



# Kenneth Neil Bystrom

JUL 3, 1914 - MAY 23, 2014



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## **Kenneth Neil Bystrom**

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**K**enneth Neil Bystrom was born in Ashland, Wisconsin on July 3, 1914 to Swedish immigrant parents, Israel and Ingeborg Bystrom. He had four brothers, Joseph, George, Wilhelm, Dale, and three sisters, Edith, Judy and Jeanette. He became a Christian at an early age and felt called to the ministry as a young adult. He attended Northern Baptist Seminary and Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, graduating in 1942. While at Moody he also met his bride, Ardis Jane Brown, whom he married in December of that same year. Ken also studied at Princeton Seminary in New Jersey and was ordained in 1948 after his first term on the mission field. Ken and Ardis joined Team Mission as missionaries and served in Columbia from 1943 through 1946 and then in Venezuela. In 1952 Ken joined the American Bible Society to head up their office in Caracas. In 1963 he was asked to assume responsibility for a new distribution program for Latin America. This led to significant travel throughout the region and included other countries around the world which could also benefit. Ken has visited 66 countries - some of them only once, others as many as thirty seven times. Ken's unconditional love for others, humor, and love of ice cream and mangos endeared him to many around the world. He was a true adventurer. He loved to fly, found other cultures fascinating and always carried a great sense of fun with him wherever he went. He was humble, a deep thinker, well read and had a strong sense of fairness. His character was kind, generous and peaceful. But most importantly he continually strove to emulate his friend and Lord, Jesus Christ. It has been easy for his family to understand the concepts of husband and father through his example. He will be dearly missed by his wife, Ardis, and his daughter, Nancy, his daughter-in-law, Wanda Rowley, and two grandchildren, Tracey Gardner and Tom Bystrom, and one great grandson, Tom Bystrom. He will also be missed by many around the world. But we can all be comforted in the



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knowledge of Ken's new heavenly home and reunion with his son and other loved ones there. We so look forward to seeing him again one day.



## Tribute Wall

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EL

**Eduardo Leon** posted:

My deepest condolences to Nancy and Ardis. I am Eduardo, The only son of Jaime Leon who passed away three years ago. My father Jaime worked at the Sociedad Biblica his whole life. As a child he took me to the office so I could be of some help. I remember Mr. Bystrom always so kind and gentle to me.

June 26 at 12:06 PM

KC

**Kerm & Sara Carlberg** posted:

Dear Ardis, We're sorry to hear of Ken's passing. We're praying for our Heavenly Father's comfort for you. Ken and you are a great team and you lived and served our Lord well. You two were also a great example for Sara and I in every aspect of life. With love, Kerm & Sara Carlberg

May 29 at 6:16 AM

VS

**Valerie Silk** posted:

Dearest Ardis and Nancy, May God comfort your hearts in the knowledge of the immeasurable joy Ken is experiencing now. Thank you for the example of your love and faithfulness and tender care of a very special man through many difficult years. I love you both. Val

May 28 at 6:03 AM

BB

**Beverly J. Brown** posted:

I had the honor of being in the family of this man. What a good, full life we can all aspire to. My prayers and love to aunt Ardis. May God comfort you.

May 27 at 11:43 AM

KW

**Kathy West** posted:

Ardis and Nancy, Grace Class was so sorry to learn of Mr. Bystrom's death. Our deepest sympathy and love is extended to you. We are praying for His peace during this difficult time.

May 25 at 6:25 PM



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NM

**Nancy Watson Mahle** posted:

Can't believe Ken is gone! God truly smiled when he was born, as well as met him at the gates when he passed away. My sympathy to all!

May 25 at 6:03 PM

BT

**Bob & Jan Terpstra** posted:

Dearest Ardis & Nancy, We so rejoice for Ken but ache with the two of you for the separation you are experiencing! Wish we were there to give you hugs and try to be of support, help and encouragement. Our love and prayers are with you and we look forward to our next visit with you in Florida!

May 25 at 2:38 PM

BG

**Bill And Kathy Gwyer** posted:

Dear Ardis and Nancy, It was with a pang in our hearts when we read today of Ken's passing as we will truly miss a dear friend and fellow missionary. It is also with joy as we know he is with his dear Savior and is experiencing complete health! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have caught a glimpse as he entered heaven! I can see his brilliant smile as he saw Jesus' face for the very first time! We both send our love to you and know that we are praying for God's special comfort at this time.

May 25 at 9:16 AM

BR

**Becky Rittimann** posted:

What a wonderful example of servitude your entire family has given me! With Christ leading, Kenneth provided the model of father, husband, and humble servant for people all over the world! "Well done good and faithful servant." God's peace be with you, Nancy and Ardis, in the days and weeks ahead.... Love you, Becky Shook Rittimann

May 25 at 5:40 AM

DB

**Douglas Brown** posted:

Thoughts and condolences to Ken's family from ours. My dad had mentioned Mr. Bystrom many a time, with nothing but great words to say about him and his wife Ardis.

May 24 at 7:20 PM



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ML

**Michelle Langlois** posted:

Ardis and Nancy, Our hearts break for you and rejoice for Ken. Our love and prayers are with you during these coming days.

May 24 at 4:52 PM

MW

**Martha Watson** posted:

Aunt Ardis, Carol & All -- I'm so sorry to hear about Ken's death. The online obituary is beautiful. especially the sentence, "It has been easy for his family to understand the concepts of husband and father through his example." What a wonderful tribute! May your memories of Ken and your good times together comfort you and bring you peace. Love, Martha Watson (Neita's oldest granddaughter)

May 24 at 3:58 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Kenneth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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