

Reverend and Mrs. E. F. Swanson

4848 North Leonard Drive

Norridge, Illinois 60656

January, 1966

My Beloved Friends,

Once again it is my privilege to write to you. I am grateful for this opportunity to thank you for your encouraging letters, cards, and for your prayers for my husband during his illness, and for me since God called him to be with Himself. Words fail when I try to tell you how much your expressions of love and sympathy have meant during these days of bereavement. You have wept with me, comforted me, and best of all you have prayed for me. You have shared this loss with me in a most unusual way. Perhaps this is because my husband had such deep love for you who help to support his beloved ministry of Compassion. So many of you have told me in your letters how happy you were to meet him when we were on tour a year ago last fall with our Korean children. Believe me when I tell you that he was just as thrilled and anxious to meet you and to tell you face to face how much he appreciated what you are doing for this work which was so dear to his heart.

It is difficult to know just why God would take the strong and leave the weak to carry on, but perhaps this is so we may be made strong for Him! One of the greatest blessings any woman can have is a devoted Christian husband who loves her above all others, and God gave me just such a husband. He made my life beautiful, and I thank God for each precious memory. However, I am satisfied that God's perfect will was done. He indeed "doeth all things well" and "...I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11.

Our work of Compassion is going forward by His grace, and because YOU are praying. We are so thankful to God for His blessing and guidance day by day. We have a wonderful staff, and the Lord is answering prayer concerning the need for more help both here, and in Korea. No work can grow, as ours has, without a few problems, and we have our share, but they are a challenge rather than a discouragement. One dear saint of God wrote, "Upon learning of your dear husband's transfer above, This 'old woman' went immediately to prayer -- prayer that all the ambitions be kept out of so honorable a position, and one of 'like compassion' be elected for the post upon which so much good to Korea depends." This is the prayer of all of us in Compassion, and we are grateful to God for direction. May His Divine Purpose be accomplished through Compassion for His glory as we strive to win the lost to Christ.

We are grateful for the good response to the Memorial Fund that so many of you have asked for. Just before my husband became too ill to work any longer, he had begun plans for this much needed Headquarters building, so I am really thrilled to know that this, which is literally the heart of the work in Korea, will be built in his memory. I want to thank you personally for helping to make this dream of his come true. The returns are coming in daily, and it is most gratifying to read in all of your letters that it is with joy that you are giving to this need. My prayer is that in this, as in every other phase of our ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified. God bless each one of you as you give 'as unto the Lord.'

I wish I could write to each of you individually to thank you for your letters but since this is impossible, I do hope you will feel that this is to you personally. My heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your love and your prayers. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Philippians 1:3.

With much love in His Matchless Name,

Miriam Swanson
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