

Compassion



EVERETT F. SWANSON, *founder*
published bi-monthly by *Compassion, Incorporated*
7774 Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois 60634

*"... I have compassion on the multitude . . . I will not send them away."
Matthew 15:32*

The
REHABILITATION
OF CHILDREN
— in the
Dominican
Republic

Little Paula Gil



Paula is two years old. As a result of acute polio in January 1968, both legs were affected. After the onset of the disease, she was brought by her mother to the Rehabilitation Center for examination, and a weakness in both legs was determined. A double long-leg brace

and intensive physical therapy over a long period were prescribed. She also must be seen by a doctor every three months.

Paula is the third child of an unmarried mother. The father does not recognize his paternity, and the mother provides the only support



Rehabilitation of Children—Cont.

for the family by selling some preserves which she makes at home. She has been cooperative with her little girl's treatment and wishes for the child to continue the physiotherapy.



Little polio victim.

In the Dominican Republic there are many children like Paula—in need of either physical or mental rehabilitation. COMPASSION is making a concentrated effort to provide it for them.

Child mortality has an incidence of about 110 in 1,000—with about one-third occurring in infants over 1 year old. A recent survey, re-



Education classes.

sponded to by 4,156 public school teachers, showed the following number of disabilities in children from 3 to 15 years of age: Speech defects—8,468; mental retardation—2,969; physical handicaps—1,589; blind—609; dumb—1,522;



Recreation time.

behavioral problems—3,020. It should be noted that only 17% of the total population are now going to school, with about 450,000 of school age not now receiving an education.



Vocational training.

To aid in relieving this severe problem among handicapped children, COMPASSION is working with one of the largest and best equipped rehabilitation centers in the country. Many services have been established at the center to care for paralytic and polio patients, those with general defects, amputees and many other cases, including cerebral palsy and muscular diseases.



Therapy.

Facilities include:

- (1) PHYSICAL THERAPY—under direction of a graduate therapist, an assistant and four aides.
- (2) NURSING SERVICE—to advise mothers on good hygiene habits, nutrition and immunization of children. Drugs and medicine are provided when necessary. Patients are referred to other institutions for surgery, laboratory tests and x-rays.
- (3) SOCIAL SERVICE—to study the economic and social status of each case, helping to solve problems and explaining purpose of treatments.



Educational training.

(4) COURSES FOR MOTHERS—organized by center staff to train mothers in the care of their handicapped children.

(5) SCHOOL FOR HANDICAPPED trains severely handicapped children unable to attend regular schools.



Orthopedic service.

(6) SCHOOL FOR MENTALLY RETARDED—providing speech therapy and skills needed to live a more normal life. Each child is evaluated by a team, including pediatrician, neurologist, psychologist, social assistant and specialized teacher. Many require laboratory tests and further examinations to prescribe training required.



Learning a vocation.

A KOREAN ADVENTURE

by Valerie Dayton, Sponsor

Several years ago I became the sponsor of two little orphans in Taegu. Kang Ie, the boy, lived in Peaceful Orphanage and Kwang Bok, the girl, lived in Eastern Light. Over the years I had received lovely letters and pictures and was most anxious to meet them. That dream was fulfilled last July when I joined the Third Compassion Tour.

My children greeted me at the airport with flowers and songs, and I had toys for them. I wanted to give each of their homes a party and also have my two little ones become better acquainted. I bought cookies and candy and took Kwang Ie to visit Kwang Bok's home. The children were seated on the floor and the treats were spread on a newspaper in front of each child. While the party was in progress, the children took turns standing in front of me and singing.

One little thirteen-year-old girl started to sing and then burst into tears. She started once again to sing, but was sobbing so hard that she went over to a corner and buried her face in her arms. I looked around the room and saw that the mothering ladies were crying and the superintendent was wiping tears from his eyes. I asked Miss Kim, my interpreter, what was wrong. She said that Kwang Ie was the long lost brother of the little girl who had been singing.

Years ago they had been placed in Eastern Light Home. Kwang Ie hardly grew at all, and after a few years it was decided to place him in another home for smaller children. Years went by and Yung Ie, the big sister, had no idea where her little brother was. When I walked into Eastern Light with him, she was overwhelmed with emotion.



Valerie Dayton with Son Kwang Bok, left, and Kim Kang Ie.

The Lord indeed does work in wondrous ways. I live in San Francisco, California, and was used as the instrument to unite them. Miriam Swanson, Compassion Vice-President, was with us in Taegu and assured me that brother and sister would be placed in the same home, and this was taken care of immediately.

When I returned to the States, I could not stop thinking about Yung Ie. She had such a sensitive face and seemed so sad. I felt that she had no sponsor and it hurt me to think of her watching her brother receive gifts and letters while she had no one. So I inquired, and as soon as I received word that she had no sponsor, I added her to my Korean family.

In the meantime, I was very curious about how the three children were getting along in Eastern Light. In April I went on the Fourth Compassion Tour. As I stepped off the train in Taegu, all three rushed to me with flowers and hugs. Their warmth surprised me. Last July my little boy seemed only interested in the toys, and of course his sister did not even know me. Kwang Bok, who is eleven, had cried bitterly when I left Korea last year, so her welcome was anticipated.

I wanted to have my three charges learn as much as possible about their native land. I hired a car and off we went to Kyongju, which is a cultural center of ancient Korea. There was the huge stone Buddha carved out of a mountainside as well as many pagodas and a small lake.

We had lunch at a hotel, and their appetites amazed me. They are used to eating rice or noodles and vegetables, so it was a treat to have soup, salad, steak, chicken and ice cream with chocolate sauce. They had never tasted bread and butter and loved it. The rest room intrigued them. They kept filling up the wash basin and then would take out the plug and watch the water go down.

When I went to Seoul, I had the children come along too, and we had a wonderful three days together. There is only one zoo in Korea, so my children saw their first camel, elephants, monkeys, bears, and a leopard. In the afternoon we went to Korea House to see folk performances, and the children said they liked it better than the zoo. In the

evening we had a typical Korean meal. Yung Ie has an exquisite voice and sang "Home, Sweet Home" while we were eating. It was very touching.

The next day we drove to Incheon, as I wanted the children to have the experience of seeing a large body of water and a beach. The driver headed straight for the sandy beach, and I asked my interpreter to tell him not to as we might get stuck in the sand. Korean men do not like to be told what to do by a woman, so of course he drove as fast as he could through the sand and we got stuck!

We admired the Yellow Sea for a while, and eventually a man with a shovel came along to dig us out. While we were waiting, we went to a Korean restaurant for a plate of sea cucumbers—a new experience for me. It is like chewing rubber bands!

In the evening I took the children to the Tower Hotel, and they had their first ride in an elevator. We went to my room and they saw their first shower. The next day we were invited to the Air Force Base in Suwon. The children were allowed to climb into their first plane.

Then the time came to say "Goodbye", and it was very sad. All three cried. As I was going through immigration, Yung Ie screamed and held onto my skirt. Reverend Erickson said, "Don't look back." So, I pulled myself away and wondered if we will all meet again.

Words cannot express what COMPASSION has done for me. Seeing the love and adoration that Yung Ie and Kwang Ie have for each other, and the wonderment and joy that Kwang Bok and the brother and sister received from their new experiences has been so rewarding. Money could not pay for the enrichment my life has received by being a part of a Compassion Tour.

Kim Yung Ie, singing.



**A LETTER FROM
NOOR INSTITUTE
FOR THE BLIND**

**KABUL
AFGHANISTAN**

It has been so long since you have heard anything from us in the Institute for the Blind. It is such a privilege and a joy to work with the Afghan Blind and even though many times we are faced with frustrating problems, still the joy and challenge of this work more than compensate for the frustrations.

This past November, four of our students took the Grade 6 Ministry of Education examinations and passed with flying colors. They are looking forward to entering a sighted school to go on with their education.

Of the fifty-five students, thirteen are children. I wish you could meet them. Two of them are without families of their own and have been taken into the homes of two members of our teaching staff. Several are just learning to read braille, and others are going ahead very quickly.

These children love to go on outings, and I think the most exciting experience was when the Ariana Afghan Airlines kindly took the children on a tour through the airport and finally onto the big 727 jet. We sat in the seats and fastened the seat belts and took a wonderful imaginary trip. The airport officials made the outing a perfect one, by giving each child a plastic bag of

cookies and candies.

In November, Mr. Theodore Reusch from Germany arrived with his wife Ilse and their little boy, Friedholm. He is concentrating on the language and then will take over the handicrafts side of the work. Our greatest need is to get the different students trained in a handicraft by which they can support themselves and then get them working on their own in their homes. Mr. Reusch has been specially trained for this work and we are looking forward to the time when he can start his work.

Right from the beginning of this work we have been advised not to be involved with boarding students in the school. We have therefore felt that the wiser thing to do would be to have Institutes for the Blind established at strategic places throughout the country.

A year ago Miss Charlotte Self, who came to us from Iran, felt called of God to move to Herat, a city near the Iranian border, and to open an Institute there. This work has prospered and now there are about 15 students—all that Charlotte can possibly handle by herself, with the possibility of many more as soon as more help is available.

We want to thank you for your help in this work. May the Lord bless you in all you are doing for Him.

Yours very sincerely in Christ,

Betty Wilson

Children taught daily at Noor Institute.

