

Taegu, Korea

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings in our dear Saviour's name.

It is over a month since I started on this Evangelistic Crusade, so I want to share with you some of the marvelous things I have seen and experienced. Surely God has been gracious and poured out His blessing on our humble efforts.

My brief visit in Alaska was blessed of the Lord with conversions at every service in the churches and the Youth for Christ service.

Because of engine trouble, I arrived late in Japan missing my connecting flight to Seoul, Korea. But the day's delay was really needed to get necessary papers completed. It also gave me an opportunity to spend a few enjoyable hours with missionary friends, Dale Bjorks and Elaine Nordstrom.

When I landed at Seoul, I was given a royal welcome by old and new friends at the airport: Rev. Robert Rice, director of Christian Revival Fellowship, who has made most of the arrangements for my services; Rev. William Garfield of TEAM mission; Douglas Cozart of the Navigators, who are handling much of the follow-up work, Chaplain Kim Hyung Do, chief Korean Army Chaplain; Chaplain Wieden, chief adviser to the Korean Chaplains; and Col. Cecil Hill, Inspector General of KMAG, all fine Christian gentlemen

No time was lost in briefing me on plans and itinerary. That evening I left by train for Taegu, our base of operations. The following day was spent in getting together necessary equipment, clothing and tracts.

The next day, together with my interpreter, Capt. Chung of the Army Chaplain's Office, and a large supply of Christian literature, I took off by Army plane for the wind swept, rocky Island of Chedu, South West of the peninsula out in the Yellow Sea. Here we conducted our first campaign. Located on this Island is Korea's Recruit Training center #1 with many thousands of men. Services were conducted 3-5 times a day beginning at 5 o'clock in the morning in a cold Army chapel seating 2000 people. Hundreds of soldiers and civilians attended this prayer service daily. Some stayed and prayed all night long. Services were also held out of doors with the regiments and in civilian churches. I have never seen such packed and overflowing churches. Hundreds professed faith in Christ.

My next campaign was conducted in Seoul, the nation's capital, March 26th thru April 4th. Scores of pastors and churches cooperated, of all denominations. Dr. C.S. Kim (Th.D. Dallas), dean of the Presbyterian Seminary, was the general chairman. National Assemblyman, Whang Sung Su, outstanding Christian layman and Korea's #1 interpreter, acted ably as my interpreter. The meetings were held on Nam San (south mountain), the former main Japanese Shinto Shrine area in the heart of the city, in and about one large tent plus 6 or 8 good sized Army tents tied onto it. But all these could not hold the people. I saw thousands sit out under the sun by day and stars by night-on the ground. The Korea Christian News reported that in the 10 days, there "gathered 640,000 People and the mountain was covered with human waves every day", an average of 64,000 a day!

Actually, it was impossible to count the people. This report estimated the attendance at the day break prayer meeting (5 a.m.) the first day at 4,000 and increasing until the last morning with 15,000!! The ten o'clock Bible study service when I preached on confession of sin, prayer, revival, and soul winning, etc., drew from 4,000 to 20,000 people. The report shows from 5,000 to 20,000 at the 2 o'clock hour and for the tremendous evening evangelistic service, the report showed the attendance grew from 4,000 to 35,000!! The total number who professed to accept Christ was 2470 people. Actually, I believe some of these figures are too high, but God knows and He keeps the books.

I think the most amazing thing was the number of people who prayed, sang, and praised God all night long every night! I feel sure that the smallest attendance was at least 3,000 and the report said up to 10,000 people stayed all night. Hundreds of them fasted practically the whole 10 days. This all happened in an unheated tent in cold weather, very near frost at night. I wore blizzard weight wool underwear, a heavy wool sweater, suit coat and overcoat,

taking off the overcoat just as I started to preach and putting it on again at the close. Night after night I could see my breath as I preached. Yet, I believe the breath of God's Spirit was upon me and the people.

Never have I heard such singing and such agonizing praying. Never have I seen such multitudes, such expectancy and fervency. Pastors and people heard about the meetings and came from the farthest parts of South Korea.

Unknown to me, the committee had invited a Presbyterian Elder Pak, who is believed to have the gift of healing, to conduct the day break prayer meetings. He preached on confessions of sin, answer to prayer, Christ's second coming, etc. He prayed for many that were sick and the report says 170 were healed including cripples, deaf and dumb, and blind people. I did not actually see the proof of such, but Dr. Kim and others said it was true. These humble people come and pray with an expectance of God, and faith in the name of Jesus Christ, that puts most of us to shame! Three people died during the meeting. This tremendous multitude must have been much like those that came to Jesus as described in the New Testament.

On the final afternoon an offering was taken to be used to build a huge prayer and revival auditorium which amounted to about 30,000,000 Whan! (at official exchange rate about \$60,000). The total expenses were only about \$2,000. It actually took hours to receive this offering. Many rings, watches, barettes, clothing, everything, besides money. National pastors and missionaries have told me that this, doubtless, was the largest offering ever received in the history of the Korean church and the largest attended meetings also.

People in many walks of life were converted, pastors renewed and inspired and God's people revived. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Col. Cecil Hill attended many meetings and on the final night said to me, "This is tremendous! I have never seen anything like it in my life!"

The closing day about 50 pastors honored me and Elder Pak with a dinner in the basement of the bombed church. That night I was given a pure gold ring, inscribed, and with the national flower-the rose of Sharon-on it, in appreciation of my services. Many thousands waved their hands to indicate an invitation to return again for revival services to Seoul.

How often I have thought and thanked God for you dear friends at home who made it possible for me to come here when God called and are now supporting me with your prayers. God will richly bless and reward you. There are many lonely hours for me and for my family at home, but we praise God for the privilege of being co-laborers together with God. Please continue to pray, hold up my hands, that thousands more may hear the good news and be saved. Pray too, for continued health and divine protection. "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." 2 Cor. 4:5

In the bonds of the Gospel, sincerely for souls,

*Everett J. Swanson*