

## INTERCHURCH FUND DRIVE UNDER WAY

Thirty Denominations Co-operate in Great \$336,777,572 Financial Campaign For Mutual Advancement

### OPEN DRIVE WITH PRAYER

Churches Throughout World Started Drive Simultaneously on Sunday Afternoon, April 25

With an impressive period of silent prayer in which approximately 30,000,000 of church goers throughout the United States participated, the financial campaign of the Interchurch World Movement was inaugurated at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

In this movement thirty of the greatest church bodies of the nation for the first time in the history of the Christian church have associated themselves together in a co-operative movement to advance the work of the church throughout the world. Acting through the agency of the Interchurch, a survey of the social, religious and economic conditions of the world has been made; and these thirty denominations, forearmed with scientifically accurate information as to the wants and needs of mankind, are this week asking church goers and non-church goers as well, to pledge for the needs thus ascertained, the sum of \$336,777,572.

#### Combine Church Effort

As explained by the leaders of the movement, the Interchurch does not propose a union of churches, but a union of church effort.

In the scheme of organization each denomination and each church in each denomination retains its own identity as well as the control of its own budget funds—the thirty different budgets of the participating denominations being the sum total of the full amount which this week is being raised by the Interchurch. Otherwise, thirty different campaigns would be in progress instead of the one, co-operative campaign under the agency of the Interchurch.

It is a movement in the direction of efficiency and economy in church affairs—a coming together of more than 60 per cent of the total Protestant church membership of the United States, to avoid duplication of effort and economic waste.

#### Establish Quotas

Each co-operating denomination prepared its own budget in which it set out the share of the common burden which it was prepared to assume. These budgets were then reviewed by the heads of the various co-operating denominations and the Board of Review of the Interchurch World Movement. After months of consideration of these individual budgets the general budget of \$336,777,572 was finally decided upon, and according to Professor Ernest De Witt Burton of the University of Chicago, this represents the irreducible minimum that is necessary to meet the duties and take advantage of the opportunities which face the Christian church in the new day. Of the total of the \$336,777,572 which is being raised this week, \$175,448,349 is to be paid in this year.

#### Specify Allotments

As illustrating the character of the work which is proposed, it is to be noted that the sum of \$107,661,488 is set aside for foreign missions, which includes health education and the teaching of democracy throughout the world; the care of lepers; the elevation of womanhood; the establishing and maintaining of colleges and universities. For the home field \$109,949,037 is apportioned for an immense Americanization program, as well as the program for meeting the

problem of congestion and the lack of sanitation, and poor housing conditions in the big cities, the establishing of the great mass of people who are now stirred by unrest, the problem of the colored people, and such other problems as are presented in the great metropolitan centers of the nation.

For American education the sum of \$78,837,431 is set aside; for religious education \$5,931,925; for hospitals and homes, \$5,116,465; and finally for ministerial relief which includes an increase in the pay of ministers, who suffer now under an average salary of less than \$1,000 a year.

Provision is made in these sums, which will be spent by the participating denominations in accordance with their plans, for 28 hospitals and homes in addition to 95 indorsed for inclusion in local denominational budgets.

The question was asked recently of Dr. E. E. Braithwaite, Illinois Director of the Interchurch, "Why should the churches appeal to the public for so large a sum of money as is represented by this general budget?" In reply, Dr. Braithwaite said:

#### Explain Appeal

"There are 58,000,000 people in the United States who are connected with no church. If these people wanted to attend church they would be unable to do so for not more than one third of the population of the

United States has the opportunity to attend church regularly Sunday by Sunday.

"Pastors are paid on the average throughout the country, \$937. This is the explanation of the dearth of young men willing to enter the ministry, and hence the fact that thousands of churches can hold service only once a month. Hundreds of thousands of young people are connected with no Sunday school and get no regular ethical training. Roger W. Babson the statistician speaking recently on business principles declared, that "the greatest factor in life today is religion" and that, "Your real security is the integrity, the righteousness of the people of the community."

#### Need Enlightenment

"All over the world the non-Christians outnumber the nominal Christians by two to one. The enlightened races are Christians, the backward races are non-Christians. The backward races, so long as they remain backward, constitute a menace to the ideals and institutions of the more enlightened people. A simple illustration shows this. From time immemorial plagues have originated from the backward nations and spread from them to the more civilized. Today the medical missionary in India or China may be the means of saving thousands of lives in America and Europe by checking the disease at its source."

As to the reason why the churches

have joined in this co-operative appeal, Dr. Braithwaite said: "The answer is for the sake of greater efficiency and economy. As a result of their co-operative effort through the Interchurch World Movement these various denominations have taken council together regarding their plans. Their budgets

have been adjusted one to the other in order to avoid overlapping competitive enterprises. They are based on exact information supplied through the survey. In other words the churches have applied to the making of their plans the fundamental principles of any great business enterprise."

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## How much should I give to make this a better world?

**A CERTAIN** man in New York filled out his income tax report.

It showed an income so large that his tax was 53%. And his total gifts to church and charity for the year were \$148.

Think of it—thousands spent for luxuries and pleasure for himself; and \$148 to leave the world a little better than he found it!

Most of us do better than that; but not so very much better.

Our average daily gift for all church causes is

- less than we spend for daily papers
- less than a local telephone call
- less than a third of the day's car fare
- less than 3 cents a day

No wonder that 80% of the ministers of America are paid less than \$20 a week. No wonder that the church hospitals turn away thousands of sick people a year. No wonder that China has only one doctor for every 400,000 people. No wonder that every church board and charity society is forever meeting deficits, forever passing the hat.

It isn't because we are selfish; it isn't because we don't want to help. It's just because no one has ever put up a great big program to us, and asked us to think of the work of the church in a systematic businesslike way.

The Interchurch World Movement represents the united program of thirty denominations. They have surveyed their whole task, no business could have done it better.

They have budgeted their needs; no business could have a more scientific budget. They have united to prevent the possibility of waste and duplication. At least a million dollars will be saved by the fact that thirty individual campaigns are joined in one united effort.

And they come to the men or women who love America—to you—this week asking you to use them as the channel through which a certain definite part of your income can be applied to make this a better world.

Only you can determine what part of your income that should be.

It's a good time right now to answer that question. We're passing through the world just once; how much better will the world be because you passed through?

United  
Financial  
Campaign



April 25th  
to  
May 2nd

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The publication of this advertisement is made possible through the cooperation of thirty denominations.

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ey, but their business secrets are in its hands for safekeeping. Further, the bank is the support behind a man, upon which he can call for help when he needs it. It is like the reserve troops which a general keeps to use when he gets in a pinch.

Your bank to be really useful to you should have a certain sense of honor. It should be absolutely safe. It should be big and strong enough to furnish help when it is needed for. Where can you find a bank?

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