

INSTALLMENT TEN

The war's climax came in 1943 with the successful defense of Stalin-The Germans had by this grad. time been dealt a crippling blow to their air force in Africa. Russians pointed out scornfully that this African campaign involved few men; however, it required masses of highly complicated transport and machines

Furthermore, the RAF and the Eighth Air Force in England were by then pounding German industry, and the Germans had to strip the Russian front of Messerschmitts to defend their home factories, so that for the first time the Russians had superiority in the air. Lend-Lease, including thousands of trucks, was now pouring in, the German lines of communication were perilously extended, and for the first time it was possible for a Russian army to move quickly out to envelop and cut off a German army, as theirs had been enveloped so

many times before. Russia's factories behind the Urals were working; new ones were equipped with American machine



tools. By the summer of 1944 at least half of the Red Army's road transportation was being supplied by 210,000 American military trucks, 40,000 jeeps and 30,000 other military motor vehicles. She also had 5,600 American tanks and tank destroyers, and was using \$225,000,000 worth of machine tools-a total of \$5,750,-000,000 worth of Lend-Lease aid. At last Russia's crushing superiority in manpower could become effec

But as the Anglo-American offensive opened in France, the Soviet government loyally kept her agreement, made at Teheran, to start a drive from the east. To do this, she was drafting for front-line duty men who had already been discharged with wounds and others previously rejected for serious physical defects -the dregs of any nation's power. But the Soviet government kept faith

One reason for the success of the Red Army is that the breach between its old-line, experienced of-ficers and the Communist Party is now completely healed. Originally the Red Army was burdened with a system of political commissars whose duty it was to watch the officers, and whose authority could under certain circumstances exceed that of the unit's regular command-

items together, nine-tenths of what a hand-to-mouth basis, dependent on it raises must be sold to the State his government-controlled salary. at the low-pegged official price.

But not all. A small surplus of produce usually remains, and this s distributed among the farmers, free either to eat it or bring it to town for sale in the free market at any price. This is also true of what each farmer raises in the small kitchen garden tract which is allotted him. It is supposedly only large enough for his family's needs, but usually something is left over.

In America commission men make the rounds of farm houses in trucks, buying surplus vegetables for resale in town. In the Soviet Union both the farmer and the commission man would get a five-year sentence, be-cause that is exploitation. To avoid this crime, the Soviet farmer must take time to hitch up and go to market where he sells personally what he raises, and the hungry housewife may go by subway clear across Moscow to find him.

The rouble-per-kilo prices I translate into American dollars and cents per pound. But remember that on this same basis, our Russian warworker gets a total of \$20 a week.

At the Rynok, she may buy eggs at \$13.10 a dozen. She may buy as big a chunk of bread as she wants at the rate of \$5.67 per pound. Mutton (or perhaps goat)—a bargain at \$11.34 per pound—more than half her week's wages. Sugar beet at 80 cents a pound. Honey at \$15 a pound. An old lady is selling a calf's head

and its four knuckles at \$18 for the collection, with the hair on and glassy eyes open, attracting a few

Another wrinkled old lady is selling a bunch of peonies, asking (and getting) \$1.60 per flower. A man is selling a crudely made wooden coat-hanger for \$1.02. This sale is legal in Russia because the seller whit-tled it himself. Potatoes are \$1.05 cents a pound. Ripe currants in a jelly glass at a dollar without the glass. Cheese for \$6 a pound. Stockings, slightly used and care-

fully mended, cost \$6.25 for the cot-ton ones and \$25 for the rayon pair. A man is selling his extra pair of shoes, somewhat worn but look fairly stout, for 1,000 roubles-\$80 in our

money-exactly a month's salary for our warworker. A pair of new evening shoes would cost \$333.33. Here a girl is selling a sweatersince it is warm now-and this is a real English camel's hair or cash mere. And any Russian would call it a bargain at \$56. Still, this is June. She could get much more next October-but she's hungry now. June. However, remember that these food prices listed above are excep-tional; our \$80 a month Soviet warworker has already bought with her ration book at the government-controlled store about nine-tenths of the food she uses and has paid only \$6.50

per month for it, at low-pegged, state prices. The Soviet government's problem was basically that of our own: its people were getting high war wages, but there was nothing to spend them on. We solve it partly by taxation and partly by selling our people bonds, so that after the war they might sell the bonds and buy merchandise at normal prices. War bonds are sold in Russia, many even bear interest. But a large propor tion of Soviet war financing consists of outright gifts solicited from individuals, factories, and co-operatives, either in cash or in kind. Also the government gets money by charging fantastic prices for luxu-

Lesson subjects and Scripture texts se-lected and copyrighted by International Council of Religious Education, used by A FRIEND WHO LEARNED In America a man who saves money is regarded as a sound and LESSON 'TEXT-John 11: 7, 8, 16; 20;

IMPROVED

Lesson for May 19

TO BELIEVE

Unafraid of the threats of men,

Jesus was about to go once more into Judea. On his last two visits there, the Jews had sought to kill

him, namely, at the feast of taber-nacles (Juhn 8:59) and at the feast

He was not one to draw back for

the fear of men when the Father's will led him forward in his service

to humanity. Lazarus was dead, and Mary and Martha needed him

Then came a fine expression of the loyalty of Thomas. If his Lord was going to face death, he was will-

ing to go along and die with him. Let us recognize that here was a

man of real courage, willing to show his loyalty even by giving his life. There 's something fine about that attitude, and something which

shows us that when this man later expressed doubt, it was not the silly and shallow unbelief of a

trifler. This man loved the Lord and

served him, and yet he failed him.

When we think we are strong, we had better watch out lest we fail.

Let us be clear and triumphant in

our declaration of loyalty to Christ, both by word and by life. And then

let us set a double guard against

II. Faithless Failure (John 16:24,

He had been willing to die for his

Lord, or with him, but now the Lord had been taken by wicked hands and

crucified. He and the disciples

were alone to face a hostile world;

The awful day of crucifixion

He had been thinking of those

Jesus died, and that is a precious

truth; but one must not stop there, for a dead Saviour is no Saviour

at all. Thomas got sidetracked in his thinking. Let us not make the

same mistake. Another reason for his failure

was that he did not go to the meet-

ing of his brethren. Perhaps he

did not feel like going, and did not

think it was any use to go. Ah, but that's just the time one needs

the fellowship of other believers. Go.

The Lord was there and Thomas missed him. We, too, will miss the Lord and his blessing if we stay away from his house and the meet-

Having gone thus far in discour-

and you will meet the Lord!

ing of his people.

at least so it seemed to them.

the enemy of our souls.

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rection.

Thomas next appears in

of dedication (John 10:31).

and he was going to them.

pression of

16).

valuable citizen. In Russia he is viewed with suspicion as a hoard-er, a potential capitalist to be watched for the criminal tendency of exploiting his fellow workers by Doubt and faith-both seem to come to the hearts and minds of men. Yet they are directly contra-

giving them jobs. Into one of these government-owned "Commercial Stores" steps dictory to one another and cannot exist together. To believe is to drive out doubt, and when doubt comes in, faith loses its grip. our \$20 a week Soviet warworker without her ration book. This black market is perfectly legal—the gov-ernment makes the profit—not some racketeer. The cheapest grade of baloney sells for \$13.20 per pound presents a lesson on what a man can do to meet honest doubt and or boiled ham at \$26.46 per pound or bacon at \$24.57 per pound. A dressed how such a man can come out into the sunshine of faith. chicken at only \$13.20 per pound. Beef-about the grade America uses for soup meat-is \$13.62 per

pound, mutton \$13.20, and pickled poind, muton \$15.20, and pickled herring \$13.20 per pound. Luxuries, too. If she plans to have a few friends in for a snack, there is sliced, cooked sturgeon at

\$13.20 per pound, black caviar at \$19.73 per pound; almond meats the same, and also hazel nuts. For an omelette from really fresh eggs (never sure in the free market) at only \$1.25 per egg, and a pint of nice, fresh thick cream for \$8. Swiss cheese at \$20 per pound. Outside this store a long line

stretches around the block; shabby warworkers eager to pay these prices. Inside there is another long line to the cashier's desk. It takes the better part of a day to get in, buy a few items and get out again.

This is one of only twenty "Com-mercial Stores" in Moscow. The government has already tried patriotic appeal; countless drives urging factories and collective farms to buy tanks and planes for the Red Army but this was not enough. There remains considerable money now in the hands of the farmers who

have been selling food at the fantastic free market prices for some time, and have been paying fantas-tic prices for second-hand clothing. The government opened a chain of clothing stores exactly like its commercial food stores, where new, stout, warm clothes, including many luxury items, are on sale at black market prices. Thus, it takes from the farmer all he has saved from selling food in the free market to

city workers. The people do not protest the government taking over the functions of the illegal black market. They

seem glad to buy these things, and count the new shops among the othpreyed heavily upon the mind of Thomas. That is evident from verse er blessings of this society. Some effort is made to present the merchandise attractively, just 25. as our post office would prefer to put out pretty stamps. But it doesn't awful bleeding wounds, and had for-gotten about the promises of resurgreatly matter, any more than Kan-sas particularly cares whether its

auto license tags are prettier or eas-ier to screw on than those of neighboring Oklahoma. The architect who drew the plans for dreary workers' apartment had to please, not the people who live

in it, nor the promoter-owners who hoped to keep it rented, but the government officials who approved his drawings. The tenants live there not because they like its facade or its plumbing, but because it belongs to the factory where they work or because they lack the necessary prestige or political connections to wangle more square meters of living space in a better one.

Under our way of doing things, a man who saves money instead of spending it to have a good time, per-

aged unbelief, it was easy for Thomas to take the next step and



Soil Plans Should **Cover Several Years**

Fertilize to Replace Lost Organic Matter

Stressing that there are no "short cuts" to producing high yields on poor, run-down, overcropped land, Prof. A. L. Lang of the agronomy department, University of Illinois, advised farmers to let soil tests guide their soil improvement and fertilizer program. "When soil tests show strong acid-

ity and a need for limestone, they also indicate a low state of organic matter," he pointed out. "When soils are low in organic matter, they are usually in a state of poor tilth, lack nitrogen and have insufficient Thomas, and his experience fol-lowing the resurrection of our Lord, water holding capacity. Any amount of mineral fertilizers can-Any not be expected to economically raise corn and other grain crops yields until the lime, organic matter We find in Thomas, first, an exand nitrogen requirements of the soil are met." I. Fearless Loyalty (John 11:7, 8,

Lang urged farmers to apply limestone, phosphorus and potash fertilizers for the legume sod crops in accordance with the needs of the land as indicated by chemical tests.

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Phosphate being mined for in-clusion in mixed fertilizer.

Then, he added, grow maximum legume hay crops, either plowing them back into the soil green or as animal manure.

The best method is to plan a business-like, systematic program or action on the farm that will over a period of years return the land to its native state of high and per-

on highly productive soil, mixed fertilizer of the proper grade and properly applied may supply economically a portion of the main-tenance rations and in addition give that extra "umph" so often needed during the early stages of growth, he said. Quickly available plant foods applied near the seed of crops at planting time help overcome many external handicaps such as insect damage, weed competition and unfavorable weather conditions, he concluded.



This swing door provides easy access to any building for small animals. The hinges are bolted to





EMBROIDER these fruits in nat-L ural colors on dining linens. It's just cross-stitch but it looks like gingham applique; use on scarfs, too.





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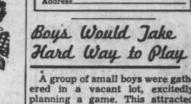
Few motorists can change a tire at night with top speed, efficiency - and safety! Night tire-changing can be hazardous - but "Everendy" flashlights can reduce the danger. First principle, says the Ameri

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ered in a vacant lot, excitedly planning a game. This attracted the attention of a woman passerby, who stopped and inquired as to what the youngsters were go-

"We're gonna play baseball," said one of the youngsters. "Gonna play a game of the United States against the West Indies!"

"Are some of you going to blacken your faces to represent the team from the West Indies, then?" asked the lady. "Oh, no," said the boy. "Some of us will just have to wash our faces."

The political commissars have been absorbed in the army, with regular military rank and duties.

Political education continues, but not to the neglect of military training. Membership in the Communist Party always carries heavy respon-sibility, and this continues in the army. Party members are supposed to set an example to the othersnot only in efficiency but in bravery under fire, and as consequence the Party has had more than its share of casualties. Its membership, formerly 2,500,000, was increased to 4,000,000, but many of them have been killed.

But the Party is strong in the army, and a man who wishes to advance must usually join.

The army's achievements have given it a great pride in itself and some little contempt for the outside

Moscow correspondents have a deep respect for the competence of its leadership and often, when irri-tated by the stupidity of a Russian civilian official, they would remind each other that some of this was temporary, as all the country's really intelligent and efficient men were in the Red Army.

The farmer lives on a collective or state farm, where he does his share of the common work. When the crop is sold, certain overhead expenses must be met. There are substantial state taxes. His collective probably owes money for farm implements and these installments must be paid. The Collective has probably pledged itself to buy a tank for the Red Army. Taking these war bonds) and he will be back on

ries in state-owned stores, thus put ting part of the war on a solid pay-as-you-go basis which would delight a Vermont Republican.

Russians are skeptical about bonds, because a man who owns one has purchasing power the state can't control. His whims constitute a danger to the state economy. He may take a notion to buy before the government is ready to sell. He may prefer a radio instead of a wooder table, and create a sudden shortage in radios!

While dependent on state wages, he is on a hand-to-mouth basis and his purchasing power can be con-trolled. He will get a radio only

when they are ready to make radios, and the first sets will go to those whom the government thinks most deserve them. If he owns a bond, or has hoarded his high wartime wages the whole carefully planned conomy is threatened. The Soviet government has met

this peril most ingeniously. In April of 1944, it reopened "Commercial Stores." In them the government sells you almost any luxury in food or clothing at prices about equal with those in the free market and

without ration coupons. In American terms, the Soviet government runs its own black market as a state enterprise to skim from its workers the bulk of their war wages.

When peace comes, they hope to have most of the worker's savings in the hands of the government



Russia's wheat fields saved that country.

forms a useful act. For out of such savings our factories are built and our farms improved.

These Socialists can argue that when saving and spending are left up to the individual, they can get out of control and wreck a nation's business structure. Panicky saving can stop all business activity and throw millions out of work. They can argue that the greatest waste of capitalism is not the money we spend feeding the unemployed, but the valuable man-hours of work which our nation loses when these millions are either idle, or when they are employed by the state in ways which do not compete with

private business. (TO BE CONTINUED)

His despondency had now rection. reached the place of making unreasonable demands and of discrediting the witness of others.

We are glad that we can close our study on the note of renewed faith and of

III. Full Confession (John 16:26-

29). Note that the Lord was ready domands of Thomfully to meet the demands of Thomas, even though they were on the unreasonable side. That was un-doubtedly because he knew the es-sential fineness and trueness of Thomas.

His doubts were unfortunate and entirely unnecessary, but they were genuine. No real doubter will ever remain one long, for if he brings a genuine doubt to the Lord, he will find it fully met. It is the triffers, those who use their doubts to hide their sins, and those who are unwilling to bring their dark thoughts into the light of the presence of Jesus, who go on doubting year aft-

er year. Notice the comment of Jesus following the glad and complete confession of faith by Thomas. It is a good thing to believe because on has seen and been convinced. That is proper and blessed.

But the real fullness of blessing comes to the one who can rise to faith in Christ because of his word, quite apart from the visible or tangible evidence. This is real Chris-tian faith which declares Christ to be our Lord and our God, the one whom having not seen, we love (I Pet. 1:8)

bolts each. But before bolting hinges to the wall, they are fastened with two large nails to the door as shown. The type of door would be satisfactory on hog houses during winter months.

Clipping Dairy Cows Insures Milk Quality

A few minutes spent clipping the cow's belly, udder, flanks and tail will not only save time of brushing

and washing them but will greatly reduce the bacteria count, according to tests conducted at Michigan State col-

lege. It was found that the count was two to four times high-

er in the case of milk from unclipped cows than from those which had been properly clipped.

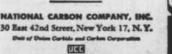
Farm Doors Opened

By Automatic Control Many automatic controls are being applied to reduce the man-hours of labor on the farm. One of the newest is an adaption of the proximity control, so sensitive to any object which comes near, it auto matically throws a switch to open gates when cows gather before milk-ing time. The Minneapolis-Honeywell device is worked in conjunction with an automatic timer, thus preventing gate opening too soon

if you can possibly do so. Next best place is on a straight stretch of road. If you must park on a curve, a light should be set on the road some distance back. Be sure neither you nor a bystander blocks off the view of your tail-light!



In your car or at homeever you need a flashlight-rely only on "Eveready" batteries. Ask for them by name. For "Eveready" batteries have no equals ... that's why you'll find them in more flash-lights than any other battery in the world!



Keep all your tire-S changing tools tied or boxed together, where you can pick them up without searching. Remove your spare before jacking up car: removing it later might push car off jack. If alone, set flashlight on a stone in

convenient position.

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