

On a dairy farm near Sycamore, Illinois, on December 13, 1913, Everett Swanson was born. His Swedish parents reared their family of 6 children in an atmosphere of Christian love and discipline.

"At the age of nine, I placed my faith and trust in Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour," testified Everett. "At the age of 15 God called me to preach the gospel. A real struggle followed, for I had other ambitions already. However, the Lord won out, and soon I was witnessing, preaching, and singing wherever opportunity presented itself -- churches, jails, street corners, county farms, hospitals, and tents."

After graduation from high school, Everett began traveling full-time, holding revivals through out the midwest.

In 1934 Everett married his wife Miriam who was also a resident of Sycamore. They traveled as a team, singing and preaching for 3 1/2 years. When their second child was born they ~~decided to~~ ^{stet} accept a pastorate and make a permanent home for thier little family.

He pastored the Immanuel Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon in Washington for seven years. Then they moved to Chicago where he pastored the Central Avenue Baptist Church from 1944- 1950.

In 1951 Everett resigned the pastorate to heed God's call to world-wide evangelistic work. "It is not an easy decision to make, because of leaving ~~at~~ home and being away from my dear wife and four children -- David, sharon, Jonathan and Paul," said Reverend Swanson. "It is an act offaith to step out on God's promises alone. However, I have full confidence in His call, His enabling and His sufficiency."

During his first year back in the evangelistic field, Reverend Swanson traveled abroad and Korea became one of his preaching points.

"My husband was overwhelmed by the devastation he had seen in Korea," said ~~his-wife~~ Miriam as she recalled those early days.

"Upon his return Everett wept all day as he tried to share with me the dreadful conditions of that war-torn land."

In 1952 Everett carried his first offerings to Korea and began to support beggar boys who had been taken into the private home of Korean Christians.

Reverend Swanson dedicated 13 years of his ministry to the work of Compassion, Inc. His life was so rich and full in Christian service that it's difficult to relate the many ways in which he was used for the Lord.

The Korean Government presented him with several awards for "his warm-hearted humanitarianism and dedicated interest in the spiritual, social, and physical welfare of our people." ~~In 1961~~ Two of them were: The Public Welfare Medal in 1961 and The Order of Cultural Merit Presidential Medal in 1964. Reverend Swanson was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Kon Kuk University of Seoul in 1963.

However, Everett disliked honors and fuss. Such things embarrassed him. Even the aggressive greetings and lavish welcomes he received when he visited the homes made him blush inside. What he had done came from his heart and the strength of his belief that God had called him to perform this mission.

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