forward to seeing each new group of God's servants arrive for their session of the MRP.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

#### UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

##### Young People Drawn to the Work's Literature and Broadcasts

One of the most interesting and encouraging trends in mail response is the increasing number of children and teenagers writing about their interest in the ways of God.

Many children of Church members are expressing their appreciation of YOUTH 82, the Y.E.S. lessons, our other literature and Mr. Armstrong's sermons and programs. But we are also receiving many letters from children who have not had any exposure to God's Church! They write about their interest in world conditions, their future and the teachings of the Bible. It is evident that the attention of all these children is increasingly being directed to spiritual matters.

The Work's literature will have an even greater impact on the young people in the world as YOUTH 82 is offered to the public. Last weekend (May 8-9) when Mr. Armstrong offered YOUTH 82 on the telecast, 3,915 callers requested the magazine.

Below are some letters from young people illustrating the above trend:

##### Letters From Church Youth

This is the second time I am sending my tithe. After I tithe I feel good. At first I had the worst attitude. I didn't want to give any of my very first earnings. But I didn't understand. I still have so much that I have to learn now. But I hope I will in time. Your YOUTH 82 magazine helps me understand an awful lot. I hope your health keeps up so you can teach kids and parents the right attitude. I get way off base....Mr. Armstrong, I love you!

And I love everybody in the world except Satan and his demons. But most of all, God is who I love.

L.S.--Age 11 (Superior, WI)

Thank you for the Youth Bible Lessons that you send to children in the Church. I am very interested in them. I like reading them and I like coloring them. My sister cannot wait until she gets hers.

M.H.--Age 7 (Chester, United Kingdom)

Thank you very much for the Youth Bible Lessons. It is very exciting to have my own mail. We are saving them for the Sabbath day to make it very special. I like you and watch you on TV. Also, you talk on the radio. I remember to pray for you and hope Jesus Christ will come back soon.

M.S.--Age 5 (Torbay, Newfoundland, Canada)

I'm a daily listener to your radio show, even though I'm only 12. I heard your offer for the BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST. I don't know why, but I would just like to have it. I get up at 4:30 a.m. because in our area the show comes on at 5:00 a.m. I get up then so I can take notes, too.

I want God's Kingdom to come very soon, because kids at school are giving me trouble, and it just sounds neat. I'm trying to pray, to change from worse to bad, and from bad to good. I believe God and you all the way and I hope that God will keep you His apostle.

David--Age 12 (Ohio)

The broadcasts you make are so interesting. When I want to sleep in on the Sabbath morning, I hear the broadcast being turned on. I get my Bible and rush downstairs to watch it. I find them very, very enjoyable. I want to do research on the Bible sometime.

S.L.--Age 8 (Burnab, B.C., Canada)

### Letters From Other Youth

I've really enjoyed reading your publications. They keep me in tune with God and current events. Thank you for sending them to me.

I am a subscriber to The PLAIN TRUTH, the Correspondence Course, and have many, many of your books. I've just recently sent away for YOUTH 82 because I need something to read and your publications are the best I know. I am a cartoonist and can't wait until I finish my senior year in high school so I can start on my journey in life to which God has appointed me. I plan to write publications like yours, draw Christian comics, and whatever else God may lead me to do. Thanks again for your literature.

T.B.--Age 17 (Indianapolis, IN)

Thank you very much for all your booklets. I love to read them. I am a 13-year-old girl and before I subscribed to your books and magazines, I didn't know what the word "faith" meant. Now I know

it means to trust someone or something with all your heart, like I have faith in God Almighty and His Son, Jesus. What I am trying to say is thank you very much for helping me open my heart to Jesus. I am hoping to continue to receive your books and magazines and hope to encourage my children and their children to get the same information. Thank you for helping me realize the true values of my life.

L.C.--Age 13 (East Orange, NJ)

I usually don't watch church shows. I go to church every Sunday. But this morning when I started to watch your show, it got me interested. I'm 14 years old. I don't drink, take drugs, smoke, or anything like that--but I feel I'm not righteous enough. I don't know what to do.

I'm writing to request your two books, THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT EASTER and THE RESURRECTION WAS NOT ON SUNDAY. With the books, could you please send a note telling me what I should do?

R.M.--Age 14 (Montgomery, NY)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE FALKLANDS WAR--PROVING GROUND FOR WORLD WAR III? TIME magazine, in its May 17, 1982 issue, draws a portentous parallel between this budding war in the South Atlantic and a previous one. The Battle of the Falklands, reports TIME, has

become a 20th century battle of microchips and computers, of decisions and reactions far too fast for the human brain to make. Says a weapons expert for JANE'S YEARBOOKS, the authoritative military reference volumes: "Today's wars are a battle of computer vs. computer."

Just as the Spanish civil war in the 1930s proved to be a testing ground for arms and strategies later used in World War II, military planners around the world are viewing the battle of the South Atlantic as a trial of high-technology weapons, ships and aircraft never before used in combat. Britain's Sea Harrier, a vertical/short-takeoff and -landing (V/STOL) attack plane, is winning high praise for its maneuverability. The plane can stop dead in mid-air, turn on a dime and leap straight upward to dodge an oncoming enemy missile....

Perhaps greater attention is being given to a new generation of missiles and bombs....The Tigerfish MK 24 torpedo used by the British...speeds toward its target at about 58 m.p.h., playing out [two] thin wires attached to the submarine's computer [from twin spindles in its tail] and changing direction as the computer dictates. In the final stages of the attack, when the submarine has determined that the torpedo is heading in the right direction, an automatic homing system takes over and guides the torpedo to its target. The superquiet Tigerfish is "one of the most deadly underwater weapons yet produced," says the JANE'S expert. "It is virtually impossible for the target to know that the torpedo is approaching."



The TIME article then reviews the first-in-combat use of other deadly weapons--the British Sea Skua and Seawolf missiles and the now infamous French-made Exocet missile. The French developers of the Super Etendard Fighter and Exocet missiles, which combined to sink the H.M.S. Sheffield, were said to have exulted openly about the "victory for French electronics."

Then, too, is the expanded use of earth-orbiting satellites for military intelligence. It has now been learned that it was a Russian satellite that beamed to the Argentines the exposed position of the ill-fated H.M.S. Sheffield. Based upon this initial sighting, the Argentines further refined the Sheffield's position via their own aerial reconnaissance aircraft, then sent the Etendard on its way. The whole process took about four hours. Russian technical help thus proved extremely valuable.

The big question that the British have now is: where are those two German-made subs the Argentines have? The subs have modern torpedoes which could deal a deadly blow to the converted liners carrying British troops--the Canberra and the Queen Elizabeth II.

#### Debate in Congress Over What Kind of Navy

Defense of surface naval vessels against such powerful offensive weapons is becoming increasingly difficult. This difficulty is the prime reason for the debate in the U.S. Congress over which way the U.S. Navy develops in the future. Should the Navy deploy additional 90,000 ton 3.4 billion dollar aircraft carriers, a policy advocated by the "big punch" school? Or should it rely upon smaller carriers plus a larger number of smaller, more maneuverable ships, a program pushed by the "dispersal school." The sinking of the Sheffield certainly shows that small ships are vulnerable, but those advocating smaller surface vessels point out the incalculable loss of just one Nimitz class carrier, plus its load of 95 aircraft--some of them costing about \$25 million a piece--to say nothing of a crew of 6,000 men! In a special report entitled "Are Big Warships Doomed," NEWSWEEK magazine (May 17, 1982 issue) says this:

A carrier task force is a strategic contradiction: an offensive armada most of whose parts exist to defend itself....Submarine commanders who have tracked U.S. carriers during naval exercises are almost contemptuous of their prey. Writing in the journal U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS, Comdr. John L. Byron said that the carriers' anti-submarine protection "often resembles Swiss cheese."

Asked at a Congressional hearing how long U.S. nuclear-powered carriers would last in an all-out war, retiring Adm. Hyman Rickover answered bluntly: "About two days." The big carriers are so open to attack that when a show of U.S. power was called for during the Iranian hostage crisis, the Navy refrained from sending a supercarrier into the Persian Gulf.

The remainder of the NEWSWEEK article shows how vulnerable the U.S. fleet would be to a Soviet blue-ocean navy composed now of 1,179 ships, nearly twice the number of the 600-ship Navy the Pentagon wants. Moscow's fleet includes 375 submarines. In a battle near land the carrier task forces would also be assaulted by waves of Soviet "Backfire" airplanes, each

carrying two cruise missiles with ranges of 500 miles and speeds of two to three times faster than sound. Admiral Stansfield Turner, U.S. Navy, retired, in a companion piece to the NEWSWEEK Special Report, wrote the following in arguing against more super-carriers:

The Sheffield case points out how difficult it is to harden a surface ship so that it can weather missile attacks. The extent of damage to the Sheffield was far greater than one would expect from a single missile. We must surmise that it chanced to strike some vulnerable point that ignited a chain reaction of destruction. If a destroyer has even one sensitive point, an aircraft carrier has many of them. Many of the vulnerable points on a carrier--aviation fuel lines, bombs and planes loaded with fuel on the flight deck--cannot possibly be hidden behind defensive shielding. We once armored the sides of our battleships, but at Pearl Harbor they were sunk by bombs through the decks, not the sides. We should not follow that battleship folly once again, especially since the new missiles are becoming so accurate that they can be guided to the specific points of greatest vulnerability...The whole history of warfare is littered with cases of military planners preparing for yesterday's battles....It would be a shame if the human tragedy of the Sheffield falsely led us to perpetuate a dying form of naval warfare [the big carrier].

Nevertheless, indications are that the U.S. is going to be moving in the direction of a 15-carrier task force fleet--up from 11 today. Moreover, the Navy is hauling four battleships out of retirement, with the intention of refurbishing them as cruise-missile platforms. That's like "digging up General Custer" snides a critic of the plan.

#### War Hysteria Grips an Emotional Nation

Argentina is in the grip of pride-swelling war hysteria. One wonders if the Argentines really know what war is really like. The feeling seems to be that a successful war against Britain will really put Argentina on the map. "We're going to clobber the English so hard," blustered a Buenos Aires cabbie, "they'll know who the Argentines are." Says TIME magazine in its May 17, 1982 article, "A Blue-and-White Frenzy":

Not surprisingly, government officials have been delighted by the groundswell of popular support. "They are absolutely euphoric," said a senior aide in the office of President Leopoldo Galtieri. "Everyone's dancing in the hallways. It's like a party"....A government-controlled propaganda campaign...effectively plays on the Argentines' long-frustrated dream of national greatness and destiny.

The celebrated Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges, in the May 19, 1982 issue of NEW REPUBLIC writes of some of the earlier warring gauchos (cowboys) in Argentina and neighboring Uruguay. His description of them is as applicable today: "To them war was not a systematic plan of action but a manly sport."

Notice too this report, received over our Associated Press news wire on May 12:

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina AP -- After decades of studying his compatriots, the late historian Raul Scalabrini Ortiz said "Argentines don't think; they feel....They either act or refrain from acting. But they do not reflect."

The "Argentine paradox"--the emotional core in an outwardly sophisticated people--has puzzled historians, sociologists and students of Latin America for years.

This character--influenced by religion, culture, language and even climate and geography--is one reason there are no easy explanations for the Falkland Islands crisis. Scalabrini Ortiz wrote extensively on the subject from the 1920s through the 1950s, and his controversial works were frequently banned.

"Argentines want idols--of any type--who polarize their feelings and before whom they can throw themselves totally and wildly," the historian said. "Argentines are not interested in the people who carry out acts but rather in the moment in which such people become magnets for Argentine emotions." Scalabrini Ortiz contended that although the millions of Europeans who emigrated here maintained sophisticated Continental appearances, Argentina transformed them into ungovernable individualists "who steam-rollered and unhinged all principles of European society."

Before the Falklands war started, North Americans and Europeans may only have known Argentina as the land of unpredictability and impulsiveness portrayed in the musical "Evita." The play, a big hit in London and on Broadway, tells more or less accurately how in the 1940s and '50s, masses of screaming Argentines made bigger-than-life cult figures of dictator Juan Peron and his beautiful, ambitious wife Eva.

Scalabrini Ortiz wrote of his countrymen: "Argentines are the first children of a father named No One who are immune to anything that was not born with them and they are people who ask: 'What's the difference, if we're all going to die anyway?'"

V.S. Naipaul, the Trinidad-born novelist, made a close study of the Argentines and their country over a five-year period. The TIMES of London, on May 4, summarized Naipaul's findings in this manner:

Argentina, Naipaul says, is a nation living a lie, remote from reality, unwilling to face the truths of its own history...the Argentines will be overbearing if they succeed in their present adventure, but if they fail their response will be a servile attempt to laugh the whole thing away: "Why on earth did you take us so seriously? You over-reacted. We never meant harm."

It will be impossible, the writer says, to negotiate a solution without further use of force...."A lot of the trouble is the language, so crammed with rhetoric," says Naipaul...."It drives them into absurd postures. One must not be misled. When they speak of fighting to the last drop of blood it means: 'We are almost ready to give up,' and when a military communique says we are fighting valiantly to defend national sovereignty it means:

'Things have gone wrong.' Psychologically they are extremely dangerous people."

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Finally here are excerpts from a letter I received the other day from our minister in Argentina. It gives some interesting personal insights into conditions in that suddenly war-gripped country.

Greetings from Argentina....I thought I would drop a few lines and make some comments on the present Anglo-Argentine war.... Regarding our activities here, all is well so far. None of the family members of the Church, both here [in Ezeisa, near Buenos Aires] and in Bahia Blanca (headquarters of the Argentine Navy) is affected by the conflict. Also, to the best of my knowledge, we don't have any young men of draft military age ready to be drafted into service. Besides, there are many young men, women and even older men who are volunteering for service in the armed forces. All the members in the Ezeisa and Bahia Blanca Churches are perfectly safe and out of danger for the moment.

In Bahia Blanca we have a Church of about 100 in attendance. Continuous blackouts throughout the city and private homes have [been in effect] since the British attacked the Islands on Saturday, May 2. I just happened to be there just in time for some action. During the blackouts, cars and all other vehicles must paint the headlights, the chrome areas, etc. with white removable paint or cover them with special paper for the occasion. In the homes and neighborhoods, people are asked to keep the inside lights to a minimum and not visible from outside. The civil defense is very strict and heavy fines were issued to those who did not comply with the rules.

Many citizens of Bahia Blanca are afraid that the British may attack the important Naval Base at Puerto Belgrano, located only a few miles from the city. In the vicinity, there is also the largest petrochemical complex in the country, if not in all of Latin America....

Information handed out to me here indicates that the armed forces are eager and trigger happy to fight the British. The emotional fervor, passion, chants and other display of patriotic manifestations, largely triggered by the military junta through much propaganda, is evident everywhere. Every citizen wants the Malvinas so bad, that [he or she] is willing to drop every bit of blood to get them! The whole country is united in backing up the soldiers on the front line. Tons of food are being donated-- clothing, cigarettes, beverages, books, magazines, etc. A patriotic fund-raising campaign has been started, millions have been collected already. Many citizens donate one working day a week to give to the patriotic fund. Many more give blood and whatever they can. Many women volunteer to be nurses up on the front lines. Even 150 American Mormons were seen giving blood and supporting Argentina in the war.

In the meantime would appreciate a little prayer for us here....  
All the best to you and your crew. Warm regards!

God speed the day when people in nations of the world will get their emotions "in tow," receive God's Spirit, and set their collective sights on productive, worthwhile efforts.

It's interesting in this light that the British troops aboard the Canberra have been prepared for all the possible pitfalls and dangers when they finally "hit the beach" on the Falklands. Specifically, they have been warned to avoid the elephant seal wallows, deceptively concealed sloughs of sluffed off seal skins mixed with excrement and pools of urine, which can suck a man to his death in seconds, much more deadly than quicksand.

Nations too, unknowingly influenced by Satan, get sucked into wars and great national tragedies, even without realizing it at times. Only when nations quit wallowing in self-centered nationalism and relinquish their sovereignty to a higher power--the Kingdom of God--will we have world peace.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau