

Lawrence Swanson

SAVE

Truth; This is to be kept confidential for the time
being at the request of Rev. Nordstrom
if I hear any of this wrong please let me know?
S.F.S.

Dear Glenn:

It was nice of you to call and ask me what I know about the Everett Swanson Evangelistic Association.

You mentioned that you called because I had recently been to Korea for the Tenth Anniversary Bible Conference of this association. The other members of the team were Dr. Torrey Johnson and Rev. Everett F. Swanson from America and several Koreans. The conference was attended by many of the Christian leaders of Korea. Attendance ranged from 1,500 to 2,500.

Let me answer the points you brought up.

1. How are E. S. E. A. funds handled?

E. S. E. A. is a non-profit corporation and under the watchful eye of the State of Illinois. Records are carefully kept in the Chicago office. These records are audited by Mr. Elmer Olson, CPA, a member of the Hinsdale, Illinois church. A complete financial statement has been published each year in COMPASSION the Association's publication. A financial statement may be obtained by writing ESEA at 7774 West Irving Park Road, Chicago 34, Illinois by anyone interested.

The auditor said publicly in a church service, "E. S. E. A. has the lowest overhead of any missionary organization I know of."

E. S. E. A. is highly recommended by the Better Business Bureau of Chicago and has been investigated by Reader's Digest, Moody Monthly, Christian Life, and many other magazines before accepting E. S. E. A. ads.

E. S. E. A. has an office in Taegu, Korea with Rev. Robert Morgan (former pastor of our Stoughton, Mass. church) as administrator. Business methods used there are as carefully administered as any I have seen. Rev. Morgan has had business administration training and is a wonderful Christian.

In my opinion Everett would rather die than do anything that is not completely above reproach. This is where some criticism has come from by the opposite kind of people in America and Korea.

Torrey Johnson shares this opinion with me.

2. Is there more than one person sponsoring the same orphan?
The answer is a definite "NO."

This happened two or three times several years ago before the present record system was adopted. What happened was that an orphanage superintendent sent duplicate copies of the case history of an orphan by mistake and these were sent out. As soon as this was detected it was immediately corrected. If you had 16,000 children you might get mixed up two or three times in ten years.

Some sponsors share one-half support with another sponsor who give the other one-half. This is made plain in magazine ads.

3. Are there non-Christians on orphanage boards or staffs?
The answer is absolutely "NO."

I know this to be true from my own investigation of 40 orphanages I visited in Korea. ESEA does not own nor operate any orphanage. ESEA provides sponsors for orphans in orphanages. Orphanages in Korea must be in a non-profit type of corporation with a local board of directors according to Korean law.

ESEA provides most of the support of 157 orphan homes in Korea. Because of this ESEA can and does demand that every board member and every staff member be a true born-again Christian. Every home is investigated by an ESEA staff member before any sponsors of children are assigned. In some instances mayors of cities have had to resign. Some homes have had their application in for months before they were approved because of the demand for a clear testimony by board and staff members.

4. Does Everett Swanson live in a \$50,000 home?

This is ridiculous. Everett's home which has also been his office (in the basement) for ten years is probably worth one-half this. His present home is out in a field west of Chicago without even a street or sidewalk. It is a nice brick home which he bought from a contractor's widow when it was only two years old but I can show you many parsonages that are much nicer.

ESEA built an office this past summer but only because it outgrew his basement. This was built with borrowed money.

I might also say that it is common knowledge that the ESEA charter says that if the association ever goes out of business all assets go to the Baptist General Conference.

I also know that both Everett and his wife have willed their home and insurance to ESEA at their death.

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Few people know that Everett and his wife and sons work way into the night to do the work they are doing. If I didn't believe this work is of God and above reproach you can be sure I would say so.

May God have mercy on people who begrudge starving parentless children in Korea food, clothing, shelter, education and Christian nurture provided by the ESEA organization and the American people.

I hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely in His Love,

LFS:lmj

Lawrence F. Swanson