

Endowment Campaign Progresses



BENJAMIN COLEMAN FISHER

The Reverend Benjamin Coleman Fisher, director of the Gardner-Webb Endowment Campaign, joined the college faculty as professor of English, last fall, coming from Newton, North Carolina, where he was pastor of the First Baptist Church. Mr. Fisher holds an A. B. degree from Wake Forest College, a B. D. from the Andover-Newton Divinity School in Massachusetts, and has done further graduate study at the University of North Carolina. He is married to the former Sara Gehman of Ambler, Pennsylvania. They have two children, David, 6, and Hugh, 3.

Mr. Fisher was released temporarily from the English department to direct the endowment campaign, with the agreement that his new duties will not extend beyond the current calendar year. Mr. Fisher began as director of the campaign on March 15. It is his major task to raise the \$108,000 to complete the \$250,000 endowment campaign which was undertaken two years ago, to meet the stipulation of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

The State Convention, upon assurance of the trustees and interested friends of the college, voted to take Gardner-Webb into the fellowship of colleges. Last year the Convention contributed in excess of \$40,000, or the equivalent of \$800,000 invested at five per cent, to the current support of the college.

The employment of the campaign director was authorized by the trustees of the college at their February 27 meeting, and the committee headed by J. R. Dover, Jr., was directed to appoint Mr. Fisher. The cost of the campaign is being jointly shared by the college and the Gardner and Dover Foundations.

Mr. Fisher has now been at work approximately six weeks and reports splendid progress in the field. Special meetings of the ministers and laymen have been held

in the Kings Mountain, Sandy Run, Gaston and Green River Baptist Associations. These churches have already pledged to raise a large amount of the outstanding balance. The Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations have declared April 25 as Gardner-Webb Sunday, at which time all the churches in these associations are making a special drive for funds for the college. The Green River and Gaston Associations have designated July 18, which is Christian Education Day, as Gardner-Webb Sunday in these associations.

Since this magazine will be at press before actual figures come in, it would not be possible at this time to give any accurate estimate of how much cash will be on hand after April 25, but it is hoped that more than half of the money will have been raised.

A group of trustees and friends of the college, under the leadership of Clifford Hamrick, have organized the Thousand Club, whose object is to secure fifty individuals or corporations who will give a thousand dollars this year. However, the Thousand Club is open to anyone who would like to give a thousand dollars to this campaign. If necessary, this money can be paid over a period of years. Mr. Fisher is very optimistic about meeting our October 1st deadline.