

# Compassion



EVERETT F. SWANSON, *founder*  
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*"... I have compassion on the multitude ... I will not send them away."  
Matthew 15:32*



## PRESIDENT HARVEY REPORTS ON THE CHANGING PICTURE OF COMPASSION

COMPASSION'S President, Henry F. Harvey is happiest when he is with the children. He has personally visited each one of COMPASSION'S 170 children's Homes in Korea. He knows the superintendents, the staff workers, the needs, the problems, the obstacles and the potential results of this vast work. In this issue of COMPASSION he brings a personal report to all friends and sponsors. It is a thrilling and informative report, written in light of current international problems. You won't want to miss a word!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KOREA?

by  
Henry F. Harvey  
President of COMPASSION

*Here is an exciting and interesting review of COMPASSION'S entire ministry in the light of recent world developments.*

Those of you who read the daily papers are aware of the general political turmoil in South Korea. Much of this has come to light since the Pueblo incident, but a great deal of it was manifest before — rioting in front of the United States Embassy, mobs centering on the village of Panmunjon and all the other anti-American incidents in South Korea. What is not clear is that this is a part of a larger picture — a general unrest throughout Asia, and in fact the world. Much of it centered in anti-American feeling.

We in America are frustrated with this since we have spent millions of dollars to help these countries. Today, for example, South Korea is the third most prosperous country in Asia, and largely because of American aid. Yet, it seems that at every turn of the road we are hated and despised and stoned and spit upon. We naturally ask what is happening in these countries that makes them bite the hand that has fed them for twenty years or more?

The best parallel I can draw is of a rebellious American teen-ager who suddenly feels he is of age, and no longer under parental control. He doesn't want to obey or abide by the rules. He wants a place to sleep, a good allowance, and three square meals a day. But, while he wants what you can offer, he wants to give nothing in return.

I feel that what is going on in Korea today is a sort of national adolescence. Korea emerged twenty years ago from the Japanese yoke. There had been thirty-six years of utmost degradation and slavery. Before that Korea had had her own kings under whom slavery was a way of life. Now, for the first time the country has had freedom of its own and a type of democratic government.

It has had, of course, to lean heavily on the United States. We have poured out some 3.8 billion dollars since the Korean War in order to create a viable economy in South Korea, and we have succeeded in doing this. Naturally, we would expect some thanks, at least some cooperation for this, but the very opposite is the case. We are resented because we bring money in and insist on spending it according to our standards rather than the oriental way.

The spirit of nationalism, so prevalent in international affairs, has spread even into Christian organizations like COMPASSION. The workers in the Seoul office of COMPASSION and others have felt that they had the ability and even the right to receive this money and distribute it according to their likes. COMPASSION, of course, has insisted on this being handled under the supervision of an American administrator. We have insisted on the right of inspection of the Homes. We have insisted on the right of setting standards, and when these standards have not been met, in some cases, we have had to withdraw our support. We feel this kind of supervision is necessary to protect the 1.5 million dollars annually provided for care of the children in Korea.

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COMPASSION is governed by an outstanding Board of Directors. These dedicated Christians are fully abreast of developments at all times. They consider and pray about changes and conditions for long hours. They seek to do God's will at all times in directing the affairs of this vast Christ-centered work.

For many years this system worked fine. Recently, however, there has been increasing resentment at the disciplinary measures which we have taken to keep COMPASSION homes clean. In some cases we have met with a spirit of near revolt when we have insisted that Homes come up to reasonable standards.

Several months ago we were forced to close Home No. 141 in Seoul because it did not conform to COMPASSION standards. It happened that the superintendent of this Home was a minister and I am sure he had gotten himself into some difficult financial situation. He had tried to build a new Home, miscalculated the cost, and was not able to finish it. I am sure a good deal of the money used for construction was money COMPASSION had provided for the support of his children.

We visited the Home many times during 1967, only to find that the children were malnourished, the Home was dirty, and there was no water. The Home was truly in terrible condition. However, we kept patiently working to improve the situation for an entire year, trying to help the superintendent solve the problems, and making helpful suggestions.

During May of 1967 we cut off support on a temporary basis and gave the superintendent three months to correct conditions or be terminated. By September he had done nothing, so we went to the city officials and asked them to allow us to remove the children to another Home. This request was refused, so we had to cut off support. We notified the sponsors of this action and made satisfactory refund of their support, or gave them credit for support of a substitute child.

Through this action the superintendent claimed he had lost face. He took his children to downtown Seoul to demonstrate against COMPASSION. Then he went to the police of Seoul and accused COMPASSION of embezzling the children's money. This eventually hit the newspapers and a full scale investigation followed. Although nothing of an incriminatory nature was discovered, the police claimed

that Mr. Kimball, our field administrator, was guilty of embezzlement, and threatened to jail him. The real reason for this attitude was because Mr. Kimball insisted on strict discipline throughout COMPASSION'S work. On this threat we moved Mr. Kimball out of Korea and sent him to Singapore to supervise COMPASSION'S growth in Southeast Asia.

In the course of this confusion the police of Seoul confiscated all the names and addresses of our sponsors, our records, and our accounting books. This necessitated closing down our Seoul office and moving those office functions back to the Homes, or to the Chicago office. In Chicago we now have a department which handles translation, and mail services to and from Korea.

This, of course, has made things difficult in Korea and we have no idea what the future is. But, this is part of the over-all picture of an emerging nation which demands that we continue to have American money flow out to them, and insists that we remove American personnel from the scene and let the indigenous people handle the entire situation. However, we feel for the sake of the sponsors, and the proper use of their money, we must have inspection privileges by Western personnel. We cannot relinquish control of the distribution of money, and strict supervision of people on our payroll.

#### *How does the mail work?*

Effective at once, sponsors should send letters to their child to 7774 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois 60634. Receipt of your letter is recorded, and it is then forwarded by airmail to the superintendent of your child's Home. The superintendent translates your letter into Korean, and has your child write a reply. This reply comes by packet post to our Chicago office where it is recorded as received, and forwarded to you. This gives the Chicago office close control over the flow of correspondence between child and sponsor, and is more economical to handle.

The form of our letters has been changed so that the Korean part is on the upper half of the letter, and the English translation is at the bottom. This enables us to make a spot check to make sure that the translations are accurate, and what the child has written actually comes back to the sponsor.

We have a problem in that some of our translators get a little lazy and work out some sort of form letter for answering sponsors letters. So, we spot check the letters carefully and if we see a sameness developing we point this out to the superintendent and ask him to make his translators be more accurate.

#### *How does the money flow?*

You send your money to the Chicago office where it is recorded. A receipt is issued to you, and once a month we send a cable bank draft to the Han Il Bank in Seoul for disbursement of funds to the Homes, evangelists and students. Thus, we do not require an office in Korea to distribute funds. It is all distributed by the Han Il Bank in Seoul. This has been working for three months without a complaint or hitch. We believe it is an excellent improvement over the old method of maintaining a Seoul office to handle funds. It greatly reduces the possibility of funds being mishandled.

#### *How will Homes be inspected?*

We have three American nurses in Korea and one on furlough who will return within the next few months. We also have four Korean nurses. These dedicated women inspect Homes, develop health standards, and do many other things. We have an inspection form which the nurses use to report to us, and evaluate the quality of the Home management. It is our trust and prayer that we will be able to

continue to guarantee the very best help for the children which you support through this inspection system.

#### *How about general supervision?*

Reverend Wally Erickson and his family are now preparing to go to Korea to take Mr. Ed Kimball's place. We believe that much of the problem which resulted in Mr. Kimball's being removed from Korea centered around the distribution of money. Since that has been removed from the Korean scene, and is now being handled from the United States, we believe that Reverend Erickson will have an excellent opportunity to effectively continue the work of COMPASSION. Reverend Erickson is enthusiastic about his assignment and will be leaving on March 3 for the Orient. Pray much for him!

#### *What if war comes?*

Of course, in Asia this is always a problem and forever with us. There are rumors that North Korea plans a major invasion of South Korea by 1970, hoping to catch the United Nations unawares and work out a unification of the entire nation of Korea. If war comes, we believe the allies will be able to stem the tide.

It is true that some of our Homes, about a half dozen of them, are close to the demilitarized zone, but the majority are in the southern half of Korea. So, unless the country were completely taken over by the Communists, most of the children would not be affected at all. We, of course, have to live day by day and pray the Lord to guide and direct us in all that we do, and make preparations against any possible emergencies. As of now, we see no reason for alarm about the possibilities of war.

#### *Will the Korean Government permit us to continue?*

The government of Korea has publicly stated its intention to take over management and support of all orphanages by 1971. We think this is unrealistic, and do not believe it can be done that quickly.

We do believe it is the intention of the Korean government to eventually take over the support of all the children of Korea, because they feel they are losing face under the present system. However, the desire for present support of their children will largely overcome this prejudice and at least the next eight or ten years there will be no problem in caring for the children. It is our intention to continue helping the children of Korea and we do believe that we have a method which will permit us to do this.



Reverend Wally H. Erickson, recently assigned to Korea, Wally will leave for Korea in March. His family will follow. Pray for these dear servants of the Lord.

#### *How about education?*

The first six grades of education are paid for by the government, although the children have to buy books and a few other supplies. For the most part school is compulsory through six grade, but at that point free public education stops. Middle School starts with the seventh grade and continues through the ninth. This is equivalent to our junior high

school, and requires tuition payment. Middle School tuition is about \$100 a year, or roughly \$8.00 a month. High School, which is grades ten through twelve, requires tuition of about \$10.00 a month or \$120.00 a year.

In order to provide a full education for each child we are increasing sponsorship from \$10 to \$12 for all new sponsors. Any existing sponsors who can increase their support from \$10 to \$12 a month are encouraged to do so. This would help pay the tuition for middle school and high school for all the children, and also cover some of the additional costs which are increasing every day in Korea.

#### *What about religious education?*

Most COMPASSION Homes now have full time Bible teachers. Nearly ninety of them are sponsored by people in the United States. These teachers are doing a wonderful job.

We are using the Gospel Light Sunday School materials which COMPASSION has translated and printed, and this gives an excellent graded series for Sunday School work and religious education. Most of the children in our Homes are as well educated in the Bible and Christian doctrine as the average Sunday School child in the United States. Many of them have understood well what it means to accept Christ as personal Saviour. For all of these things we are profoundly grateful.

#### *What about evangelists?*

We are continuing the evangelists' program, although we are having some difficulty developing a way of paying them directly through the bank in Korea. We do believe we will get past the problem and be able to assist these evangelists in the pioneering of new churches, and evangelization of Korea. This is vital and continuing part of COMPASSION'S ministry.

#### *What about students?*

The Han Il Bank is handling distribution of student support. The student program is under careful inspection and supervision. It is moving ahead and becoming an increasingly important part of COMPASSION'S Ministry.



Children!!! This is the real ministry of COMPASSION. We must always remember the needs of these precious little ones.

## QUESTIONS MOST OFTEN ASKED ABOUT COMPASSION ? ? ?

*So many questions have arisen recently that we felt it might be a good idea to answer in COMPASSION Magazine some of the questions that many of you are raising in your letters.*

### *1. Will the current troubles in Korea mean the end of COMPASSION'S work in that country?*

No, definitely not. Although it is impossible to read the future and know how serious the current international situation will get, we have no intention of withdrawing from Korea. We anticipate carrying on and supporting the children in all 170 Homes that are affiliated with Compassion in Korea.

### *2. How many Homes does COMPASSION own?*

None. It is illegal for a Western organization in Korea to own property. By law all of the fatherless or motherless children of Korea are wards of the Department of Health and Social Welfare, and come under that department of government. The Homes must be owned by a Korean not-for-profit corporation controlled by a Board of Directors with a majority of Koreans as members.

### *3. If that is the case how do you control the Homes in the Compassion system?*

Our only control is through the money provided by sponsors. Since this money is the main support of the Homes it does speak very loudly, and we have every right to set up standards and conditions under which we will affiliate with a Home and under which we will support it. If the Home does not meet these standards, we try our best to bring that Home up to standard. If it continues to disregard our standards our only alternative is to cancel our affiliation.

### *4. If you cancel affiliation with a Home and stop supporting it what happens to the children?*

The Korean government provides \$2.15 worth of rice, barley and side dishes each month for each child. This means that the children could get a meager but adequate diet even if they did not receive Western help. The Western help provides extra things such as fish, meat and foods that otherwise would not be a part of the government diet. It also provides for education and clothing which would be difficult under the government subsidy. So, even if we do withdraw our affiliation the children do not starve, freeze, or suffer unduly provided the superintendent and the government cooperate in providing for this.

Fortunately, we have only had to cancel affiliation with six Homes out of 177, so we do not face this type of action very often. In fact, we cancel affiliation with a Home only after we have exhausted every reasonable effort to bring it up to our standards of care for the children.

*5. How can we know the money provided gets to the children?*

This is a fairly difficult question, because in Korea the keeping of books is a fairly flexible thing. As a matter of fact, you can go to any market in Korea and for a very small sum purchase receipts for any amount of money that you want. So, if a superintendent is determined to siphon off money which should go to the children he could easily cover his tracks by a whole false set of books.

We have developed a set of standards and points that we expect a superintendent to come up to. A minimum amount of meat and fish to be served. A minimum amount of fruit and other things that would make a complete diet. We demand a minimum amount of heat in the Homes. We insist that clothing be up to a certain standard, and that the quality of education be of a certain standard.

If a superintendent meets these standards, they are so calculated that they leave him enough for a comfortable living which, of course, is what we want. Any superintendent who works hard for the children of Korea has a right to a reasonable living from the money which is provided by the sponsors.

*6. How does it happen that some organizations advertise that they can support a child in Korea for \$3.00 a month?*

One system does claim that they can support children for \$3.00 a month. We have not gone into their institutions to see how they are run, but we would suppose that if a good deal of the overhead such as the wages of the mothering ladies, the wages of the superintendent and other things are provided from general funds, \$3.00 would assist considerably in the operation of the Home. However, the three large agencies such as World Vision, Christian Children's Fund and Compassion have charged \$10.00, and all are considering the possibility of increasing this amount to \$12. These three organizations go further than the other agencies in providing schooling, Christian education, spiritual training, better diet and food, as well as many extra things such as vitamins, food supplements and dry milk. Of course, these things all cost money.

*7. How is the sponsor dollar allocated?*

Although most sponsors do provide \$10 a month, our average for 1966 was \$9.25 per sponsor and for 1967 it was \$9.37. This is because some sponsors have continued at the old \$8.00 rate and others simply have not been able to keep up their payments throughout the year. So, basically we receive approximately \$9.25 from each sponsor per month. It takes about \$2.10 for general overhead including advertising, accounting, mail services, receipting and general office expenses in the United States.

Another \$1.15 goes for general costs in Korea including hospitalization, medicines, vitamins, food supplements, public health nursing service, and many things that are necessary for the health of the children. The orphanage superintendent then receives \$6.00 directly. Added to the \$2.15 which he receives from the Korean government, he has approximately \$8.15 per sponsored child for food, clothing, heat, and education costs.

In addition, we do provide special educational funds, and as you know, WARM funds for clothing once a year. So there are additional bonus things that are given him all of which adds up to very close to \$10.00 per month per child in Korea. And, as I mentioned earlier this is being increased to \$12.00 a month to insure good education and the best care for each child.

*8. What kind of children come out of COMPASSION Homes?*

The children in the orphanages or children's homes have approximately twice the opportunity of getting to high school and college as children in a regular home in Korea. At this time we have forty-seven Compassion graduates in the ministry in various churches in Korea, and another 150 are college graduates. Right now we have more than 100 students in colleges and seminaries, giving a very good account of themselves.

A study some years ago showed that graduates from COMPASSION Homes were still active in church work, some five years after they had left the home. We are confident the children do retain their interest in the Lord, and often are very active Christians all their lives because of the training they received in COMPASSION Homes. Indeed, we are quite proud of the young men and women that have come out of COMPASSION Homes during the last five years.

*9. Why are so many children being taken by relatives or running away from the Homes?*

If a mother abandons her child on the street or in a market place, she frequently watches the police take the child and place the child in an orphanage. If her economic condition betters, she will come back to the orphanage and claim the child. By law, of course, she has a right to do this.

We have had cases of children who have been listed as having no mother, and suddenly we find the mother is very much alive when she comes back to claim the child. Korean law has a strange contradiction within itself. There is a law that makes it a misdemeanor for a mother or father to abandon a child. There is another law that says if the mother finds the child the mother has the right to take the child. These things seem contradictory, and they are, but it is part of the oriental system.

As far as runaways are concerned, this is a problem in orphanage work all over the world. If the child and the superintendent do not get along well, there are personality clashes and the child might run away. Sometimes he will wander across Korea and show up in another COMPASSION Home or in the Home of another agency. We try to keep the problem at a minimum by providing the best Home atmosphere, but we know it cannot be overcome altogether.

*10. How is it that children can run away and not be heard of? Don't you make any attempt to find them?*

Even in the United States, with an excellent police system, runaways from children's homes are common. Often the efficiency of the United States police is insufficient to locate them. In Korea the police couldn't care less as long as a child has run away and causes no trouble. They are perfectly happy to let him go. Usually we wait for about a month after a child has run away to make sure he won't come back before terminating him, and informing the sponsor he has left.

While we make reasonable effort to locate runaways, it is rare that a child is found who is determined to run away. Often he heads for the big city of Seoul,

and if he is apprehended by the police he will give a false name and false birthplace, and will be sent to an entirely different province. But these are all part of the problem of assisting needy children on the Orient.

*11. Can I adopt my child and bring him or her to the United States where he would be out of danger?*

Our experience with the intercountry adoptions has not been good, although we certainly do bring some children over to the United States, especially those of mixed parentage. But, as far as the regular children of Korea are concerned we do not believe that adoption is the best answer to the problem. We have tried this on several occasions and have had numerous failures. Children have a hard time adapting themselves to a new culture, new language, and a new school system. The trauma in such a move is often exceedingly great. So, the Board of Directors has taken the position that we simply will not release children from our Homes for adoption into the United States. We would much rather they would go through the school system of Korea, and if they are good students they could eventually be brought to the United States for graduate study.

*12. Why has there been a delay in gift acknowledgements during recent months?*

All of our sponsors received notification some time ago about the confiscation of sponsor names and addresses in Seoul. This necessitated closing the Seoul office and moving some of the functions to orphanages and some to the Chicago office.

At the time of this trouble there were a large number of Christmas and birthday gifts in the Seoul office which because of the confiscation of records could not be sent on to the orphanages. Fortunately, none of these were confiscated by the Seoul police so we were able to gather them together and return them to Chicago for reprocessing. But, this has caused a delay of perhaps two months beyond the normal time of delivery, so sponsors will not receive word in regard to their Christmas and birthday gifts which were sent in November and December until perhaps some time in March or April. We must trust that you will understand the reason for this delay and be patient in waiting for the picture of your child with the gift.



## **COMPASSION ENTERS INDONESIA, INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN**

Since it appears Korea is coming to the point one of these days when it will be able to handle its own situation, the Board of Directors has decided to enter other fields of the world where the children are perhaps even more needy than in Korea. Mr. Edward Kimball is now the field director for Southeast Asia. He has moved to Singapore and is now developing COMPASSION'S work in Indonesia, India, and Afghanistan.

### *Indonesia*

We have begun our work in northern and western Sumatra where there are some two hundred pentecostal churches. A great many of the men have died of disease in this area leaving large families for their widows to support. The culture of Indonesia does not lend itself to children's homes as much as to support within the family homes, so we are developing an entirely new program called our "Home Help Program." We will sponsor the children of widows right while they are in their homes. We hope to have some 400 case histories of these very shortly, and these will represent children available for sponsorship.

We have had a number of calls for help from other parts of Indonesia. There seems to be a great need for helping children in southern Borneo and also in the Celebes Islands. These will be developed just as quickly as possible, and we will let you know of the progress from time to time.

Our work in Indonesia is being assisted by a group of Indonesian businessmen incorporated under the name of the Siloam Foundation, named after the pool where the crippled man received healing from Christ. These men are very dedicated and are very interested in COMPASSION'S development in Indonesia and are pledged to assist us in every way possible.

### *India*

In the vicinity of the City of Rajahmundry in the Telegu speaking area of east India, COMPASSION has agreed to support six children's homes. Two of these are in Rajahmundry, and the others in outlying areas. There is a total of between three and four hundred children in these six homes. One of the homes cares for uninfected children of lepers. We hope to have the case histories to sponsor within the next few weeks.

### *Afghanistan*

We have agreed to support a blind school in Kabul, Afghanistan. It is operated by Americans, and since this work is just starting, we cannot give you too much information on it at this time. We will have special information available to those of you who are especially interested. If you are particularly interested in Afghanistan, please write direct to us and ask us for more information on the COMPASSION work in this land.

### *Summary*

This issue of COMPASSION has been devoted exclusively to giving our faithful sponsors and friends a full and current report on recent activities and changes. We offer this report in the confidence that informed Christian people will respond with mature dedication, and pray earnestly for the Lord's guidance for COMPASSION during these days of change and challenge.

You might have questions which have not been answered. Or, there might be points requiring additional clarification or information. We stand ready to answer questions you might have as fully and honestly as we can.

Because we believe that we are truly co-workers with each of you in this Christian ministry, we have taken you fully into the problems, the trials and triumphs of our work. God bless you each one, and our continual heartfelt thanks for your compassionate love for the children of the world.



### THE HEART OF COMPASSION

These lovely children vividly illustrate the very heart of COMPASSION'S ministry. Once lonely, homeless, destitute little wanderers and vagrants, they now have joy, hope and love in their hearts. Today thousands of children like these in Korea, India and Indonesia are being cared for. Your prayers and support have made this possible. God bless you richly.