



KOREAN CHILDREN IN HOME ESTABLISHED BY THE REV. MR. SWANSON
Warm clothing is only a part of minister's project

One Man Is Merciful, 10,000 Children Live!

BY CHARLES TROWBRIDGE

In South Korea today, more than 10,000 orphans may be alive because a Chicago area evangelist, by chance, heard a man whistling a hymn on a crowded Tokyo street 10 years ago.

The Rev. Everett F. Swanson who was in Japan in 1951 on a tour of missions, introduced himself to the whistler, a missionary teacher who urged him to go to South Korea.

There, during the next 3 weeks, the Rev. Mr. Swanson saw hundreds of beggar children starving and freezing on the streets.

Thoughts on Plane

"That was in the autumn of 1951," the Rev. Mr. Swanson told CHICAGO'S AMERICAN, "and while flying home I asked myself what I intended to do about it.

"By the time I landed in Seattle, I promised God I would try to do something to help."

With a \$50 contribution he got from a Seattle minister, the Rev. Mr. Swanson did something. He founded the Everett Swanson Evangelistic association. He opened his first orphanage in South Korea in 1952, taking in 45 waifs.

Grows into Chain

By 1957 he had 10 orphanages, a chain that has grown to 108 with 10,000 children — 75 per

cent of them left without parents by the Korean conflict—in nondenominational homes thruout South Korea.

There the association supplies the children with food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and a high school education.

Sponsors in the United States, Canada, and many other countries pay \$8 a month to the association to support the orphans, 220 Korean ministers who are

starting churches, unwed mothers and their babies, and 275 children of lepers.

Describing the unspeakable suffering he found in the bleak country, the evangelist said:

"Most of these children had tuberculosis. Others had rickets, polio, malnutrition, or limbs so badly frozen that amputation was necessary.

"These were the children whose parents perished in the Korean war. Now we are getting a new crop of children, those left homeless by grandparents or other relatives who have died recently."

The Rev. Mr. Swanson returned yesterday to his home and office at 4848 N. Leonard dr., Norridge, from a 6 week tour of his homes.

With him he took \$66,000 in W. A. R. M.—winter aid relief money — contributions to buy two winter clothing outfits for each of his charges.

Additional Aid

He also took another \$36,000 in contributions for other support and needs. His visit to the orphanages last fall was called Operation Long Underwear, the evangelist said. He continued:

"There still are hundreds of children being rounded up off the streets by the police. I inspected 35 orphanages which have no foreign support, and their directors are pleading for help.

"In these places there already are 2,500 youngsters, many of them having lived thru bitter weather in miserable shacks, wearing inadequate clothing, and having very little food.

"The government can afford only \$1.70 toward the existence of these victims. I have approved 10 of these 35 homes for addition to our 108 and will take them in as soon as I get enough supporters."

South Korean Medal

The Rev. Mr. Swanson last Wednesday was decorated by South Korean President Po Sun Yun with that nation's medal of honor for public welfare.

The Rev. Mr. Swanson was born 47 years ago in Sycamore, Ill. He came to Chicago in 1944 and from then until 1951 he was pastor of the Central Avenue Baptist church.

Since he met the Tokyo whistler, the Rev. Mr. Swanson has traveled across this country, Canada, and 30 foreign nations, collecting money for "my beggar kids."

The Rev. Mr. Swanson lives with his wife, Miriam, and their children—David, 24; Mrs. Sharon Ronne, 23; Jack, 21, and Paul, 19. He told his interviewer:

"I started out as a preacher and stumbled on to something that is now the tail wagging the dog. My only regret is that I couldn't have begun sooner in this work, and I pray that I may do it for many more years."

159 DESCENDANTS

WOODBURY, Tenn. (AP)—Mrs. Nora Mayo, 85, of Woodbury died yesterday leaving 159 descendants — 11 children, 58 grandchildren, 75 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great-grandchildren.



REV. EVERETT F. SWANSON AND KOREAN CHILD
His mission was started by a whistled hymn