

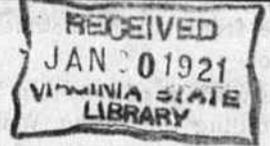
# The Presbyterian of the South

VOL. 95.

RICHMOND, VA., JANUARY 19, 1921.

No. 3

## PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM



**T**HE PRESBYTERIAN PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM is the biggest thing the Southern Presbyterian Church has ever undertaken. It is big in its conception. It is big in its advance. It is big in its influence. It is big in its results.

### Its Conception.

It was a great thought that was presented to the Church, when it was proposed to set a goal for all the benevolences of the Church combined. Goals had been set for the various causes before, but there was little adjustment of the claims of the various causes. Under the Progressive Program the Systematic Benevolence Committee considered all the causes together. They decided what percentage of the gifts of the churches should be assigned to each cause, and their decision was approved by the General Assembly. Then a definite amount was fixed upon that the Church should be asked to give.

### Its Advance.

The first year the amount was \$3,000,000; the next it was \$3,500,000; this year it is \$4,000,000, and next year it will be \$4,500,000. Thus there has been an advance each year and it is expected that this advance from year to year will be kept up. But the biggest part of its advance is in the objects presented to the Church. At first it was simply a financial goal that was set up. It was soon realized that raising money is not the only thing a church has to do, nor is it the most important thing. So now there are eight distinct objectives set before the Church, covering all phases of church life and work.

### Its Influence.

The influence of the Presbyterian Progressive Program is far wider than many realize. Our Church was the first to set before itself a large definite goal for all the causes of benevolence. The idea appealed to the leaders in other churches. Most of the larger churches adopted the idea, but modified it in its application. They left out the progressive idea, and most of them undertook to raise large amounts in subscriptions made at one time to be paid within five years. Large amounts were subscribed. How well these pledges will be paid remains to be seen.

The influence in the local church is very great. It is always helpful to a church to have a definite goal set before it, as a guide to its work. This plan contemplates putting every member to work. In the financial part of the Program, the Every Member Canvass has a splendid effect upon the members of the Church. It brings clearly and distinctly to their attention the duty of worshipping God with their substance. The educational program which usually precedes the canvass gives more information about the work of the Church and its needs than they would likely get in any other way. As the other objectives are presented the spiritual conscience will be stirred and many a sleeping member will be awakened

to see that for him a new day in religious experience has dawned and that he has a very definite work to do for the Master.

### Its Results.

The financial results of the Progressive Program have been very fine. Last year the Church went away beyond the goal set. And if the large amounts raised for the educational institutions of the Church had been included the amount would have been shown to be greater still. It is almost certain that the amount will be fully raised this year.

One of the splendid results of this plan is that when the year ends there are no pledges left over to be carried over into the coming years. Each year's pledges are paid during the year, and a new start is made for the new year. It is worth a great deal at the end of the year to feel that something definite has been accomplished. If a man finds that he can give more the second year than he did the first, he has the opportunity of increasing his gifts or his pledge for the year. If he finds that he cannot give so much, he has the opportunity of changing his pledge, with the least possible embarrassment.

These results will be greater and greater each year, as the Progressive Program is carried to greater and greater success.

### THE EIGHT OBJECTIVES.

At first there was but one objective, and that was \$3,000,000. Next year there will be an objective calling for the raising of \$4,500,000, but in addition to that, there will be seven other objectives. The emphasis is being laid especially on these seven, for it is felt that, if they can be attained, the financial goal will take care of itself. However, there is no intention of neglecting this goal. These are the objectives:

#### 1. Spiritual Life.

The attempt is to be made to intensify and develop the spiritual life of all the members of the churches. This is to be done by endeavoring to secure more Bible study and more prayer in the Church and in the home. The spiritual life of the family can be developed by the study of the Bible and by prayer. This should be done by every individual Christian, and it should be done in the home as the family is led in the reading and study of the Scriptures and in prayer about the family altar. If the children of the family grow up in the atmosphere of Bible study and prayer, there will be little need for fear that they will drift away into sin and heresy. They will grow up to be God-fearing and God-serving men and women.

#### 2. Evangelism.

The effort is to promote it until it becomes church-wide. Evangelism is the effort to win souls for Christ. This is the mission of the Church. The trouble is that the Church has not realized that this is the great work the Master has given it to do. Every department of the Church and all of its work should have this

aim distinctly in view. The trouble with too many members of the Church is that they are willing "To sit and sing their souls away to everlasting bliss." And some of the preaching they hear has a tendency to produce that effect. The preaching from the pulpit, all the church services, the Sunday school, every church organization should have as its aim the winning of souls to Jesus Christ and salvation. More than this, every individual Christian should make it the chief aim of his life to win souls for Christ. He can do this by personal appeal and testimony, by prayer, by gifts into the Lord's treasury, and by his personal life. If every member of the Southern Presbyterian Church were in earnest about winning souls, the Church would not have to report that it takes an average of 18 members to win one soul for Christ in a year.

#### 3. Missionary Education.

What the Church needs is more missionary education. "The mission of the Church is missions," but she will never perform her mission, until her members are informed as to what she is doing and what is still to be done, both in the home land and in foreign lands. The Christian that has the facts clearly presented to him, so that they get hold of his heart, is very apt to give his means and his efforts to meet those needs. This education can be given to the Church by forming classes to study books on missions and by supplying in every way possible some of the excellent missionary literature that can be secured from our Home and Foreign Mission Committees. Secure a missionary who has been in the field to tell the congregation about the needs of the work and what has been done to supply these needs.

#### 4. Religious Literature.

The desire of the General Assembly is that a copy of the Missionary Survey and a church paper be put into every home in the Church, so that they shall make their monthly or weekly visits to those homes throughout the year. They will carry to the various members of the families the information and the inspiration needed to make them well informed and intelligent Christians. The Woman's Auxiliaries have agreed to undertake to accomplish this objective by canvassing their churches to secure as many new subscribers as possible. The canvass for the church papers is to be made during the week of February 6th-13th, and that for the Missionary Survey is to be made in March.

#### 5. Christian Education.

It is desired that the schools and colleges belonging to the Church shall be given full and adequate support financially and otherwise. Their endowments and equipments ought to be made such that they can do the work they are called to do. The state institutions are liberally provided for out of the taxes paid by all the people. The Church needs

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