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Christian Observer

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9 June 18

"The \$3,000,000 Drive" For Benevolences

Is an earnest effort to arouse every member in every congregation in our Church to do his part for benevolences—Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education and Ministerial Relief, Publication and Sabbath School Extension Work, Bible Cause and all forms of benevolent work in Synods and Presbyteries. It means about a fifty per cent. increase over last year. It means that every one should sign a pledge for the amount he will contribute weekly through the year April 1, 1918, to March 31, 1919. To accomplish this, an "Every Member Canvass" is planned in each church in March. Help this canvass in your church. Workers are needed—about 15,000. Offer your services to your pastor or your Presbyterial Manager. Meet your responsibility. Do your part. Inform yourself; then inform others. See pages 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14 and 24 of this issue.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The joy of giving is one of the keenest and sweetest joys of life. God has granted to us the privilege of giving to His work as an expression of our gratitude for His many blessings. And yet, while we use the term "giving," a more exact expression would be that we recognize our stewardship in the sight of God and we give Him only that which is His own. In order to "render to God the things that are God's," there must be some sacrifice on our part. It may be that God is asking you to sacrifice the purchase of something that is very dear to you—a home, an automobile, or some earnestly desired comfort in life. Some heart-searching questions are propounded in the presentation, through the full page advertisement on page 24, of the needs of the Church in connection with "The \$3,000,000 Drive." Do not fail to read it.

Energy and enthusiasm are essential elements of all successful efforts. Without enthusiasm man is a mere machine. He is "dead to the world and its glorious potentialities." Some one has said that it is enthusiasm that paints the beautiful pictures, that sheds a halo around the goal in view regardless of its nature. Enthusiasm linked with energy will overcome difficulties that seem insurmountable. In "The \$3,000,000 Drive" for benevolences, enthusiasm must be combined with energy. The combination will result in success.

Unless "The \$3,000,000 Drive" is carried forward with the spirit of prayer and earnest consecration on the part of the workers, it will not succeed. Prayer is a vital power in the accomplishment of such a purpose as this. The movement was born in prayer, every step has been attended with earnest prayer, and hundreds of workers have observed the noon hour every day as a time of special prayer for God's blessing on the campaign. This is a time when God's people can use the power of prayer as never before. But we must always remember that effort without prayer is presumption, just as prayer without effort is mockery.

President Woodrow Wilson in thanking the Executive Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., for adopting the resolutions presented on page 14 of this issue, expressed his unqualified approval of the Church's determination to maintain all its work in the present crisis in the most effective manner possible. The President's message may well be considered as applicable to the condition in the Southern Presbyterian Church in connection with "The \$3,000,000 Drive." The President's words are as follows: "I am glad to note that they add to their resolution concerning the support of the Government at this time of a crisis a resolution

'to maintain all the benevolent, moral and missionary work of the Church, both at home and abroad, in the most effective manner possible.' This can only be done if "The \$3,000,000 Drive" for benevolences is carried to a successful completion.

Never in the history of our Church have such universal interest and enthusiasm been aroused in any movement as we see developed in "The \$3,000,000 Drive" for benevolences. There is danger, however, that over-confidence may weaken our efforts and bring disaster before the goal is attained. "Let not him that girdeth on his armor, boast himself as he that taketh it off." The time for rejoicing will come when victory is won. The warrior does not stop in his charge to congratulate himself on his fighting qualities and the probability of its success. He presses forward until the field is won. No glowing anticipation of possible success should lure the workers from their important tasks until the date set for the close of the campaign has come.

The annual season designated as "Survey Week" falls this year in the period set apart for "The \$3,000,000 Drive" for benevolences. There should be no conflict in these two efforts. One should help the other. Those who are interested in the benevolent work of the Church will desire to receive each month the magazine published by our Church and known as the "Missionary Survey." It brings to the members of the Church needed information concerning the different departments of the Church's benevolent work.

Hundreds of ministers have been called or will be called from the pastorates of churches to serve as chaplains in the Army and Navy. As chaplains they will be, not merely ministers of their own denomination, but ministers of the nation, serving in the Name of Christ all the sons of the nation enlisted in the Army and the Navy. It will be a fitting and appropriate expression of this unity, whenever a chaplain goes forth from any community, for the churches of that community to join together in a special consecration service, that he may go forth to his work with the united prayers of all the churches.

The second draft of men of military age will be made within a few months. The churches have a wonderful opportunity, during the month of March and until the call is issued, to come into touch with all the men in Class I of the government registration, and to bring special influence to bear upon their lives so that before they are summoned to the camps they may have been brought under the influence and helpfulness of the churches, and may have had the Gospel call presented to them with earnestness and love.

Present day conditions in Bible lands are appalling. Thousands of people are starving in the very land where Jesus and His apostles

IF EVERY ONE GAVE AS I GIVE
WOULD THE
SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RAISE THE
THREE MILLION NEEDED FOR BENEFICENCE?
HOW MANY MEMBERS IN MY CHURCH GIVE
REGULARLY?
WHAT IS THE
STANDARD OF GIVING
OF MY CHURCH?
IS MY STANDARD OF GIVING THE
BIBLE STANDARD?
JESUS GAVE FOR ME UNTIL IT HURT
AM I GIVING FOR HIM UNTIL IT HURTS?

Two Large Wall Charts

To be Placed in Every Church.

Two large wall charts, which are reproduced on this page, have been prepared and printed in red and black which are to be hung in each church in the Southern Assembly from the time they are received through the month of March. They have been sent by Mr. Wade C. Smith, of Richmond, Va., to each manager throughout our Assembly, and the managers should see that they are hung on the walls in a prominent place. Please notice that there is a space between the top and second headline on one poster for the insertion of the name of your church. For instance—when your poster is placed the top line should read like this:

WHAT ANSWER WILL THE
(inserted) First Presbyterian
CHURCH MAKE TO THE PRAYER
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

Also, make sure that the total goal for your congregation appears in the lower right hand blank space, beside the figures \$3,000,000. Those pastors who have not yet received these charts, please get in touch with your managers at once and have them placed in your church.

WHAT ANSWER WILL THE CHURCH MAKE TO THE PRAYER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

GAVE	FOR BENEFICENCE	NEEDED	
1916-1917		1918-1919	QUOTA FOR OUR CHURCH
\$570,856	FOREIGN MISSIONS	\$1,000,000	
193,363	ASSEMBLY'S HOME MISSIONS	550,000	
268,313	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND MINISTERIAL RELIEF	280,000	
41,781	SUNDAY SCHOOL EXTENSION AND PUBLICATION	75,000	
12,444	BIBLE CAUSE	20,000	
\$1,086,757	TOTAL ASSEMBLY CAUSES	\$1,925,000	
449,296	LOCAL HOME MISSION	485,000	
249,335	SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES	300,000	
131,343	ORPHAN HOMES	150,000	
176,852	MISCELLANEOUS BENEFICENCES	140,000	
\$1,006,826	TOTAL SYNOD, PRESBYTERY AND CONGREGATIONAL CAUSES	\$1,075,000	
\$2,093,583	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	\$3,000,000	
ASK GOD-LISTEN-ACT.			

For the Christian Observer.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On the "Three Million Dollar Drive" for Benevolences.

One of the most impressive scenes connected with the last General Assembly at Birmingham came at the close of the adoption of the report of the Standing Committee on Systematic Benevolence. The final recommendation read as follows:

"We recommend that the General Assembly engage now, led by the Moderator, in a prayer that our people may be able and willing to give the \$1,925,000 named as needful for the benevolent causes, and that the pastors be urged to lead their people in definite prayer for the amount mentioned throughout the year."

The recommendation was adopted by a rising vote, and amidst profound silence the prayer was made.

The Assembly's Stewardship Committee, having added to the amount asked for by the General Assembly the amount needed for the work of our Synods and Presbyteries, has planned a great campaign for three million dollars for benevolences for the coming church year. An able and consecrated Central Committee has been appointed. This Central Committee has named as General Director of the whole movement, one of the most wide-awake men in our Church, Mr. Wade C. Smith, of Richmond, Virginia. It has adopted a plan of campaign that is a model. No plan, however, works itself and the success of this plan will depend very largely upon the fidelity of every manager, from the manager of the Synod down to the manager of the smallest group.

What lies before us now is the duty of seeing this thing done. There is great danger just at this time that the constant demands made on the liberality of our people for social and philanthropic enterprises, however splendid these may be, will take the minds and hearts of our people off of our great Church causes of benevolence. This must not be. There never was a time in all the history of the

Church when the causes of the Church needed to be pressed more than they need to be pressed just now.

The only criticism that has been made of this great campaign is merely as to detail. It is touching the mode and the amounts of the apportionments. Let us forget this detail. Let us remember the greater thing before us. Let us push the work with all our energy. Not only will the securing of this money be of incalculable value to the Church, but a great blessing will come through the plan for securing it. It will mean a great deal to our vacant churches to have this matter presented to them in March. It will be a great blessing to the men who go to these churches to present this great plan. It will mean the developing of many an undeveloped church, and very largely it will mean the elimination of that bane of our Church's work, the church that makes no report to Presbytery of what it has done.

There are so many things crowding upon us just at this time that it will require a very definite determination on our part to take this up and make it a success. Let me beg of the officers of our churches, from the smallest to the largest, that they give their co-operation to these managers in the great work they are trying to carry through.

John M. Wells,
Moderator of the General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States.
Wilmington, N. C.

For the Christian Observer.

THE RULE OF THREE IN CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP.

The prospective results of a practical acknowledgment of our accountability to God should lead us to greater faithfulness, and will have a three-fold result.

Among such results there may be mentioned:
1. It will transfer our responsibility to God, because we give according to the way God prospers us.

2. There will be a great spiritual gain. The more faithful we become as stewards, the more Christ-like we shall be. Only as we overcome selfishness, covetousness, the love of money, can we abide in

Christ and have His Spirit abide in us. "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." If the motive of our giving be obedience to the commands of Christ, we shall abide in His love.

3. There will be a temporal gain. The promises of Christ assure us that as we give our income shall be increased so that we shall be better able to give.

THE NAMELESS SEEKER.

We are not told his name—this "rich young ruler"
Who sought the Lord that day;
We only know that he had great possessions
And that—he went away.

He went away—from joy and peace and power;
From love unguessed, untold;
From that eternal life that he was seeking,
Back to his paltry gold;

He went away; he kept his earthly treasure,
But Oh, at what a cost!
Afraid to take the cross and lose his riches—
And God and Heaven were lost.

So for the tinsel bonds that held and drew him
What honor he let slip—
Comrade of John and Paul and friend of Jesus—
What glorious fellowship!

For they who left their all to follow Jesus
Have found a deathless fame;
On His immortal scroll of saints and martyrs
God wrote each shining name.

We should have read his there—the rich young ruler—
If he had stayed that day;
Nameless—though Jesus loved him—ever nameless
Because—he went away. —Selected.

A youth thoughtless! when his every act is a foundation-stone of future conduct, and every imagination a fountain of life or death!—John Ruskin.