

PRAYER LETTER #3

Chicago, Illinois

Dear Prayer Partners:

Greetings in our dear Saviour's name. Christmas 1954 with its blessing and joys, tinsel and glitter, materialism and spiritual significance, is past. The New Year, the unknown with its joys and sorrows, resolves, hopes, victories and defeats lies before us. How good it is to know not just the Christ of Bethlehem, but the Christ of Past Eternity, of Creation, of Prophecy, of Gethsemane, Calvary, the Empty Tomb and coming Glory. I wish for you this New Year a fuller knowledge of Him, a deeper experience of His love, and a more fruitful life thru His power.

I have so much to praise God for since last my prayer letter came your way. This one goes out to many new as well as old friends of mine. You prayed, surely God has answered. First of all, in my regular evangelistic work. I had blessed fellowship with God's servants and people and labored earnestly in Mankato, Minn., Oakland, Neb., Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Brockton, Mass. and Minneapolis, Minn. Scores of people professed to be saved, many backsliders were restored, many family altars were begun, tobacco users delivered, etc. I know of 3 drunkards that received Christ and were radiant for God. Roman Catholics were delivered from bondage of ignorance and fear. One of the great sights was to see a family of 6 - father and mother, 17 year old daughter, 15 year old twins and 12 year old girl, all come to Christ in one service in Minneapolis! So, praise God for answered prayer.

Then God has blessed my missionary interests. Offerings have helped in many places. I sent out a letter in September telling of the opportunity to send out 15 trained Korean evangelists for only \$20 a month for each one. God surely honored our faith and people responded so that instead of 15 we now have 24 men out! They are doing a great job for God in winning many to Christ with the goal of each one establishing a new church within the year. There are still a few needing support. I'll be glad to hear from anyone wishing to have his own "missionary substitute", whether partial or full support.

Then too, since September, we have started building a new orphanage for homeless war orphans - The New Life Boys' Home - in Taegu. We bought army tents for temporary shelter, where we now have about 80 of these poor unfortunate boys. Most of them have been saved, praise His name. If we only had the funds, we could rescue many hundreds of these boys. \$4 a month still supports one. Will you "adopt" one? Things are going well in our Samchok Love and Hope Orphanage with 73 boys and girls well cared for. Then we have just bought property in Yaosu and have about 22 orphans there now. Oh, the need and opportunity are so great all over Korea!

Rejoice with us over God's blessing on the many Christian Book Shops established (our goal 100). I have a report this week from Missionary Robert Rice, director of the Christian Revival Fellowship in Korea, who handles all my affairs, that "we now have enrolled over 18,000 unbelievers in our Bible Reading Program. This is done thru the Book Shops and is bringing many to Christ thru out Korea.

And now I bring to you my most urgent prayer request. Please read this carefully and prayerfully. For many months I have been receiving urgent pleas from missionaries and national pastors to return to Korea for a third evangelistic tour. I prayed over it, but told them I could not come. However, God began to trouble me greatly about it. The opportunities to preach to hundreds of thousands, the unusual readiness to hear and believe, the appalling needs of the people of this war ravaged land, troubled me night and day. Never I say, have I prayed so earnestly and long over any matter. Three things stood in my way: 1st, I didn't want to go back to Korea-never! My flesh rebelled against all the hardships, the attacks of malaria and amoebic dysentery that I contracted over there, the filth, etc. 2nd, I felt so inadequate for the task that was before me, what would be expected of me night and day. Services each day begin with day break prayer meeting at 4 o'clock, followed by services all day until 10 o'clock at night. They expect 4 full hour sermons (at least that long) each day! 3rd, I did not have faith that God would provide the funds for such an evangelistic tour. It seemed impossible! (God forgive me)

But now rejoice with me, after many weeks of soul searching prayer, on Dec. 8 God suddenly gave me wonderful, sweet peace about it. All my doubts and fears were swept away completely, and I knew beyond a doubt God was calling me, would supply the need and give me grace and strength for the task! Praise His Holy name. How wonderful He is, how patient and kind with us when we are so slow to believe and obey. Immediately I wrote to Korea saying I would come by March 15 and stay until the rains stop the outdoor meetings. (about June 10) I also made public announcement of my plans that night, and wrote letters asking release from the churches I was planning to have meetings with, and completely burned the bridges behind me. All of this without one dollar to pay all the expenses or to care for my family. I have received to date \$5 and some promises toward my expenses. But I know beyond a doubt God will supply.

Let me tell you what a tremendous opportunity I have. Revival and Evangelistic services are now being planned by the missionaries and pastors for work in the large cities of Korea. I have preached to as many as 18,000 in a single service in Korea and saw approximately 30,000 people profess to be saved during my last tour over there. But this time we are actually expecting up to 50,000 people in some of our services! Dr. Bob Pierce had services in Seoul in October where 4 newspapers estimated attendance at 50,000. My friend Dr. Fred Jarvis of the Evangelical Alliance Mission in Japan, conducted services in some of the smaller cities of Korea in November (thru an interpreter and national evangelists). On Dec. 11 he wrote me "Everett, you will not believe the things I tell you how God blest in our last campaign there. We had crowds from 12 to 15,000 each night and finished with 20 to 25,000. (!!) In one campaign we had 1800 professions of faith. In all the meetings they prayed all night long. They reported as many as 6,000 people in one all-night prayer meeting. In one place we had about 6,000 people go out to invade the city, pass out tracts, witnessing and praying with people, etc"!!! Think of it friends. I have asked Dr. Jarvis to assist me in part of my work and he has consented. So, you see what a tremendous opportunity and responsibility lies before me. I must have thousands of people pledged to PRAY for this Korean Evangelistic Crusade. Will you be one? Will you stay by the stuff while I go out to the battle field?

Now about the finances. This is a venture of faith alone. I have no organization backing me. The Koreans cannot pay the expenses. I must appeal to my revival and soul-loving friends across the nation, for their sacrificial support. When Dr. Billy Graham planned to go to London, he knew the people there could not meet the expenses. So, he appealed to Christians all over America to help. That campaign cost about  $\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars!! I was told one American gave \$100,000 of it! Was it worth it? Yes, many times that.

A very conservative estimate of my expenses for 3-4 months over there is \$5280 including transportation, advertizing, rents, travel in Korea, gospels, tracts follow-up and my family needs at home while I'm gone. Last time in Korea in my services 6 people professed to receive Christ for every dollar spent! Where can you invest money and get such returns?

So I am coming to you in Jesus name, and on behalf of thousands of unsaved but hungry hearted Koreans, for whom Christ died, giving you the opportunity to invest in souls. A friend of mine has promised at least \$500 and another \$100. Will you not pray about it earnestly, then take the envelope enclosed and send whatever you can, large or small? You may spread it over several months if you prefer, but I must know very soon, so I can plan accordingly. I do not ask people to give only a tenth (tithe) of their income to the Lord's work. This is the time when God's people should sacrifice- deny self- and get out the gospel before Christ comes, or the Communists sweep over more countries and close the doors tight to the gospel.

Blessings on you, and thanks and God bless you for what you have done and will do to bring men and women to Jesus Christ, that He may save them from a Devil's Hell, and for His eternal glory.

In His Blessed Name, for Souls Everywhere,

*Everett F. Swanson*

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Please pray for me in these services the next few weeks:

January 2-16, Red Wing, Minn.  
January 18-30, Rockford, Illinois  
February 1-6, Stratford, Iowa  
February 15-27, Puyallup, Washington