

THE EVERETT SWANSON EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION
833 N. Lovel Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Korea, May 15, 1958

Dear Friends, Greetings in our dear Saviour's name.

Eight weeks have passed since I flew out of Chicago on this evangelistic tour. Five yet remain and it is time to report to you who through your means and prayers have made this possible.

Ten days in the Philippine Islands and ten days in Japan were spent touring mission stations with faithful missionaries of the Baptist General Conference. I preached many times to nationals and missionaries. Our main purpose was to produce two new films for promotional purposes, but were happy to win souls to Christ and to encourage the missionaries, the believers and the churches. All the missionaries everywhere have been so kind.

I arrived in Korea on April 11th and immediately plunged into a very heavy schedule of services, up to 7 a day! The first whole week was given to the youth of Taegu where we preached to thousands of high school, college and university young people daily.

Since then we have conducted series of revival meetings from three to eight days in length with services at 4:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. At these five cities I have had with me missionary Kees Glas of Holland, a very fine spiritual young man, and my capable interpreter, Peter Kang. We have sandwiched in many more school meetings, prisons, hospitals, army outfits, Bible schools, leprosariums, etc.

Thus far I have visited eight of our orphanages and the Widows' Home. My, what thrilling experiences these have been! I sat the other day in one orphanage and heard the head man tell how they were in rags, no fuel, no shelter, starving, until we heard of their need and stepped in to support them. The whole staff and nearly every child were weeping and sobbing. The head man had to stop; he was so overcome with gratitude. I was so broken up myself that I wept and wept. I thought how little I had done, but how much you sponsors had done with God's blessing! Oh how I wish you could be with me here.

In one Home the oldest boy, who can speak English, said to me as I left, "We were all thieves and beggars until you provided this Home for us. Now we are all Christians, can go to school and several of us are teaching Sunday School classes!!"

Last week I took pictures of eight fine young men from our Boys' Home who were incorrigible juvenile delinquent beggar boys before we took them in, but are now fine intelligent students in the Bible Institute! My how you sponsors should rejoice! I could go on and on telling you of the marvelous fruit of our orphanage work over here.

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But everywhere I am told of the many more that are still on the streets but there is no room for them. The city governments bring them by the truck load to our Homes at times. I have told the superintendents to lead them right out to the street and send them back where they came from! (To a life of crime, sin and starvation) Why? Because we are far too crowded now and do not have the money to buy food and clothing for any more! Only as the Lord lays upon your heart to help and sponsor children can we expand and bring Christ to more of these dear children, that they may be saved and trained to be Christian leaders in this land.

Then I must tell you of the work of our 98 evangelists over here. I have had three area-wide meetings with many of them coming to a central meeting place. (We pay their expenses in coming) Here we get to meet them, admonish them, encourage them and hear their reports.

Last week every afternoon I drove a jeep many miles in the mountain valleys to meet with the new Christians they have won to Christ in the last few months. Many of them have or are now building a church building already! I have seen spirit and tree worshipers, fetish, idol and ancestor worshipers, but have heard some of these very people tell that through the gospel preached by our evangelists, they have for the first time in their lives learned that there is a God and that they have a soul and will live on after death. I sat in a circle of men on a clay floor last week and asked these new believers, "What did you believe about life after death before three months ago?" They replied, "We did not know there was any life after death!!" I said, "Do you mean you thought you died just like a cow?" "Yes, we did", they replied. Think of it! Now they are rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection through Jesus Christ. Praise God.

At the close of a service in one such village last week, I followed one of the head men of the village and his wife to their home. I watched and took pictures as he went into the house and brought out his two idols into the yard, put straw around them and set fire to them. They stood there solemnly with Bible and hymn book in their hands while the idols went up in smoke. Then we bowed in prayer while our evangelist praised God for the power of Jesus Christ the living Saviour!

Yes, friends, we have seen many wonderful sights including hundreds professing to be saved in our meetings thus far, and we expect to see many more, but these men back in these heathen villages are the ones who are doing the job for God. They are just barely living on the money they get but God will reward them richly.

Please continue to pray for us out here and as you are able, help us to help the needy and bring Christ to these precious people. We need many new sponsors for children. Please write to my office about it. Many many thanks for all your support and prayers.

Rejoicing in His Blessed Service,

Everett F. Swanson

Rev. Everett F. Swanson