

September 15, 1961

DETAILS IN THE LIFE AND WORK
of EVERETT SWANSON

I was born December 13th, 1913 on a farm near Sycamore, Illinois. My parents were Swedish immigrants. I have four brothers and one sister. Three of these brothers are also ministers. One is a business man.

I received my education in the schools of that area.

At the age of nine, I placed my faith and trust in Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. At the age of 15 I felt a very definite call to the ministry of the gospel of Christ.

I began to preach in jails, old people's homes, on the street corners and many churches, wherever the door was open, while finishing my education. Later I entered full time evangelistic work, conducting evangelistic meetings in churches, schools and auditoriums all across America.

Later I was pastor of two churches, one in the State of Washington and one in the city of Chicago. This covered a total of 13 years of happy ministering of the gospel.

In 1950 I felt a definite call to return to evangelistic work. As I planned for it, I felt a strong urge to visit many of the foreign countries where missionary work is carried on. This took me to Japan in the Fall of 1951 and later on to the Philippines, India, Africa, the near East and Europe.

While in Japan the Korean war was on and I prayed that I might be permitted to go to Korea. Providentially I heard Dr. Peter Van Lierop, a missionary from Korea, whistling a Christian song one day in Tokyo. I spoke to him, telling him I was also a Christian. This eventually led to an invitation coming to me from Rev. Robert Rice in Taegu, to come to Korea and see the results of war as well as missionary work.

I went to Korea in October of 1951 and spent three weeks. During this time I attended many of the Korean churches; also a number of the Korean armed forces units, as well as our own military forces on the front lines.

The following year I was invited by Chaplain Kim Pyung Do, chief Chaplain of the Ministry of National Defense, to come to Korea for a tour of the Armed forces of the Koreans. This invitation I accepted and in 1952 I toured a large part of the units of the armed forces of Korea, preaching the gospel of Christ and seeing many professing faith in Christ.

These two visits opened my eyes to the tremendous number of orphans on the streets, as well as the many war widows. I visited the Korean army hospitals everywhere and saw the wounded, sick and dying men.

As I was leaving Korea, a missionary said to me, "Mr. Swanson, you have seen these tremendous needs and opportunities". Then he added this question, "What do you intend to do about

it?" It was this question that eventually led to my "doing something about it". I could not get away from that question as I flew back to America. Across the Pacific I promised God that with His help I would do something for the beggar boys of Korea first of all, though I had no funds; no backing for it.

The day I landed in Seattle I was given \$50.00 to be used "for Korea". When I arrived at home in Chicago a check was waiting for me for a thousand dollars for the needy of Korea. This was conclusive proof to me that God was in this.

Therefore, wherever I went I showed my films of Korea and gave people an opportunity to help.

I began sending funds to Korea in the Fall of 1952 and have continued increasing the amounts year after year.

The first \$1,000 was used to buy a large Korean house in the little village of Puk Pyung near Samchok. Here through a Rev. Kim, the children were brought in and the first orphanage organized, Sin Ae Wen. In 1953 we furnished funds to buy land and to erect a building for the beggar boys in Taegu. This was the beginning of the New Life Boys and Girls Home.

Wherever I travelled conducting revival meetings, I told the people about Korea. I showed films night after night of the needs and opportunities. Many wanted to help.

By 1956 I saw it was necessary for us to form a non-profit corporation to handle these funds. So on April 19th, 1956 we were given a charter by the State of Illinois as a non-profit corporation known as the Everett Swanson Evangelistic Association.

Our Board of Directors consists of the following. Rev. Everett F. Swanson, President, Miriam Swanson, Vice President, Dr. G. A. Hemwall, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer. Our Advisory Board fellows.

David F. Busby, M.D.	Christian Psychiatrist
Robert E. Conner	Christian Attorney
Terry Johnson, D.D., LL.D.	Evangelist
Elmer T. Olson, Certified Public Accountant - Christian Auditor	
Clate A. Riskey, D.D.	Executive Secretary-National Sunday School Assn
Rev. Lawrence F. Swanson	Executive Secretary-Bible School and Youth Work; Baptist General Conference
Peter Van Lierop, Ph.D	Korean Missionary
Peter Kang	Korean Secretary

This work has grown until today, as of September 1961, we are supporting 108 Homes. Of these 101 are orphanages and beggar boys' Homes, three are Homes for children of lepers, uninfected, two are Widows' Homes, one is a Home for deaf, dumb and blind children and one for unfortunate girls and their babies. We have supported four other Homes which have been combined into presently supported Homes.

Following is a list showing how our work has progressed through the years.

1952	First Home begun at Puk Pyung, near Samchok	\$ 1,000.00
1953	Began sponsoring a few children in the Spring Two more Homes Helped	7,340.00

1954	Regular support for Samchok - \$235 per month- began in Spring of this year. Began supporting Evangelists in May	\$ 12,020.00
1955	Two more Homes supported	12,105.00
1956	Four more Homes supported	24,388.00
1957	Total of twelve orphanages supported	67,125.00
1958	Total of sixteen orphanages supported	76,648.00
1959	Total of 42 orphanages supported	161,495.00
1960	Total of 71 orphanages supported	344,906.00
1961	Through September 20th -	
	Evangelists	\$19,498.50
	Orphans	<u>465,720.69</u>
	Total	485,219.19

Total of 108 orphanages with over 10,000 children and nearly 1,000 staff members.

GRAND TOTAL \$1,192,246.19

For the month of October, 1961 we are sending \$65,912.00 for clothing for the children, plus support for the orphans and the evangelists, making a total of \$103,564.00.

We are now preparing to ship enough vitamins to care for the needs of 10,000 children in our 108 Homes for a period of three years. This is a total of 6 million high potency multi-vitamin capsules, 21,600 cans of vitamin syrup for little children, 20,000 bottles of cold tablets and 36,000 tubes of tooth paste. All of these aforementioned items have been donated by the manufacturers.

Early in our ministry to Korea we became interested in assisting the evangelists going out into the small villages where no churches had been established. We have continued to assist these men and have been rejoicing to know that scores of churches have been formed and become self supporting as a result of this assistance. As of September, 1961 ESEA is supporting 190 of these evangelists and 30 students, most of whom are preparing for the Christian ministry in Bible institutes, seminaries and colleges.

This report would not be complete without giving credit to many missionaries who assisted and encouraged us, especially in the early days of our work. Rev. Robert Rice in Taegu was especially helpful in many ways. Since then many others have helped us, handling funds, rendering advice and many other forms of assistance.

The Korean officials have always been very gracious to us and we are very grateful for the kindness shown. Our tours in the Korean armed forces have always brought a warm welcome by the Chaplains and commanding officers, whether across the front lines or anywhere else they are found.

However, I must say also a word for Mr. Kang Sung Ki. I met this young man at Soemchun, Chulla Namdo in the Spring of 1958. He acted as my interpreter for several weeks after that in revival meetings in many cities. He began assisting us with translation work first of all. Later I appointed him as our Korean secretary. He has done a marvelous

job. Those who assist him are very loyal faithful workers. Without the vision and the challenge of needs and opportunities that Mr. Kang has brought to us, our work could never have grown to the proportion that it now has reached.

Finally I want to say that I believe that almighty God is the one who has made all of this possible. He has led us step by step. God has given me a very deep love for all of the Korean people. It is a very real privilege that we have to direct this work and to assist in any way we can. Our earnest prayer and hope is that this work may continue to grow as it has in the past.

At this date, September 15, 1961 I am looking forward to coming to Korea on the 20th to begin my eighth tour of the Land of Morning Calm. It will be a great thrill and blessing for me to meet the superintendents of all of these IOS Homes, the 190 evangelists that we assist, as well as countless other friends. I am looking forward to meeting many of the government officials in Seoul and other places.