

Presbyterians In The South Plan Big Expansion Program In 1956

Presbyterians in the South, making 1956 a year of special emphasis on Christian higher education, are launching a series of financial campaigns that will, with drives already under way, give more than \$37,000,000 toward capital development and endowment of the 28 colleges and seminaries supported by the church. This figure covers only campaigns ready announced through 1956, although additional fund-raising efforts both before 1956 and afterwards are being planned.

Announcement of this major effort on the part of the 800,000-member Presbyterian Church, U. S. (Southern), was made here today by the denomination's Division of Higher Education, after compiling a list of college synods and Presbytery drives now under way or planned. Dr. Hunter B. Blackely, secretary of the division, stated that the 1956 year of emphasis and these

capital gifts drives, "will seek to call Presbyterian attention to their heritage of leadership in American higher education which includes the establishment of many of the very earliest American universities, and of 49 out of 182 permanent colleges founded in this country prior to 1800."

In addition to the \$37,334,750 being sought through current or projected campaigns, the church will continue its regular support to its colleges, amounting to an average of \$1,150,000, annually. This will provide an estimated \$3,450,000 through 1959 for current expense expenditures.

The recent Ford Foundation grants of \$2,235,900 to 15 of the Presbyterians' four-year colleges in the South will bring the total expected to be made available to the denomination's schools to \$39,570,650 for capital development, and \$3,450,000 for current expenses, or \$43,020,650. This figure does not include most of the current expense funds, approximately 80 per cent of which annually come from student fees, endowment income, and non-denominational support.

Included in the over-all figure are large amounts already pledged to the church's Negro colleges in Tuscaloosa, Ala.; to King College in Bristol, Tenn.; to Louisville and Union Presbyterian Seminaries in Louisville, Ky., and Richmond, Va.; and to Arkansas College, Batesville, Ark. The pledge to Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, amounts to \$1,100,000. That to King College is \$390,000. Those to the seminaries are \$750,000 for Louisville, and \$2,500,000 for Union. And to Arkansas College, in a drive still continuing, already \$510,000 has been pledged.

Smaller amounts, ranging from \$125,000 to \$375,000 have also been pledged to development of Centre College, Danville, Ky.; Presbyterian College, Clinton, S. C.; Southwestern at Memphis, Tenn.; Lees-McRae Junior College, Banner Elk, N. C.; Lees Junior College, Leavenworth, Ky.; and Austin Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas.

Largest major campaigns to be conducted during 1956 will be those by the synods of North Carolina and Texas.

The North Carolina campaign is being built around the approved consolidation of three institutions, one a four year, and the other two two year, colleges. A single major educational four-year college in eastern North Carolina is planned, with an initial drive for \$3,000,000. An additional \$500,000 campaign in North Carolina for support of Westminster Fellowships is planned. Westminster Fellowships are the church's program for students in state-supported colleges.

The Texas Synod campaign will be for more than \$4,500,000, with \$1,720,000 of the figure earmarked for Austin College at Sherman; \$1,430,000 for Austin Seminary at Austin; \$550,000 for Schreiner Institute (a junior college) at Kerrville; \$125,000 for Westminster Fellowships; \$250,000 for a lay-workers' school at Austin Seminary; and \$200,000 for the Pan-American School at Kingsville.

Almost a fourth of the more than \$43,000,000 to be made available to the Presbyterian schools is included in the long-range development program for Agnes Scott College of Decatur, Ga. This church-affiliated, top-ranking girls school, began two years ago a ten-year program for \$10,025,000. Of this, \$9,927,610 has already been received or pledged, and it is believed the school may possibly reach its full goal within the period covered in this compilation by the Division of Higher Education.

A number of financial drives for the support of Presbyterian schools are not yet ready for announcement, and others are already fully charted, but will open after 1958. Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga.; Presbyterian College, Clinton, S. C.; and several synods of the church are carrying through long-range development plans not included in the over-all figures here. Preliminary estimates of amounts involved in these plans range between \$12,000,000 and \$14,000,000.

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Richmond, \$600,000 for Mary Baldwin College, Staunton; \$100,000 for Westminster Fellowship work; and \$325,000 for Assembly's Training School, Richmond.

WEST VIRGINIA: \$1,000,000, all of which will go to Davis and Elkins College, Elkins.

Of the \$37,334,750 of capital gifts being sought from the church and its friends, \$13,194,380 has been pledged; \$14,140,000 will be asked in 1956 campaigns, and in 1957-58, \$9,997,370 will be asked.

The 28 Presbyterian institutions for which the \$37,000,000 in capital gifts are being accumulated have capital assets now of \$71,000,000, which will be increased by 50 per cent or more under present plans for the next three years.

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Special studies of Presbyterians' responsibilities and opportunities in higher education are also projected in the Synods of Missouri, West Virginia and Virginia. Campaigns for an estimated \$5 to \$8,000,000 are expected to grow out of these study projects. It was such an exhaustive study in 1954-55 that resulted in North Carolina consolidation and development plans.

Total capital gifts pledges already secured, or to be sought through 1958, are listed below, by states, and by schools. In many cases the figures for a state or school represents gifts coming from several supporting synods or from the entire General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. In almost all cases the schools' development targets are based on expected support from alumni and friends as well as official church sources:

ALABAMA: \$1,350,000, including Assembly-wide pledges of \$1,100,000 to Stillman College, through 1958 and \$250,000 pledged to Southwestern at Memphis.

ARKANSAS: \$600,000, all to Arkansas College, and of which \$510,000 is pledged.

FLORIDA: \$400,000, of which \$250,000 or more will go to Columbia Seminary, Decatur, Ga.; and \$150,000 to Westminster Fellowship support.

GEORGIA: \$10,525,000, of which \$10,025,000 is included in the Agnes Scott long-range program, and of this \$9,927,610 is already in hand or pledged; \$500,000 for Columbia Seminary; and \$250,000 for Westminster Fellowship work.

KENTUCKY: \$4,900,000, of which \$2,000,000 is for Louisville Seminary, with \$750,000 already pledged, \$2,550,000 for Centre College at Danville, of which \$250,000 is already pledged; and \$250,000 pledged for Lees Junior College, Jackson, Miss.

MISSISSIPPI: \$1,000,000, all to be for Belhaven College, Jackson, Miss.

NORTH CAROLINA: \$7,465,000, of which \$3,000,000 will go to the new consolidated college; \$1,500,000 for Davidson College at Davidson; \$2,000,000 for Queens College in Charlotte; \$500,000 to the Westminster Fellowship program; and \$465,000 to Lees-McRae Junior College, Banner Elk. Of the North Carolina total, \$425,000 is already pledged.

SOUTH CAROLINA: \$896,750 all of which will go to Presbyterian College. Of the total, \$128,750 is already pledged.

TENNESSEE: \$1,375,000 of which \$1,000,000 is for King College, Bristol. A total of \$850,000 of this amount is already pledged. The remaining \$375,000 in the Tennessee total, is for Southwestern at Memphis, and has already been pledged by the school's supporters in Texas (\$125,000) and Alabama (\$250,000).

TEXAS: \$4,740,000, including \$1,720,000 for Austin College, Sherman; \$550,000 for Schreiner Institute, Kerrville; \$1,930,000 for Austin Seminary, Austin; \$215,000 for Westminster Fellowships; \$200,000 for the Pan American College, Kingsville; and \$125,000 for Southwestern at

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Memphis. Approximately \$375,000 is already pledged.

VIRGINIA: \$3,425,000, including \$2,500,000 pledged, and largely already paid, to Union Seminary,

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