

# THE STANDARD

JANUARY 31, 1966

- A Carpenter Becomes Involved
- Learning for Serving
- Motivated Learning



*"Warm-hearted humanitarianism and dedicated interest"*

## A Ministry of Compassion

**T**HE MINISTRY of Rev. Everett F. Swanson is evidence of how God can use one man to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of thousands of suffering people.

Early in life Mr. Swanson felt the call of God upon him for special service. The shy Illinois farm boy was converted at age nine and before he was through high school was preaching every Sunday with a Gospel team. Just after he turned 21, and with a young bride, he barnstormed from Illinois to Seattle, hauling tent and equipment in a trailer, preaching wherever he could. This was in the mid-30's, during hard depression times, when Mr. Swanson had been deprived of the benefits of Bible School or college education; nevertheless his preaching was used by God wherever he went.

While still in his early 20's, the Immanuel Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Wash., called Mr. Swanson as pastor, and he served there seven years. From 1944-1950 he pastored Central Avenue Baptist in Chicago.

On July 22, 1950, following a time of earnest prayer in which Mr. Swanson felt that God was calling him to a wider evangelistic ministry, he rose from his knees and wrote his intentions:

1) *To obey God's call to full-time evangelistic work wherever He may lead in this whole wide world;*

2) *To resign my pastorate September 10, to take effect, January 1, 1951;*

3) *To trust God to provide for my every need as He has promised (Philippians 4:19);*

4) *To trust God to take care of my family spiritually, physically, and materially;*

5) *To redouble my efforts now to win others to Christ and to pray and work for revival.*

It was as a result of two preaching tours to Korea during his first two years in his evangelistic ministry that he was led of God to found The Everett Swanson Evan-



REV. EVERETT F. SWANSON, 1913-1965

gelistic Association, known since 1962 as Compassion. People over the continent help now in supporting 170 orphanages with 22,000 children, almost 400 native evangelists, a literature work, technical schools, and farms, with a budget of two million dollars a year.

### Honors from Korean Government

The South Korean government bestowed on Mr. Swanson the highest honors a civilian could receive. In awarding the Public Welfare Medal in 1961, the citation from the office of the president read: "Rev. Swanson's warm-hearted humanitarianism and dedicated interest in the spiritual, social and physical welfare of our people, especially for our children, have earned our abiding appreciation, and his unselfish ministrations as a true apostle will never be forgotten." In 1964 he was granted The Order of Cultural Merit Presidential Medal.

### Koreans' Appreciation

Many letters have come to Mrs. Swanson and the Compassion office expressing not only grief, but appreciation for the life and ministry of Mr. Swanson.

One evangelist wrote: "Rev.

Swanson's love and noble spirit are engraved on my heart. And I believe that the good seeds he sowed in Korea will bear fruit a thousand-fold."

The superintendent of a vocational training center said, "He worked so hard for our school specially. The fact that we cannot see his kind face again makes us very sad. We will work hard to bring up these poor children according to His will, as we believe that by doing so, we are able to follow the way which our dear Rev. Swanson has trodden."

A message came from a man who said he was not a Compassion staff member, "but a poor layman living in Christ, who has always admired the warm spirit of love of the deceased. . . . Though he is not with us now, the love he has demonstrated in us will never be forgotten and will live long to give peace and hope to those underfed, both physically and spiritually."

An orphanage superintendent wrote of the reaction at the announcement in Korea of Mr. Swanson's death: "All the children cried and the superintendents were very shocked at the news. But we believe that our God accepted Rev. Swanson with the crown of glory in the Heaven. But still we missed him so much. He was kind to the poor people."

And an evangelist wrote to his sponsor: "He was a faithful laborer of God. I was so sorry to hear it and to think that a star of our Lord which lightened the darkness fell down. . . . I will do the work of God more faithfully."

So many of the letters from Korea, a land of hunger and privation and extreme winter cold, mentioned the rich rewards that God would have for Mr. Swanson at his heavenly homecoming. But the contemplation of the blessings of heaven is not only for suffering Korean Christians. A favorite song of Mr. Swanson's, a recording of which, sung by himself, was played at the funeral service at Central Avenue Baptist, was "A Hallelujah Meeting." Often he was heard to say, "When I get to Heaven, I'm going to spend the first hundred years just feasting my eyes on Jesus!" A man who had a deep personal love for Christ was one who, in a practical way, could remind others that the love of God is a very real force. ●