



FROM THE EDITOR

On September 6, Steve and I received a phone call from Norway: our good friend and ministry partner, Aril Edvardson (69), a world-wide Ambassador for God's Kingdom, had gone to be with the Lord!

Aril died the way he lived — with his boots on. He and his wife, Kari, had just finished a very successful Gospel campaign and teaching seminar in Zanzibar, a predominantly Muslim island off the coast of East Africa, where tens of thousands had heard the Gospel and observed the power thereof by signs and wonders.

As a young man, born and raised in a small village in Norway, God gave Aril a clear commission and vision to reach the entire globe with the Good News as an evangelist. Till the end, he was true to his call. There is hardly a country in the world where Aril did not present the Gospel to the masses in person. But Aril was much more than a mass evangelist. He was a statesman who, by a unique, God-given strategy bypassed political ideologies and religious bureaucracies to pursue entrance with the Gospel into nations hostile and rather closed to traditional Christianity. His would start by extending a hand of friendship to the Heads of State of the target country on behalf of the Norwegian government by bringing the symbolic silver replica

Viking ship from his Prime Minister as a seal of a good diplomatic relationship between the two countries. A plane-load full of relief aid would follow. This built a relational platform from which Aril received permission to conduct his public Gospel campaigns. Thus, myriads of people in scores of the then closed nations heard his simple, clear message of Jesus as God and Savior! Over a period of a half century of ministry, millions have been saved!

Aril was innovative in the use of the media as Gospel transmitters: television, satellite, internet — millions are daily hearing the Good News! He wrote and published nearly fifty books. Right after the Iron Curtain fell, Steve (my husband) and Aril partnered in funding and distributing several million New Testaments and Bibles to churches and into the hands of people in the formerly atheist Soviet Union.

Our most precious memories are from our many personal times with Aril and Kari as friends. I enjoyed Aril and Steve's in-depth conversations, full of knowledge and wisdom, on a broad range of topics. Above all — Aril's hallmark was his simple, profound love for Jesus!

Cont. from p. 3 ... In India with Rune ...

In the city of *Guntur*, 40,000 people attended the two evenings of the festival and 6,552 people confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior by handing in the follow-up cards they had signed with their full name and address. 10 new churches were also planted in this city as a direct result of the meetings.

In *Hyderabad* 4,857 confession cards were handed in among the 35,000 people that attended the meetings. In Hyderabad 10 new churches were planted, as well, in order to follow up on the new believers.

"This is really wonderful, but now we also have to support the 20 new missionaries that are responsible for pastoring the new churches," says Rune.

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LINKING GOD'S PEOPLE TO REACH THE UNREACHED

The Bridge Report

Aril Edvardson Home with the Lord



Aril and Kari Edvardson at his last Gospel campaign in Zanzibar, Africa

This is a personal message from Aril Edvardson's wife, Kari, who quietly and faithfully stood by her husband's side through their fifty years of marriage and active ministry:

Dear friends and partners!

It is with sorrow in my heart that I now have to inform you that our dear Aril has passed away. He went home to be with Jesus on the 6th of September. After campaigns and preacher seminars on the island of Zanzibar, Aril and I left for Mombassa, Kenya for him to relax for a couple of days before we returned to Norway. Approximately two hours before our departure, he became ill, and died in the hospital one hour later. His heart stopped.

Aril is home in heaven., but we who are left here will continue his work and mission to bring the Gospel to people who have never heard. Millions of people are waiting for us.

Our son, Rune, has for many years conducted concerts and campaigns, and Jesus has confirmed his work with thousands of salvations. Many churches have been planted as a result of his work in India, Pakistan, and Africa.

Now he undertakes our mission work, IWM, which reaches out to over 200 countries. He continues the calling that his father had. A big responsibility has been laid on his shoulders, but by God's grace and help through our partners, we will succeed.

For me personally, our home and my life have become so empty. Aril and I have stood together since we were young in the calling he received when he was 19 years old. God bless you all, and thank you for your help and support through many years

Kari

NEVER GIVE UP — GOD’S PLANS CAN NEVER BE STOPPED

BY RUNE EDVARDSEN

Psalm 145:4



Aril and Rune Edvardsen at Last Summer's Festival

During our annual summer campaign at IWM's headquarters (International World Mission), in Sarons Dal, Norway, I preached about never giving up. And this is what I want to pass

on to those who have partnered with us. Together we have brought the Truth and God's love to the ends of the earth. However, there are millions of people still waiting to hear the Truth. My dad died in Kenya, Africa, in the midst of action. He finished the race, and received his victory wreath in heaven.

All of God's plan is about us people who are created in His image. The whole purpose for the Creation was to share His love with us, His people. It is God's plan that everyone shall find the Truth and live in eternity with Jesus in heaven, where there is no sorrow or sickness, where all evil is gone, all suffering forgotten, and everything will be restored.

Our world needs us to fight for the spreading of the Gospel. Look at the world today! No politician or world leader of importance can create peace and justice. There is only one who can — Jesus. Together we shall therefore stand up with God's Love, bring the Gospel to new areas and give people the gift of Salvation. The gift of eternity is the most important mission in the world.

Dear friends — we have never had bigger results in IWM's work than now! There has never been a bigger opening for the Gospel. It is in fact easy to fulfil the Mission out there. Right now, millions of people hear about Jesus through our field activities and networks of workers and through the media.

My dad's calling is ours. We are

ready to bring it further. I have seen the impossible happen since I was a child. I have seen hundreds of thousands of people receive Jesus through my simple preaching. **GOD IS WITH US. WE SHALL SUCCEED.**

He wants all to receive salvation, and He does not forsake His own command.

My dad is in heaven rejoicing together with the millions of people who received Jesus because of his work. Our dad was a disciple and he taught us much. We are also disciples and we shall continue the work in new areas, to the ends of the world like our command tells us.

Let us stand together. We shall let the rejoicing ring in heaven every day until we are all gathered there.

India: 20 New Churches in Four Days

Rune's Vision for India's Youth

Several years ago, Rune Edvardsen saw the great need to reach the youth of the third world with the Gospel. He saw a generation of youth that struggled with poverty, aids, unemployment, starvation and war. They were the victims of ill managed countries, western trade regulations, the HIV/Aids epidemic, fanatic religious leaders and tribal wars. In India alone there are 600 million people under the age of 20. That's more than all the young people in North America, Africa and Europe put together.

Rune Edvardsen believes that India with its 1.2 billion people is a country that will be a major player in the world arena in the near future, both industrially, economically and spiritually. Yet, he also sees that millions of these young people

will never have a fair chance of improving their lives as they are trapped in the Hindu cast system that does not give the same opportunities to people born into the lower casts.

“India is the greatest mission field in the world, in addition to the Muslim world, and International World Ministries, also known as Evidence of Faith, will do everything in their power to reach the millions in India with the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” Rune explains.

A faithful partner in India

The burden for the young people in the third world was heavy on Rune's heart. Then he was introduced to Ernest Komanapalli, the charismatic leader of Manna Ministries in India. Komanapalli, shared Rune's vision to reach India's

youth. He quickly latched on to the idea of conducting large music festivals where well known Indian artists would be invited to perform together with Rune. Several stars from India's Bollywood joined the music festival and the crowds were quickly gathered.

As Rune enters the stage as the last performer, he preaches the gospel and sings his songs. This has proved to be an unfailing method in reaching the hearts of India's young people. Since 2001, nearly 200 churches have been planted and 200,000 — 300,000 young people have confessed faith in Christ.

The Incredible Results from Rune's 14th International Music Festival in



India Reveals an Enormous Openness towards the Gospel and a Great breakthrough among India's Young Hindus.

When Rune conducted his 14th International Music Festival in the two cities of Guntur and Hyderabad last February, 20 new churches were planted in the suburbs and several thousand Hindus confessed a new found faith in Jesus.