

# The LIFE MESSENGERS

3530 Bagley Avenue North  
Seattle, Washington 98103  
Melrose 2-8500

An Evangelical Interdenominational Witness—Serving the Lord World Wide

January 18, 1967

Mrs. Miriam Swanson  
Compassion, Inc.  
7774 West Irving Park Rd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60634

Dear Miriam:

So glad to hear from you and to hear how God is continuing to bless Compassion, Inc. I'm glad to hear that a documentary account of Everett's life is being written.

The first time I heard Everett speak was when he came out here on that speaking tour when you were first married. He was a real inspiration to me. I heard him during the time the Lord was challenging me to attend Moody and prepare for His service. The thing that impressed me most about him was he wasn't concerned about being able to find a church where he could settle down and receive a salary. He was willing to preach wherever the Lord opened the door, whether he would receive any financial help through the services or not.

My next contact with Everett was after I graduated from Moody and accepted the church in Cedarhome. I'm sure you're going to report the fact that Everett covered every home in Mt. Vernon while he was pastor there. That was really something. I believe that the church in Mt. Vernon is what it is today largely because of the foundational work which Everett put into the pastorate there.

The amazing thing to me was that the church in Mt. Vernon where Everett pastored was always open for constant challenge concerning the service of the Lord. I remember being given the privilege to challenge the folks there concerning the ministry of Bible Crusaders, with which I was connected at that time. Shortly after that presentation Everett invited me to give a challenge again concerning the work. He again encouraged the people there to contribute financially. After the service I told Everett that this was unusual, because mostly pastors were hesitant about even taking one offering for a work which was not connected with the denomination. He told me that he believed in giving his people a constant challenge and opportunity concerning contributing both financially and in every other way to

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Mrs. Miriam Swanson

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the work of the Lord. He made this statement to me, "If you don't milk a cow she will go dry." He continued, "If Christians are not taught to give, challenged to give and given repeated opportunities to give they will not learn how to really give. The more our people give the stronger they will become financially, and thereby be able to serve the Lord in greater ways financially in the future."

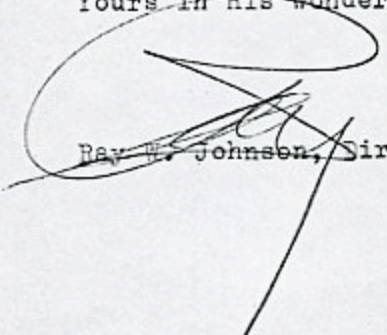
The Lord has said, "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete, withal it shall be measured to you again." Everett gave unselfishly, and I'm sure that that was one of the reasons the Lord honored him by causing tens of thousands of persons to give to him for the cause of the children of Korea. There is blessing for other pastors and congregations across the land who will follow in his steps.

If any of the above material can be used in the report about Everett I will be glad to have it so used.

I'm sure that you plan to include the facts concerning how Everett battled the matter of overhead in such an effective and tremendous way. It has been amazing to me how small a portion of the contributions given to Compassion, Inc. are used for overhead.

We are just beginning to remodel our building. Surely appreciate your continued prayers for us here. Maybe we'll see you on your way through here in April or May on your way to Korea, or return.

Yours in His Wonderful Service,

  
Ray W. Johnson, Director

RWJ:km

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Everett's quote  
on "giving" (pg. 2)

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