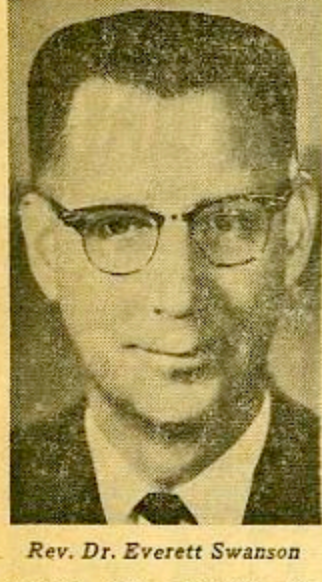


## PASTOR LOSES COAT, FOUNDS 'COMPASSION'

### Agency Finds Homes for Young Koreans

Honors continue to mount for the Rev. Everett Swanson, 4848 Leonard st., Norridge, who recently received an honorary doctor's degree from Kon Kuk university of Seoul and a citation from the president of Korea. Yet, the minister remembers how it all began with a stolen overcoat in 1951.

"Some beggar boys ran off with my coat," he said. "When I investigated, I found thousands of homeless children



*Rev. Dr. Everett Swanson*

stealing and roaming the streets in Korea. Right then, I made a promise to God to do something about it."

#### "Did Something About It"

The minister founded what is now called Compassion, Inc., which has placed more than 20,000 Korean children in 175 homes since its beginning 11 years ago. Support comes from Americans—church groups and individuals — who serve as sponsors for the children in Korea.

The minister's newest project for Korea is land reclamation of tidal flats. He hopes to recover 700 acres of previously flooded coastal land as farm soil for his older Korean orphans. Each boy will get to keep the acre of land he develops and tends himself.

Born in Sycamore in De Kalb County, the minister started as a traveling evangelist at the age of 18. By the age of 24, he had become pastor of Emmanuel Baptist church in Mount Vernon, Wash. He was ordained in 1941.

#### Serves in Chicago

In 1944, he came to Chicago to accept the pastorate of the Central Avenue Baptist church, 854 N. Central av. In 1951, he returned to evangelistic work traveling to the then war-torn Korea where he visited the battle front and made his discovery about the Korean children.

Compassion, which has offices at 7774 Irving Park rd., does the largest amount of orphanage work in Korea. The group also assists in the support of 370 evangelists who have in the last decade established more than 800 churches. This work is carried on with the cooperation of several church denominations.

Vocational schools and farming also are part of the program to further prepare the children for the time when they leave their foster homes.

#### He's Appreciated

The minister also received a letter of appreciation from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of the Republic of Korea for his "contribution to the improvement of the welfare of the Korean people."

On a recent visit to Korea, he found conditions somewhat improved for children in the larger cities, but still desperate in rural areas.

On his return to the city, the Rev. Mr. Swanson appointed Robert Swaney of 4151 N. Oriole av., Norridge, as assistant director of Compassion, Inc. Swaney served for six years as international extension director of the Gideons.