



Lord, Give Us This Mountain

VOLUME ONE • LANCASTER COUNTY ROOTS

*From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street
Baguio City Philippines*

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle • An Engle Family History

Volume One: Lancaster County Roots

Switzerland · Pennsylvania · Kansas · Ontario · England · 1743–1950

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Welcome to the Engle Family

This little book tells the story of one family: a Kansas farm boy named Ken Engle, a student nurse from Canonsburg named Mary Lou Leonard, and the six children they raised between the prairie and the Philippine islands. Behind them stand the Engles, Robsons, Leonards and Haineses, ordinary people who loved the Lord and wrote things down. Ahead of them are grandchildren and great-grandchildren who are still adding chapters.

From 1951 to 1975 Ken and Mary Lou served the Lord in the Philippines, and the work they began goes on today through keepm.org. These stories are where it all started.

A Book of Remembrance

Ken and Mary Lou Engle saved everything. Diaries kept almost every day from the 1940s until 2003. Several thousand letters. Some thirty thousand photographs and slides. Reel-to-reel tapes nobody had played in sixty years.

About twenty years ago Kevin and Gordon had most of it scanned. About ten years ago Kevin gave Gordon the hard copies so he could read them, and in 2026 Gordon began sending the family short true stories built from what he found. His archive now holds 4,669 documents, from 1719 to 2004, and more than 8,000 diary pages.

His rule is simple. The quotations are Mother and Daddy, word for word, with the diary and page cited. Nothing is invented. When a relative remembers it differently, the correction goes in.

For such a time as this.

Gordon, on why our parents saved everything (Esther 4:14)

Gordon says the diaries "are handing our own lives back to us a piece at a time, and a good half of what they hand back is something we would have sworn we already knew."

This series gathers those stories into one place, along with what the family has learned about where we came from. Gordon is still sending a story nearly every day, and each one will find its way in.

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another... and a book of remembrance was written.

Malachi 3:16

PART ONE

Where We Came From

*Switzerland and Pennsylvania · Kansas · Ontario
· England*

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026

 Karen and Patrick on Romblon

The Swiss Engels of Lancaster County

The Engle story in America begins with a Swiss family who sailed for Pennsylvania in the 1750s. Ken put it plainly in a 1952 letter: *"Pennsylvania Dutch, both grandpa and grandma... some call it Swiss and some German."* The family history says Swiss.

The best-documented early ancestor on the Engle line is [Ulrich Engel](#), born in July 1743. He came over with his father, also named [Ulrich](#), as a boy of about eleven, farmed in Donegal Township, Lancaster County, and married **Magdalena Bicksler**. Family tradition remembers him as the champion Maypole climber at Maytown. He was light enough to win, and he filled his pockets with ashes to rub on his hands for grip.

His gravestone still stands at the Reichs Church Cemetery near Marietta, carved in German:

Hier ruhen die Gebeine von ULRICH ENGEL ...
gestorben den 28sten September 1799 im 57ten Jahr
seines Alters.

"Here rest the bones of Ulrich Engel... died the 28th of September 1799, in the 57th year of his age"

From Gordon's story "Ulrich Engle, Born 1743" (20 Aug 2026) and a 1952 letter of Ken's.

The River Brethren

Out of that same Lancaster County family came [Jacob "Yokeli" Engel](#). Yokeli is the Pennsylvania Dutch pet name for Jacob. In the years around the American Revolution he became a founding leader of the River Brethren, the church known today as the [Brethren in Christ](#). Kevin counts himself eight generations from Yokeli. Family records disagree on whether Yokeli was Ulrich's younger brother or his son. His birth, about 1753, points to brother.

Two treasures from those years have come down to us. In 2009 Kevin found the **Engle Grove deed of 1789** for sale. It records sixteen acres in Donegal Township sold for 178 pounds by Henry and [Anna Grove](#) (Anna was Ulrich's sister) to Ulrich Engle Jr., signed with "their mark." Photos of the deed are on the next page. And Grandma Mabel Engle gave Kevin a German **Martyrs Mirror** printed in 1814, bound in wooden boards and leather and weighing about fifteen pounds.

The Pennsylvania kitchen came west with the family too. Kevin remembers that Great-Grandma Barbara Engle made cup cheese, and "you could smell it through the house for days." His cousin Lynette added that this might explain why their dads had trouble smelling things later in life.

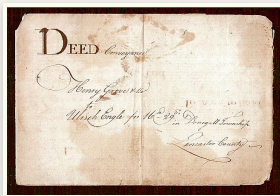
From Kevin's family papers and memories, and family emails.

The Engle Grove Deed, 1789

Here is the deed itself. Kevin found it on eBay in 2009 and bought it for fifty dollars. Dated 15 August 1789, it records that Henry Grove, yeoman, and [Ann](#) his wife, both of Donegal Township, Lancaster County, sold [Ulrich Engle](#) sixteen acres and twenty-nine perches there for £178 in gold and silver coin, the land “to have and to hold” for him and his heirs forever. Ann was Ulrich’s sister. Neither she nor Henry could write, so each signed with a mark, an H and an A, beside a paper seal, before two witnesses.

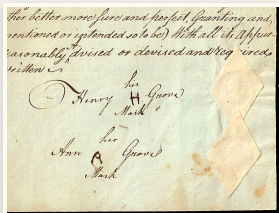


This Indenture: the whole deed, unfolded.

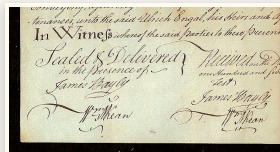


The outside, folded: “Deed Conveyance, Henry Grove & ux [and wife] to Ulrich Engle for 16 a. 29 p. in Donegal Township, Lancaster County.”

Kevin Engle’s collection



Henry Grove, his H mark, and Ann Grove, her A mark, with their paper seals.



“Sealed & Delivered in the Presence of” two witnesses, who also signed the receipt for the money.

West to Kansas

Around 1879 and 1880 a wave of Brethren in Christ families left Lancaster County for the prairie of Dickinson County, Kansas. Kevin's great-grandfather was among them. *"Kansas is where most of my people are,"* Kevin wrote in 2013.

[Abilene](#)'s most famous son, Dwight D. Eisenhower, grew up in a River Brethren family that came out from Pennsylvania in the same migration. Our records show no kinship, only the same church roots and the same Kansas soil. Mary Lou noted the day in 1971 when the Eisenhower Museum was dedicated, with Mamie and the Johnsons in town.

Our line runs from **Harry Shelly Engle** and **Barbara Martin Engle** to their son **Grant Ercil Engle**, born 21 July 1899. Grant's uncle **Noah Martin** built the [Grace and Truth Gospel Chapel](#) in [Abilene](#) around 1918. The family worshipped there with the Plymouth Brethren for ninety years, and [H. A. Ironside](#) preached there in the early 1920s. The first wedding ever held in the chapel was Aunt Eloise's, in 1957. Its last meeting was in March 2010.

The guy that built the chapel was Grandpa Engles Uncle, Noah Martin. The fellow who got saved (first among the Robson's), was Grandma Engle's (and Uncle Orvilles) dad, Robert A. Robson.

Kevin, 2010

From family emails (Kevin, 2010 and 2013) and Mary Lou's 1971 diary.

Grant and Mabel

In September 1922 Grant Engle married **Mabel Emma Robson**. When he wrote his first letter asking her for a date, he spelled her name "Mable," the way his own sister spelled hers.

They farmed seven miles south of [Abilene](#), and raised five children: **Ken** (1924), **Keith** (1929), **Eloise** (1935), **Elaine** (1938) and **Jan**. Keith later worked the place. Every November for about forty years the farm filled up with men and boys for the pheasant hunt.

Ken remembered a country school with three students in eight grades, 4-H chickens and pigs that lost money, and a Holstein calf that did better. His grandfather taught the Bible and once asked him whether he knew Jesus.

Gordon remembers Grandpa's big thumbs. *"Now if I could just get Grandpa to stop asking me 'IS THAT FELT' as he pinches me with those big thumbs..."*

In 1980 Grant and Mabel gave up the house and moved into Brown's Memorial Home in [Abilene](#), where Ken had held services for years. *"It means more now that the folks are there,"* he wrote. When Grant turned ninety in July 1989, the party was at Brown's, and the family went up to his room in shifts.

From Ken's 1973 testimony tape, his letters, and Gordon's story "He Made Quite a Hit" (29 Sep 2026).

The Robsons

Grandma Mabel's people came to Kansas from Ontario. **John Ross Robson** and **Catharine Broadfoot Robson** had ten children; Albert, the youngest, was the only one born in Kansas. John's mother, **Amy Graham Robson**, came along in 1876 and lived about ten years near [Abilene](#). Aunt Eloise kept a large photo of Catharine in her bedroom.

Their son **Robert Alexander Robson**, our great-grandfather, married **Cora Eva**. Her father, **Henry Eva**, was a Civil War veteran; he and his wife Hester are buried in the [Abilene](#) cemetery.

I remember my mother telling me that her father loved to dance and gave that up when he was converted... I do believe he was saved under the message from [H.A. Ironside](#).

Aunt Eloise, 2014

Robert became one of the leading brothers at Grace and Truth Chapel. Kevin believes Grandma Engle and Ken "inherited his godly disposition."

Cora died in 1935, while Mabel was carrying Eloise. Grandma Robson was a little superstitious and thought an expectant mother should not be near the dying, so Mabel never told her about the baby. "I wish I had ask more questions when I had the chance," Eloise wrote.

The Robson cousins still gather in [Abilene](#) on the first Sunday of August. In 2017 two Winslow cousins came in kilts of the Gunn tartan.

From family emails, among them Aunt Eloise's of 2014.

Robson Aunts and Uncles

Robert and Cora's children were **Mabel** (our grandmother), **Roberta**, **Harry**, **Orville**, **Cleason** and **Lela**. Lela died as a toddler. Cleason died as a young man. Ken always said *"Uncle Cleason was my favorite uncle."*

Roberta married **Wendell Koons**. Their eldest son, **Alvin Dean Koons**, became a U.S. Navy chaplain. Ken was his first cousin, and Kevin recalls hearing that Ken led Alvin to the Lord when they were boys. Alvin turns up again in the Philippines in 1966, carrying a flute ([Volume Two](#)).

Uncle Orville, the youngest, married **Aunt Lois**, whose bread, sticky cinnamon rolls and fudge are still talked about. A cousin remembers that Lois *"used to wash my hair in the sink and I played the pump organ."*

The Robson farmhouse near [Abilene](#), where Mabel and her brothers and sisters grew up and Uncle Orville lived for many years, is back in the family. The family also keeps Mabel's eighth-grade graduation certificate and two of her childhood journals.

Kevin is the family's unofficial Robson historian. He started the RobsonHistory blog in 2008.

From family emails and Kevin's RobsonHistory blog.

The Haineses

Mary Lou's mother's people came from England. **Ernest G. Haines**, "E. G.," was born about 1871, a butcher's son who became a bookkeeper and loved figures. He married **Alice Bush**. They had twin girls, **Freda** and **Mary**, and a daughter they named **Avril**, the French word for April, because she was born in April, on the 26th, in 1902.

About 1908 the family crossed to America, first to Cincinnati and then to Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. Little Mary died at sixteen. Alice was crippled by arthritis in later years, and E. G. wheeled her to church. He loved the hymn "Rise, My Soul! Behold 'Tis Jesus."

Freda studied at Moody and married **Rev. George Bates**. Their daughter Ruth Elaine was Mary Lou's "little buddy."

Granddaddy Haines lived long enough to see great-grandchildren from Manila. Ken read Scripture with him the week before he died, at the turn of 1961, and spoke at his funeral.

Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

the verse Ken shared with Granddaddy Haines (1 Samuel 7:12)

From family letters and emails.

The Leonards

John Reihner Leonard was born on Christmas Day 1899 in Washington, Pennsylvania, the son of Frank and Harriet Leonard. In September 1926 he married Avril Haines at First Baptist Church in Canonsburg. He ran a plant, bought and sold property and trucks, and between 1937 and 1944 shot twenty-five reels of home movies. Gordon has put them on video. In them Mary Lou grows from seven to about fourteen, playing the trombone.

In October 1952, the week Mary Lou sailed for Manila, John wrote her a letter that Gordon calls "The Hospital for Somnambulists." Avril had been sleepwalking in broad daylight and turned her bad ankle. Thirteen-year-old Betsy had leaned on the cellar door and tumbled all the way down.

So you can see, between my being Supt of Hospital
for somnambulists, cook & shipper, I am busy.

John Leonard to Mary Lou, October 1952

I am buying Mother a new typewriter like Ginny's
because she likes to type letters & she has so
many to write.

the same letter

She did have many to write. Avril wrote for thirty-seven more years. Five hundred twenty-one of her letters survive, more than anyone's in the archive except Ken's and Mary Lou's.

John Leonard died on 1 August 1964, at sixty-four. Avril lived until 1 October 1989 and died at eighty-seven.

From John Leonard's letter of October 1952, in Gordon's story "The Hospital for Somnambulists" (8 Sep 2026).

The Preacher He Went to Fetch

Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, the winter of 1954. A church with no preacher, and a chairman of trustees who could not sit still.

John Leonard had already talked a bank into a loan to pay off what the church owed the Association. Then came the bigger problem. He typed it out for his daughter and son-in-law in Manila, question marks and all:

Then,we must find a preacher?????? So mother keeps busy,calling, writing,praying,etc. and helps Emil keep the pulpit supplied. And then we get a recommendation on this fellow Romig. But he is WAY OUT WEST.they all say.

John Leonard to Ken and Mary Lou, Thursday 1 April 1954

Way out west. That was Davenport, Iowa.

Way Out West

Most chairmen of trustees would write a letter. Maybe two. Then wait for an answer. Not this one.

So I say nothing to anyone and jump into a plane and leave on late Saturday fly to Davenport Ia. go to his church Sunday AM take he and his family out for dinner,like him very much,arrange for him to come here for 4 days,etc etc. Hurry up,get a plane back,cause I got Business on Monday Morning.

the same letter

Out on Saturday night. Back on Sunday night. At work on Monday morning. And he told nobody where he had been.

Mother and I Know Better

The man came for his four days. The church voted to call him. And then everybody held their breath.

So the Church votes to call him and every one is afraid he wont accept, but mother & I know better.

the same letter

Mother and I know better. Two weeks earlier Avril had already written to Manila:

Romigs will be here the first of the month and he preaches April 4th for the first time. O joy!

Avril Leonard, Sunday 14 March 1954

And in the very next line: *"Dad is a nut and sure makes us all laugh."*

Seven Years

So the Romigs came to Canonsburg, and the preacher from way out west became something more than the preacher. He went hunting with John Leonard, more than once, the letters say; one year the two of them set off at two in the morning. The Romigs came for Thanksgiving dinner. Mrs. Romig sent down a blackberry pie, warm from the oven.

Seven years of it. Then, in December 1961, the Romigs read their resignation to the church, after the Lord's Supper. Half an hour later, Avril wrote, the telephone rang: a church in Warren, Ohio, asking him to come and candidate.

And John Leonard was due to go hunting.

Dad is away hunting but he kind of hated to leave Sunday afternoon; in fact our appetities were not too good for dinner that day. I think had the preacher been going with him, it would have altered his feelings

Avril Leonard, Wednesday 6 December 1961

One More Party

Two weeks later Avril was planning one more party before the Romigs left. John Leonard's birthday was Christmas Day.

We are having a birthday party for Dad and two of the Romigs Sat. night

Avril Leonard, Wednesday 20 December 1961

And then they were gone.

Now come forward to Saturday, the first of August, 1964. In Villa Park, Illinois, Ken Engle opened his diary that morning and wrote down his verse for the day:

Dad Leonard. I Peter 2:25 He is our Great Shepherd. How we need a shepherd in these days.

Ken, Saturday 1 August 1964, the top of the page

Two Telephone Calls

That night the telephone rang in Villa Park. It was Betsy. And then, an hour later, Betsy again. Mary Lou wrote it down:

Daddy went to Heaven today. Just stopped breathing near midnight. Betsy called once to tell us he was poorly, an hour later to say he was gone.

Mary Lou, Saturday 1 August 1964

Three days later, on Tuesday afternoon, came the funeral. Mary Lou wrote down who led the service:

Day of funeral. Ken Romig, Don Main and Ken had the service.

Mary Lou, Tuesday 4 August 1964

And Ken, in his own diary, the same day:

Dad Leonard – Funeral. Pastor Roming spoke at Funeral at 230. Don Main read Scripture. I had service at grave side. Read I Thes 4:15-18

Ken, Tuesday 4 August 1964

The Man Who Would Bury Him

Pastor Romig, back in Canonsburg from wherever the years had taken him. The letters don't say from where.

Ten years and four months earlier, a businessman had flown out to Iowa on a Saturday night, told nobody, heard a stranger preach, taken him and his family to dinner, and hurried home for Monday morning.

He had gone and fetched the man who would bury him.

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are
now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of
your souls.

1 Peter 2:25, the verse Ken wrote at the top of his diary page on 1 August
1964

What "mother & I know better" would turn out to mean, Gordon says, is the rest of the story.

From John and Avril Leonard's letters to Manila of 14 March and 1 April 1954 and 6 and 20 December 1961, Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries for 1 and 4 August 1964, and Gordon's story "The Preacher He Went to Fetch" (15 Oct 2026), written for Aunt Betsy and Uncle Carl.

Ginny, Mary Lou, Paul and Betsy

John and Avril raised four children in Canonsburg. **Mary Lou** (1930–2003), our mother, was the second.

Virginia "Ginny" (1927–1988) trained as a nurse in New York. Widowed on her honeymoon in 1950, she went to the Belgian Congo as a missionary nurse for about twelve years and was twice evacuated by the British Army. Back home she headed the student health center at Moody Bible Institute and married **Paul Moldenhauer**.

Paul Ernest Leonard (1933–2026) earned his doctorate at Manchester under [F. F. Bruce](#), served on the NIV translation committee, taught New Testament at Trinity, and trained counselors for Billy Graham's New York crusade. As an Army chaplain and colonel he was called up for the Gulf War in 1991. Ken's diary said "To Saudi Arabia." Aunt Betsy corrected Gordon in 2026: Paul served the wounded at Landstuhl, Germany. Paul married **Carol Schmidt** of Kansas in 1957, and in seventy years of diaries they are always "Paul & Carol," like a law firm.

Betsy Jane, the youngest, married **Carl Armerding**, who taught at Regent College in Vancouver and helped translate Judges for the New Living Translation.

In 1978 the four children took turns caring for their mother, a month each.

Ginny (April) Betsy (May) Paul (June), ML July.

Ken's diary, 1978

The rota should have had a fifth name. Carol, the daughter-in-law, quietly took her turns too.

From Ken's 1978 diary and Gordon's stories about the Leonards, Aug–Sep 2026.

The Family Tree

ENGLE · Ulrich Engel (1743–1799) m. Magdalena Bicksler · Lancaster Co., PA
... Harry Shelly Engle (d. 1956) m. Barbara Martin

ROBSON · John Ross Robson m. Catharine Broadfoot · Ontario → Kansas
Robert Alexander Robson m. Cora Eva

Grant Ercil Engle 1899–1992
m. 1922

Mabel Emma Robson
d. about 1983

Ken · Keith (m. Cleo Barten) · Eloise (m. Kevin Dyer) · Elaine (m. Charlie
Corkill) · Jan (m. Ken Horst)

HAINES · Ernest G. Haines (b. ~1871, England) m. Alice Bush

LEONARD · Frank Leonard (1862–1952) m. Harriet

John Reihner Leonard 1899–1964
m. 1926

Avril Haines
1902–1989

Virginia (m. Paul Moldenhauer) · Mary Lou · Paul (m. Carol Schmidt) · Betsy
(m. Carl Armerding)

Kenneth Ercil Engle
9 Nov 1924 – 5 Nov 2009

Mary Louise Leonard
20 Jul 1930 – 12 Apr 2003

married 26 April 1953 · [San Juan Gospel Hall](#), Manila

Becky · Karen · Kevin · Stan · Gordon · Doug

Companion Books

Eight companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

[In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle](#)

Dad's own letters · 1951–1987 · his life and ministry

[Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

[Grace Triumphant](#)

the autobiography of [Cyril H. Brooks](#) · © 1985 Walterick Publishers

["Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag](#)

Baguio City · 1968–2010

[Cheryl](#)

[Cheryl Lyn Engle](#) · her life, her music, her own words

[Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: "Carrying the Vision"](#)

[keepm.org](#) · the Emmaus app · [Moments to Remember](#) · [Karen and Patrick](#)

[Family Stories and Friends](#)

Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

[Kevin's Recollections](#)

Kevin Engle · in his own words · [Stewards Foundation](#) · [In Dad's Own Words](#)

Faithful Men: A Library of Christian Classics, from
[PlymouthBrethren.org](#): Brethren writers and missionary lives,
searchable by author, Scripture and topic. [Open the library ↗](#)

[The Table of Contents for the whole series →](#)

[Every link in the series, in one place →](#)

Sources

Gordon's stories used in this volume: Ulrich Engle, Born 1743 · The Hospital for Somnambulists · Ginny April, Betsy May, Paul June · Where the Wounded Came · The One He Never Had to Perform · He Made Quite a Hit · Aunt Eloise, two stories · The Preacher He Went to Fetch (John and Avril Leonard's letters of 14 March and 1 April 1954 and 6 and 20 December 1961; Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries for 1 and 4 August 1964). Also family letters from 2008–2026 and Ken's 1973 testimony tape.

Engle history online: Engle History and Family Records of Dauphin and Lancaster Counties · Ulrich Engel and Anna Brechtbühl · Rev. Jacob Engle (1753–1833) on FamilySearch · The Brethren in Christ.

Graves on Find a Grave: Ulrich Engel (1711–1757) · Anna Brechtbühl Engel (1715–1764) · Ulrich Engel (1743–1799) · Anna Engel Grove (1741–1805) · Elder Jacob “Yokeli” Engel (1753–1833) · Veronica “Fannie” Schock Engel (1750–1816).

What Comes Next

Volume Two, *The Call to the Philippines*, continues the story.

Keep them for Jesus for eternity.

the prayer behind [KEE Philippine Missions](#)

Edition of 11 October 2026 · through Gordon's "Prays for Us Daily" (10 Oct 2026), "ML + I," "Two Candles" and "The Wedding," Ken's War Years letters of 1943-45, the 1950-51 letters, "[Herald of Christ](#)" (the story of [Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)), "Mary Lou, Mary Lou," the story of [Evelyn Balanag](#) with her photographs, "The Landlord and the Projectionist," and a list of hyperlinks



Lord, Give Us This Mountain

VOLUME TWO • THE CALL TO
THE PHILIPPINES

*From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street
Baguio City Philippines*

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle • An Engle Family History

Volume Two: The Call to the Philippines

A farm boy, a tail gunner, a nurse from Canonsburg, and the islands · 1924–1967

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PART ONE

The War Years

A Kansas farm boy in the Army Air Forces, 1943–1945

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

A Farm Boy and a Radio

Kenneth Ercil Engle was born on 9 November 1924, the eldest of Grant and Mabel's five. He was saved at about nine years old through John 6:37: *"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* Years later he put it this way: "He doesn't turn anybody away."

An FFA trip to Chicago took the farm boy to two places he never forgot. One was Wrigley Field. He was a Cubs fan all his life. The other was Moody Bible Institute, whose radio program he had heard at home. He enrolled.

He liked to open his testimony with a joke: *"I'm not related to Marx and Engels."*

Ken came from a family background of conscientious objectors, but he felt led to serve. That conviction ran deep in the family. Kevin believes that his great-great-grandfather, John M. Engle (Ken's great-grandfather), was a conscientious objector who did not serve in the Civil War. Soon after he moved west from Lancaster County, John gave the land for Newbern Cemetery, a few miles south of Abilene, Kansas, what we know as the "Engle Burying Ground." Ken was sworn into the Army on 11 August 1943 at Fort Leavenworth and trained as an Air Corps cadet at Henderson State in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, flying Piper Cubs. Then the whole class was cut.

Men, you were washed out. Without prejudice for the convenience of the government.

as Ken remembered it, 1973

From Ken's 1973 testimony tape and Kevin's family research.

Tail Gunner

He went to gunnery school at Harlingen, Texas. *"My arm was like hamburger from the recoil of the gun. I got enough shooting."*

Ken joined a B-24 Liberator crew at Walla Walla, Washington. Orders opened in flight sent them to Nadzab, New Guinea, and the **90th Bomb Group, the "Jolly Rogers,"** 319th Bomb Squadron. He flew as tail gunner from Nadzab, then from Mindoro in the Philippines, on missions as long as fourteen hours. He flew sixteen combat missions over the Pacific. He kept a journal he called "My Life in the Service."

On Mindoro in March 1945 he met an educated young Filipino named Vicente, and something turned in him. Ken had prayed for China at Moody. Now the burden became the Philippines. On 4 March 1945 he prayed for a church at San Jose, Mindoro.

He was discharged on 19 June 1945 and quietly kept that day every year afterward. In 1979 he wrote to Stan, *"I got out of the Army Air Corps 34 years ago today!"*

After a restless year on the farm he went back to Moody and became an announcer on WMBI.

In December 2004, at eighty, Ken mailed copies of his war journal to Kevin.

KLE — sent copies of my Journal WWII etc. ...
Thankful for my childrens calls.

Ken's diary, 3 December 2004

From Ken's 1973 testimony tape, his 1979 letter to Stan, and his 2004 diary.

Pvt. Engle Reporting

The War Years pages are drawn from the 272 letters Ken wrote home or received from 1943 to 1945, typed up by the family in 2007, and from the original scans in Gordon's archive.

Ken was sworn in on 11 August 1943. A year later he wrote, *"It was just one year ago this afternoon that I was sworn into the army."* Basic training was at Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas.

It is discipline and more discipline. ... The Army is a tough life but I like it. I feel that the Lord has a place for me.

Ken to Grandpa and Grandma, 22 September 1943

On 5 October he stood before the Aviation Cadet Examining Board. The family's old conscientious-objector question came up at once.

They asked me as to whether I was a conscious objector (spelled wrong but time is flying) to killing in defense of the nation. I told him I was not.

Ken to the folks, 5 October 1943

On Sundays he went out with the Baptist Training Union team to little churches around Wichita Falls, and he preached so often that he wrote home twice, *"They think I'm a Baptist and don't know it."* After a 32-mile night hike almost to Oklahoma he reported, *"Well I'm still alive,"* and added, *"The Lord really helped me prepare my talk as I walked along."*

A physical on 12 October put him in Class 2, navigator and bombardier, because his eyes tested 20/25. *"This is an answer to prayer because I wanted to be a navigator."*

"What Ever Made You Want to Fly?"

That November Ken went to the 66th College Training Detachment at Henderson State Teachers College in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. In February 1944 the Engle family appeared in *LIFE* magazine.

Today the fellows brought back the "Life" magazine. They think my Mother pretty good looking.

Ken, 13 February 1944

His English teacher gave him a 95. *"I imagine you wonder how I get 95 in English – Well he noticed my picture in Life – See."* Fan mail followed. *"P.S. I don't know what to think of fan mail."*

His plane was to be a Piper Cub. He took his first flight on 13 March 1944.

he looked at me and grinned and said. "What ever made you want to fly"? ... My troubles are these – too tense, afraid and slow well what more could be wrong – Why did I ever get in this Air Corps.

Ken, 14 March 1944

On 24 March he and his instructor nearly turned in front of a landing AT-10. *"Some of the fellows say it only missed us by about 3 ft. We didn't even know it was behind us."*

On 9 April he bought the book that became his war journal: *"I bought a little book the other day "My life in the Service" When I get it all fixed up I'll probably send it home."* He asked, *"Are you saving all my letters and pictures I send home. I hope so."* They did. This chapter is the proof.

"But Oh April 1st"

On 1 April 1944 the Army closed the cadet program to draftees.

First however I guess I had better tell you the worst. I am no longer on my way toward being a pilot, navigator, or bombardier. ... My instructor said I could make pilot if I wanted to. ... Yes March 31 was a great day but Oh April 1st.

Ken to the folks, 1 April 1944

Of fifty pre-cadets, six went on. Ken signed one letter "*Ex Cadet – now (G.I. Joe).*" On 17 April the orders came: flexible gunnery school at Harlingen, Texas, "*right down by the gulf. ... This may mean overseas duty soon so be prepared.*"

Here's the way I feel. Its a place where I know I'll be helping win the war. I'm no better than anyone else so that's where I'll be if they put me there. The Lord can take care of me just as well in a gun turret as in any other position.

Ken, Harlingen, 22 April 1944

On Father's Day he wrote his dad from the range. "*Its Father's day and about the first one I've missed for a few years. ... I'm going to miss being there for harvest.*" He had fired the .50 caliber for the first time: "*After once firing that gun you learn to respect it.*" He signed it, "*P.S. I believe I've got the best Dad in the world.*"

At Lemoore, California, in July, he and two buddies hitchhiked to church in Hanford and found that the pastor and his wife were Moody graduates. "*It was great the way the Lord planned the week end.*"

Crew #243

In August 1944 Ken went to Walla Walla, Washington, for B-24 crew training.

My crew is #243. ... I believe the Lord is giving me a great crew. I'm really going to need His help as never before in the next few weeks.

Ken, 11 August 1944

On 28 September, on a training flight, someone came back and told him they wanted him up front.

I went up and found that I was to fly a while. So for the next 20 minutes (approx.) I had the controls quite a bit of the time. ... I flipped her way over on the side and around we went. ... I'm having the time of my life I only hope I can get to fly that 24 some more.

Ken, 28 September 1944

On 18 October, after a gospel program at the base chapel: *"Our prayers have been answered. ... One fellow Elijah Blevins was saved."*

After a last furlough at home, and a first look at his new baby sister, Jane Ann, he rode back on a crowded train: *"Standing room only – Well I went out between the cars as I left Abilene and sang some choruses. ... That was a great furlough Thanks to the Lord."*

P.S. Please pray that the Lord will prepare me for combat physically, mentally, spiritually etc. (In all ways)

Ken to his mother, 7 November 1944

Island Hopping

At Hamilton Field, California, the crew was given a new B-24. *"Boy she's really great – all of the latest equipment."* On guard duty he wrote home *"from the ole B-24 I'm using the radio man's desk."* About 23 November they flew out over the Pacific.

When a person's above the clouds there with only water below you realize even more how much your dependent on God.

Ken, 24 November 1944

They stopped at Tarawa, where *"some of the most bitter fighting of the war took place."* He wrote, *"The Lord just seems to be very close to me as a result of your prayers. I feel much different about going than I thought I would."* On 1 December they landed at Nadzab, New Guinea. *"I've got some real stories to tell but I suppose the censor wouldn't appreciate taking it all out so I'll save it until I get home."*

Today we went on first strike at the enemy. Wawak! Our target was a supply road. We were lead ship so I really got a view of it all. No flak No Zeros. ... The Red Cross was there with grapefruit juice.

Ken to his dad, 17 December 1944

On 23 December about twenty letters came at once. *"Say you should have seen the fellows when I told them about Josie's new heifer calf. They were all busy reading their letters and thought something must be wrong with me."* Christmas was *"a warm Christmas day in New Guinea,"* with a Baptist chaplain from Kansas, *"good combination."*

"Hello from Jolly Rogers!"

At the end of December 1944 Stanley's crew joined the 90th Bomb Group, the Jolly Rogers, 319th Squadron. Ken flew in the tail as assistant radio operator and gunner.

Hello from Jolly Rogers! ... I'm sure hoping and praying that we may get the victory soon. I'm getting tired of this war and don't care who knows it.

Ken to his dad, 28 December 1944

He sent home the names of the crew, Lt. Loren Stanley's, and called it *"Best Crew in the World."*

New Year's over and first mission completed. ... We hit the Philippines. ... Over the target I was eating life savers one right after the other. I had them stocked on my toggle switched.

Ken to Keith, 3 January 1945

On 1 February his pilot gave him a New Testament with a golden metal cover. *"I took off the cover and put it on my New Testament. It's not the bullet protection that I need but God's protection."*

On 10 February he wrote his dad from the tail, on the way back from a strike.

There under the cellophane was my Captain my kid brother (grinning from ear into ear) Mom and my two sis'es and Dad standing on the new porch with his hands in his pockets You can imagine how I felt. (home sick)

Ken, 10 February 1945

Somewhere in the Philippines

By February 1945 the Jolly Rogers flew from Mindoro. On 20 February Ken went to *"a service to thank God for the liberation of the Philippines. It was asked by General Mac Arthur."* He signed one letter *"From the Philipino Kid."*

Often I've been in the "valley of the shadow of death" but He says "Fear not" and I have nothing to worry about. About the worst wound so far is a mosquito bite.

Ken to Keith, 15 February 1945

He counted his missions by his brother's and sisters' ages. On 28 February: *"I now am one behind (14) Keith's age 15."*

We completed a rough mission over Formosa today. Truly Ps. 23:4 was again proved to me. Because we were in that valley.

Ken to his mother, 3 March 1945

The next day, 4 March, he came from the chapel, where there had been a memorial service *"for the boys we've lost lately."* That is the day Gordon's records show him praying for a church at San Jose, Mindoro.

On 5 March he wrote his baby sister Jane Ann about the future. He pictured himself *"on W.M.B.I. with me as anouncer ... a Philippine dream but it has possibilities!"* Six years later he was on the radio in Manila.

From the hospital that month he added, *"I'm beginning to see why missionaries once there on the field go back. These people are a very interesting people and very friendly."*



PART TWO

Ken and Mary Lou

A girl from Canonsburg, and a letter that crossed the Pacific

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

The Girl from Canonsburg

Mary Louise Leonard was born on 20 July 1930 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Her own memoir records her mother's first reaction: *"What an ugly baby!"* Aunt Freda, the twin, answered, *"Why no, she's cute!"*

She grew up with Laddie the collie, played piano by ear and trombone in the band, and gave her life to Christ in 1942. On 31 August 1948 she arrived in Chicago to train as a nurse at West Suburban Hospital. That fall she went to hear Dr. Ironside. In 1949 she was received into fellowship at Austin Gospel Hall.

She met Ken in children's work at a Chicago chapel. Their courtship began in the summer of 1950, the family says, on a moonlight cruise. Her own timeline adds two entries in December 1950:

Dec 11, 1950 - cedar chest (from Ken)
Dec 14, 1950 - To Abilene - Texas Chief (To see Ken)

Mary Lou's timeline

Two months later Ken sailed for the Philippines without her.

From Mary Lou's own memoir and timeline.

The Prayer Meeting at Moody

1949 or 1950

When Ken was a student at Moody Bible Institute, he belonged to a prayer group that met to pray for China. That burden went back to his first year at Moody, when [Harry Liu](#), a Chinese student, led a prayer meeting for China (see A Missionary from China). At the same time he had been writing back and forth with [Cyril Brooks](#) in the Philippines, and he was praying about whether the Lord wanted him there.

One night Ken asked some of the other Moody students to join him for an all-night prayer meeting. They prayed through until morning.

The next morning Ken went to his mailbox. Inside was a letter from [Cyril Brooks](#), inviting him to come to the Philippines as a missionary. That letter had been on a ship for thirty days. It reached him the very morning after he had spent the night asking God for direction.

God had sent the answer a month before Ken finished asking for it.

“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”

Isaiah 65:24

From Kevin Engle's recollections

Meet You at Taps

In August 1950 Ken left Chicago for the family farm in Kansas. He and Mary Lou had spent one last week together, and he called it *"the climax to my four years in Chicago."* He wrote from the farm with an idea.

Suppose every night at 10:00 your time which is 9:00 PM here we pause for prayer together. ... So even though miles separate us we can meet together before the Lord. Let's call it at taps.

Ken to Mary Lou, August 1950

He signed off *"Meet you at taps,"* and for months afterward that was their good night.

Most of August Ken taught at Kansas Bible Camp near Wichita. The campers noticed how often the mail brought him letters from Chicago, and they did not let it go. One morning at breakfast the whole dining hall sang it at him:

Get your mind off Mary Lou, Mr. Engle.

the campers, Kansas Bible Camp, August 1950

"Whata week!" he wrote on a postcard. *"Several professed to be saved."*

Mary Lou wrote back nearly every day from West Suburban, where she was about to become a senior student nurse. Ken confessed that his heart went *"pitter – patter every time I get a letter from Oak Park."* On 1 September twenty-four red roses arrived from Kansas to go with her new white uniform.

Thanksgiving, 1950

Ken's visa for the Philippines had been a worry for months, and it was far from certain. The day before Thanksgiving, word came from Manila: the immigration office had recommended that it be granted. On Thanksgiving afternoon at the farm, waiting for the turkey, Ken wrote Mary Lou his list.

I'm first of all thankful for my Saviour. He gave His all for me. ... Next I thank Him for you. Your friendship is more than I ever dreamed of finding in anyone.

Ken to Mary Lou, Thanksgiving, 23 November 1950

Next Mary Lou I'm thankful for His leading to the islands. Yesterday I received word that my visa is to be granted. I'm so happy. Thanx for your prayers.

the same letter

Then his parents. *"Certainly He couldn't have given me better parents."*

He signed it *"Till Taps To-nite."*

The plan was now clear, and it was a hard one. Ken would go first. Mary Lou would finish nursing school and her courses at Wheaton, and they were ready to wait as long as three years. Ken told his old campers the news in a Christmas prayer letter: *"Also pray for me as I learn a new language. The name of the language is TAGALOG."*

Maganda

Ken sailed from San Francisco on 18 February 1951 aboard the freighter *California Bear*, the only passenger. After loading cargo at Puget Sound, the ship left for the Philippines on the 22nd, and on 14 March it docked at San Fernando, on Luzon. Ken mailed Mary Lou a letter with five dollars in it. She was to mail his prayer letters in the States as his "*little secretary*," and spend the rest on silverware for the cedar chest. Two nights later the ship anchored in Manila Bay. Early the next morning Cyril and Mrs. Brooks were waiting to bring him ashore.

First, I'll take to say that it's been above
and beyond anything I ever dreamed of - like my
Mary Lou.

Ken to Mary Lou, San Juan, 20 March 1951

The assembly welcomed him on Mrs. Dayton's lawn and gave him a Tagalog Bible. "*I was so thrilled I could hardly say anything.*" That Monday he opened letters for the Bible School of the Air, which had more than 2,000 students, and that night Mr. Brooks interviewed him on DZAS. In his first Tagalog lesson he learned *maganda*, beautiful. "*I thought right away of Mary Lou.*"

His airmail letter reached Chicago in four days.

Ken, I like the idea of being your secretary.
There's no-one I'd rather be secretary to, for the
rest of my life.

Mary Lou to Ken, 19 March 1951

Seven weeks later he wrote the "*v. important letter.*"

From Ken and Mary Lou's letters to each other, 1950-51.

The Letter She Lost

In Manila on Tuesday 8 May 1951, Ken wrote up an ordinary day: the piano tuned, curry and rice ("Yum Yum"), supper with friends. Twice he mentioned a "*v. important letter*," underlined in red. At the foot of the page he added a red asterisk and three words: **Proposal to ML**.

In Chicago, Mary Lou was a student nurse who cleaned and babysat for the Clarksons between hospital shifts.

LOST AN UNOPENED LETTER FROM KEN TODAY ON WAY TO CLARKSONS. AM NOT WORRYING ABOUT IT

Mary Lou, 10 May 1951

It came back the next day; someone had picked it up. Which letter it was, nobody knows. Then, on the 12th:

TODAY HAS BEEN A GREAT ONE!!!! KEN ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM!!! I'VE BEEN WALKING ON CLOUDS ALL DAY... TOOK ME 2 HR 15min TO SEND MY ANSWER "YES". HOW I LOVE HIM!!!

Mary Lou, 12 May 1951

Sure enough there were two letters from Mary Lou. I was so excited I tried to use the P.O. key to open car door.

Ken, 18 May 1951

On 24 May a song went out over DZAS radio for "Kenny," and on 7 June there was a diamond.

From Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries for May 1951, and Gordon's story "The Letter She Lost" (1 Oct 2026).

Wilt Thou Go with This Man?

A year later, on the anniversary of his proposal, Ken read Genesis 24, the story of Rebekah agreeing to go to a husband she had never seen in a far country. He called it "very appropriate."

Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.

Genesis 24:58

In the first week of October 1952, John Leonard drove his daughter to New York. She sailed on the **SS California Bear**. Fifty people stood on the pier and sang, and the ship moved out at six in the evening. Within days her sister Ginny left for the Congo.

Ken Engle and Mary Lou Leonard were married on Sunday 26 April 1953, at six in the evening, at San Juan Gospel Hall in Manila. The typed ceremony script still exists, stage directions and all: "*When wedding party is fully in place: Let us pray.*" So does the hometown clipping: "Mary Lou Leonard Weds Kansas Man In Philippines." They honeymooned in Baguio, the cool pine city in the mountains. Fourteen years later it would become home.

At their twenty-fifth anniversary in 1978, Grandma made a white cake with "25" on every slice. Ken slipped a new gold band on Mary Lou's finger for the camera. Both had forgotten their glasses, so everyone held theirs out, and Ken borrowed Uncle Orville's.

From Ken's 1952 diary, John Leonard's letter of October 1952, the wedding script and a hometown newspaper clipping.

San Juan Gospel Hall



San Juan Gospel Hall, Manila, where Ken and Mary Lou were married on 26 April 1953. Kevin believes the man in white in the doorway, facing away, is Dad.

Kevin Engle's collection

PART THREE

The Philippine Years

1951–1967 · Manila · Binangonan

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

Manila and the Bible School of the Air

Ken reached the Philippines early in 1951, commended to the work under Cyril "Dad" Brooks, and lived with the Brooks family in San Juan. Two days after he landed he was on the air at DZAS with the **Bible School of the Air**. He held a Friday Bible class for Navy men at Sangley Point, helped with the GI Gospel Hour, and met Jesse Miller, a survivor of the Bataan Death March.

Over the years Ken made more than a thousand radio programs; Volume Five, *Moments of Melody*, tells that story.

Ken and Mary Lou lived by faith, as the Brethren did. They drew no salary and never asked anyone for money. They told their needs to God alone, the way George Müller had.

What he orders, he pays for. If he sends you out, gives you a job to do, he's going to take care of it.

Ken, 1973

His first prayer cards in 1951 were drawn and printed by John Sweemer of Wheaton. One of his first gifts on the field came from Ed McCully, who had invited Ken to preach at Wauwatosa in the 1940s and sent fifty dollars in 1951. McCully was later martyred in Ecuador in 1956.

From Ken's 1973 testimony tape and his letters.



Eloise's Ten Dollars

By June 1954 Ken and Mary Lou had a baby daughter, **Becky**, and the money had run out.

To market. Didn't spend much because finances are low. Had a few centavos left. 65 in bank and that's all we know of.

Ken, Friday 18 June 1954

That same day the mail brought word of fifty dollars on its way from the Beech Street assembly, and ten dollars from Ken's sister **Eloise**. She was eighteen, in nurse's training in Kansas City, and earned no salary. Mail took weeks to cross the Pacific, so she had sent it before anyone knew they were short.

Again at just the right time He sent it in. We thank Him for each such experience.

Ken, 18 June 1954

A year later Eloise was washing the farmhouse kitchen floor when she told her mother she wanted to go to Bible school, and maybe to the Philippines to help Ken and Mary Lou. Grandma Mabel said:

Oh no. I've given one to the field. I can't give two.

as Uncle Kevin Dyer remembers Eloise telling it

Mabel came around: *"I won't stand in your way."* Eloise went to Emmaus Bible School, met an Australian student named **Kevin Dyer**, and married him on 31 August 1957, the first wedding ever held in Grace and Truth Chapel. The night before, in Manila, Ken preached a sermon called "The God That Is Enough."

From Ken's 1954 diary and Gordon's "Aunt Eloise" stories (31 Aug 2026).

Ships, Furloughs and Five Children

The family grew on the field and on the ocean between.

- **Becky** was born in 1954 and **Karen** in 1955, both in the Philippines.
- In December 1956 they sailed from San Francisco on the *City of Poona*. Mary Lou and Karen were seasick, and Ken prayed the prayer of Jabez. They reached Manila's Pier 13 on 10 January 1957.
- **Kevin** was born in Manila in 1957. He was named after Uncle Kevin Dyer.
- **Stan** arrived in 1959, weighing ten pounds.
- They sailed home on the *Orcades* in 1960 and back on the *Anna Bakke* in 1961.
- On furlough in 1963 Ken taught Old Testament at Emmaus Bible School.
- **Gordon** was born in 1964 in Illinois. He was the only one of the first five born in the States.

Grandfather John Leonard drove all night from Pennsylvania for Gordon's arrival. Two weeks later he recorded a tape letter to friends. Gordon played it in 2026 for the first time in sixty-two years.

I brought Mother Leonard out two weeks ago for the arrival of the new [grandson] of the Engle family, a nice healthy child. And now I am back here to take mother back home with me.

John Leonard, 1964

Avril added, "*Perhaps he's the prettiest one of them all so far.*" It is the last known recording of John's voice. He died that August.

Teach Others Also

On Saturday 27 June 1959 Uncle Kevin and Aunt Eloise Dyer landed late at Manila for a month's visit. Eloise was expecting. Ken's diary that day reads, *"The big day... Home for cherry pie. Wonderful to have them here."*

While Eloise ironed the Engle children's clothes upstairs, Uncle Kevin remembers, "Ken and I were off in a room."

Kevin & I worked on "Teach Others."

Ken, Friday 10 July 1959

They were writing **TOP, the Teach Others Program**, from 2 Timothy 2:2: *"The things that thou hast heard of me... the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."* New believers would be taught to teach. Ken cut the stencil that fall, and Stan was born soon after. TOP was still running, much changed, in 1970.

In 1959 Ken listed the friends who had been an "Oasis in desert" to him. Kevin and Eloise were number one.

Asked about it in 2026, Uncle Kevin said, *"Your dad was instrumental in coming up with that idea, and he put it on me to do it, and I don't know what I did."*

From Ken's 1959 diary and Gordon's story "Teach Others Also" (2 Oct 2026), with Uncle Kevin Dyer's memories.

Heaven Came Down

On 17 March 1966 Ken wrote across the top of his diary page, "15 years since coming to Philippines as a missionary."

The next week Mrs. Cathy Hamilton rode out with him to **Binangonan**, a fishing town on Laguna de Bay. In the 1930s her father, Mr. Shepherd of the Bible Society, had led a Mr. Aguilar to the Lord in a tuberculosis sanitarium. Brother Aguilar went on to win many in Binangonan.

A real testimony of what one man won to the Lord can do... May I reach some like this for Thee.

Ken, 23 March 1966

On Sunday 27 March, with eight-year-old Kevin along, the chapel choir sang "Heaven Came Down." Then, at a rocky point on the lake, six people were baptized. A young man named Lino had helped five of them, and two were his own mother and sister.

So there are several spiritual generations which go back to that original witness in a hospital in the 1930's. When we sow the Word, we surely do not know what the eternal results will be.

Ken to Bro. Smart, 24 March 1966

Mary Lou trained the Binangonan young people to sing. "Heaven Came Down" became four-year-old Gordon's favorite song.

From Ken's 1966 diary and letters, and Gordon's story "Heaven Came Down" (4 Oct 2026).

Kevin in a Calesa



Kevin at about eight, in a calesa, the horse-drawn carriage of the Philippines, taken shortly after he was saved on 5 September 1965 at Woodside Bible Chapel. This was the age he was when he rode out to Binangonan with Dad in March 1966.

Kevin Engle's collection and Kevin's memories

What He Carried

In 1966 Ken went looking for a flute for Karen's eleventh birthday. His first cousin **Alvin Koons**, the Navy chaplain, was living in Hong Kong.

Checked on flutes. Wrote Alvin.

Ken, 14 March 1966

Alvin and his wife Bobbie came for twenty days that spring. He preached at Binangonan with a few words in Chinese, and he carried the flute.

Karen's birthday. Recd a flute from us. Thrilled

Ken, 1966

On his last day Alvin gave Karen her first lesson. Two weeks later she began lessons with Mrs. Thordis Zabarte of the Manila Symphony. *"We are so thankful for such good teachers,"* Ken wrote. In November 1968, at thirteen, she played "Beneath the Cross" at the summer house of Mrs. Lopez, wife of the Vice President of the Philippines. Back in Kansas she marched in the Abilene High band until 1973. Becky played the violin, and the girls often played at meetings where Ken spoke.

From Ken's 1966 diary and Gordon's stories "What He Carried" (27 Aug 2026) and "Thrilled" (17 Sep 2026).

Black Thursday

Faith was tested too. By the spring of 1967 Ken had been in the Philippines sixteen years, and Mary Lou was not well. On 25 April her doctor suggested a cooler climate, maybe Baguio, the pine city in the mountains where they had honeymooned.

He mentioned Baguio. We just smiling – felt it was out of the question

Ken, 25 April 1967

They spent a holiday hunting for a house in Baguio and found nothing. On Thursday 25 May, running errands in town, Ken made a hard decision.

Decision on way to town – pressure great. Must leave field this summer. Hard decision – not sure of leading.

Ken, 25 May 1967

He squeezed one more word in above the line: *Tears*. On the memo page at the back of the diary he wrote, "*May 25 — Black Thursday.*"

But back on the April page, in the same pen, he had added four words:

– but see May 26!

Ken's diary

From Ken's 1967 diary and Gordon's story "Black Thursday" (2 Oct 2026).

Companion Books

Seven companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

[In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle](#)

Dad's own letters · 1951–1987 · his life and ministry

[Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

["Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag](#)

Baguio City · 1968–2010

[Cheryl](#)

Cheryl Lyn Engle · her life, her music, her own words

[Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: "Carrying the Vision"](#)

keepm.org · the Emmaus app · Moments to Remember · Karen and Patrick

[Family Stories and Friends](#)

Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

[Kevin's Recollections](#)

Kevin Engle · in his own words · Stewards Foundation · In Dad's Own Words

Faithful Men: A Library of Christian Classics, from PlymouthBrethren.org: Brethren writers and missionary lives, searchable by author, Scripture and topic. [Open the library ↗](#)

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[Every link in the series, in one place →](#)

Sources

Gordon's stories used in this volume: Eloise \$10 · I Can't Give Two · On the Same Day · Two Weeks in April · The Journal, Sent · What He Carried · Thrilled · Heavenly Sunshine · The Witness · The Letter She Lost · Teach Others Also · Black Thursday · Heaven Came Down. Also Ken's 1973 testimony tape, Mary Lou's memoir and timeline, and family letters. The War Years pages, from "Pvt. Engle Reporting" to "Somewhere in the Philippines," draw on the letters Ken wrote home or received from 1943 to 1945 (Engle Letters, 2007 transcription project). The pages "Meet You at Taps," "Thanksgiving, 1950" and "Maganda" draw on Ken and Mary Lou's letters of 1950–51 (Engle Letters, 2007 transcription project).

What Comes Next

Volume Three, *Malvar Street, Baguio City*, continues the story.

Keep them for Jesus for eternity.

the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

Edition of 11 October 2026 · through Gordon's "Prays for Us Daily" (10 Oct 2026), "ML + I," "Two Candles" and "The Wedding," Ken's War Years letters of 1943-45, the 1950-51 letters, "Herald of Christ" (the story of Rudy Ponce de Leon), "Mary Lou, Mary Lou," the story of Evelyn Balanag with her photographs, "The Landlord and the Projectionist," and a list of hyperlinks



Lord, Give Us This Mountain

VOLUME THREE • MALVAR STREET,
BAGUIO CITY

*From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street
Baguio City Philippines*

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle • An Engle Family History

Volume Three: Malvar Street, Baguio City

The Malvar years, Brent School and the gate at Subic · 1967–1975

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PART ONE

The Malvar Years

1967–1975 · [55 Malvar](#) Street · Aurora Hill ·
Baguio City

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

A High Mountain Apart

Friday 26 May 1967 was supposed to be the family's last day out before driving down to Manila to pack. All seven went to Burnham Park and Mines View. On the way they stopped at the OMF guest house to invite friends to tea. Nobody was home.

As they stood in the driveway, a Dr. dela Rosa pulled in behind them. He had come to tell the OMF lady that he had places to rent. He told Ken about a house with four bedrooms on Malvar Street.

"We liked what we saw," Ken wrote. Mary Lou put it better: "We loved it!"

Agreement reached – We had prayed much. Felt the Lord gave us the house.

Ken, 26 May 1967

If we had not we'd never have met Dr. Dela Rosa.

Mary Lou's memoir

Ken called it *"one of the greatest changes of area in my life."* At the top of that day's page, in a different pen, he noted that three-year-old Gordon sang in the car on the way to the house: *"Do not be afraid."*

[55 Malvar](#) became home. Ken's radio program [Moments of Melody](#) went out from these years on. In 1967 he began giving Bibles, gold-stamped with each name, to graduating cadets of the Philippine Military Academy. In 1968 he gave Scriptures to President Marcos. In July 1969 Ken watched the moon landing at Clark Air Base. In Baguio, Kevin says, Ken finally saw a church begin, something he never saw in all his years in Manila. Kevin calls the Malvar years the most valuable years they spent in the Philippines.

From Ken's 1967 diary, Mary Lou's memoir and Gordon's story "A High Mountain Apart" (3 Oct 2026), with Kevin's memories.

Give Us This Mountain

On Saturday 3 June 1967 the family had been in the house at [55 Malvar](#) for three days. Two days before, Ken had printed three words across the top of his diary page: "*GIVE ME THIS MT.*" Now, that same Saturday, he sat down at the typewriter and wrote to the elders of **Woodside Bible Chapel** in Maywood, Illinois, the church back home that prayed for them. Gordon sent the family both pages, "the way he typed them, typos and all."

Dear Brethren

It begins like any missionary's report. The assembly in [Binangonan](#) was encouraging. There was a start in Taytay. The Brigade program was almost wholly in the hands of the nationals. The [Bible School of the Air](#) had just passed the millionth mark in students enrolled. Mary Lou had helped start a coffee-hour Bible study in the home of one of the ladies in San Juan.

Then Ken explained the move. The doctor had advised a change of climate and suggested Baguio, and the day before they were to leave the city, they met a Filipino doctor with a house to rent.

We looked at the house and felt it was just what we needed. ... The Lord gave us peace about the whole matter.

Ken to the Woodside elders, 3 June 1967

First, though, Ken visited **Brent School**, begun in 1909 by the Episcopal Church, and learned the children could be enrolled in the fall. Back in Manila the missionaries were all in favor.

Mr. Brooks said it possibly was the Lord's way of thrusting us forth into new areas.

the same letter



He would keep taping programs for the [Bible School of the Air](#) and his own "Living Letters," carry a share of the "Teach Others Program" paperwork, and make trips down to [Binangonan](#) and Taytay. He and Mary Lou would study Ilocano, a trade language for some of the mountain tribes nearby. And there were few gospel broadcasts in Baguio. He hoped for one of their own.

Since the above happenings we have received a specific gift for radio work sent to us personally to be used in the way we felt best. Is this the first "green light" toward Baguio radio work?

the same letter

As you can see we need your prayers. It is sixteen years since I first came to the Philippines. This is a major change of areas. We both feel the Lord has directed. Mary Lou definitely feels better in this climate.

the same letter

Our new address is simply: GEN. DELIVERY,
BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES.

the same letter

Me, and Us

Look at the top and the bottom of the letter. At the bottom Ken typed Caleb's words from the book of Joshua, an old man asking for the hill country where the giants lived:

AND CALEB SAID, "NOW THEREFORE GIVE ME THIS
MOUNTAIN WHEREOF THE LORD SPAKE IN THAT DAY."
JOSHUA 14:12

the foot of the letter

Me. The same words he had printed in his diary on Thursday. At the top, in pen, someone has written "GIVE US THIS MOUNTAIN."
Us. And the letter is not signed Ken. It is signed Ken & Mary Lou.

What "Give us this mountain" would turn out to mean, Gordon says, is the rest of the story.

From Ken's 1967 diary and his letter of 3 June 1967 to the Woodside elders, in Gordon's story "Give Us This Mountain" (7 Oct 2026).

Be Not Afraid

The house was theirs now. But a house on a mountain still has to become a home.

The furniture came up from Manila on a truck at the end of June, and a carpenter put a picket fence around the lower level. On Tuesday 27 June, not four weeks after they moved in, there was a children's meeting at the house.

We had a childrens meeting about 4 PM. Sang Inibig Ako Ni Jesus. I told "Barney's Barrel."

Ken, 27 June 1967

A week later, Ken set up his desk.

Got my office in order. Best office Ive ever had. Becky helped me.

Ken, 3 July 1967

The First Day of School

In his letter to the elders that first Saturday, Ken had asked whether a gift for radio work was "*the first 'green light' toward Baguio radio work.*" So in August he went calling on the radio stations. By the ninth, DZBS, one of the stations in Baguio, had given him a contract.

Late that August Kevin turned ten. They went to Burnham Park, the lake in the middle of town, and Ken wrote down why:

Kevin's birthday — to Burnham Park — to take place of May 26th start.

Ken, August 1967

May 26 was the day out that ended with a doctor in a driveway and a house to rent. The birthday boy got "a telephone set that really works." Then came the first day of school.

First day of school for the children at Brent. I took them. Kevin & Stanley went to class room over toward tennis court. They all came back very happy with the first day — Made friends, liked their teachers.

Ken, August 1967



On the Air

Then came Saturday, 2 September 1967. At the top of the page Ken wrote his verse for the day, from Matthew 14, the night Jesus came to the disciples walking on the water, in the storm:

Matt. 14:27 In the storms of life He comes to us and says, "Be of good cheer, It is I, be not afraid."

Ken, 2 September 1967

And at the bottom of the same page:

First Childrens Bible Hour on the air on DZBS at 330. (8.75) I gave address at the end – had 60 sec.

Ken, 2 September 1967

The first broadcast from the mountain, with sixty seconds at the end to give the address.



Do Not Be Afraid

Now go back to 26 May, to the car following the doctor up the hill to see a house nobody had been looking for. At the top of that page, in a different pen, Ken wrote down what was being sung in the back seat:

Gordons song in car to house 'Do not be afraid'

Ken, top of the page, 26 May 1967

A three-year-old in the back seat, on the way to a house: *do not be afraid*. Fourteen weeks later, in his father's hand, on the day his first program went out over the mountains: *be not afraid*.

Whether Ken thought of the song that Saturday, his page does not say. What "be not afraid" would turn out to mean, Gordon says, is the rest of the story.

From Ken's 1967 diary and Gordon's story "Be Not Afraid" (7 Oct 2026).

Two Candles

The family had been at [55 Malvar](#) for less than five months. On the night of Monday 16 October 1967, Mary Lou sat up in the house on the hillside by candlelight. Ken was not home. Outside, a typhoon.

She wrote it down that night, in a little spiral notebook. At the top of the page she wrote "Typhoon," and under it, "Oct 16-17, 1967."

Will I ever forget it?? Perched on this hillside,
shuddering in the wind, kitchen ceiling leaking
furiously through the ceiling electric outlet!
Wind howling & screaming torrents of rain coming
down. Typhoon Carla is her name.

Mary Lou, notebook, "Typhoon, Oct 16-17, 1967"

Ken had been down in Manila for six days on the radio work. He was to come home the next day and bring a guest with him. So at midnight she picked up the telephone.

Ken has been in Manila 6 days and was to come home
tomorrow bringing [Dad Brooks](#), but I had to call
Epplers at midnite to tell them how dreadful it is
hoping Dad & Ken won't attempt it as roads will be
bad! The Lord has all this in His control and we
just trust Him to bring us through it.

the same night

Shoestrings

Dad Brooks was Cyril Brooks. When Ken and Mary Lou each first came out to the Philippines, they had stayed with Cyril and Anna Brooks. Up on the hill, the wind kept on.

These 2 candles are keeping me warm too! Its rather chilly. Oh how the wind howls! It has been pulling windows unlocked open. I have tied all of them shut with shoestrings! There has never been a storm like this one. We must be really in the violent part of it. A tree crashed into a house and electric wires on Rimando, and there is no electricity in this part of Baguio.

Mary Lou, notebook, October 1967

Shoestrings, on every window in the house. And what does a woman do, alone on a mountain with the lights out? She writes the letter she has been putting off.

I have written to Dr. & Dra Casas in San Juan. Had wanted to do this for ages. The Lord knew I'd have to sit up for a night before I'd do it!

the same night

Trining

Now go down the mountain, to Manila. On Tuesday 17 October Ken was up at half past four, with breakfast at a quarter past five and a prayer before the road: "*We are dependent on thee.*" The weather report, he wrote, was "*not alarming.*"

There were two roads up to Baguio: the Kennon Road, straight up the gorge, and the Naguilan Road, the long way round from the coast.

...saw report of "Trining" typhoon. Decided to go on. Hour later high winds & rain. Signs down. At Kennon bus said "no go." On to Naguilan Rd — turned back at bridge. Called ML P1.20. OK — Stayed at Crestola — No lights early to bed. So thankful for his protection.

Ken, Tuesday 17 October 1967

Trining was the storm's name on his side of the mountain, and Carla on hers. Two names for one storm.

At the top of that diary page the printed line reads "*Today is the Birthday of ____.*" In the blank, in blue ink and in quotation marks, Ken wrote one word: "*Trining.*"

47.9 Inches

A storm's birthday, written down by a man who had turned back at a bridge and gone to bed with no lights. Then Wednesday:

Winds let up in night. Bridge out to Manila – in fact 2 of them. Tried morning & afternoon to go up but still closed. ... Prayer Meeting in the evening by Kerosene light.

Ken, Wednesday 18 October 1967

And at the foot of the page:

47.9" – 24 hours rain world's record

Ken, foot of the same page

Forty-seven point nine inches, in one day. That is nearly four feet of rain on the city in twenty-four hours. A year later Ken and Mary Lou told their friends at home:

...since our move here Baguio has set a new world's record for rainfall. It rained 47.9 inches in a 24 hour period !

Ken and Mary Lou, letter to friends, October 1968

Surprised to See Us

Four feet of rain, and a woman on the hill with two candles and her shoestrings. Then Thursday the nineteenth:

Sun shining brightly. Decided to go as far as we could. Kept right on going. Busses coming the other way.

Ken, Thursday 19 October 1967

They went up the Naguilan Road, past the landslides. Ken counted them and wrote the number down. And then:

Got home at 10:30. They were surprised to see us.

the same day

She had called the Epplers at midnight, hoping the men would not try the road. They tried, and on the Thursday they came home. There was no electricity, Ken wrote, and no water. But everybody was home.

To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word.

Isaiah 66:2, the verse Ken set at the head of his letter to Woodside, 27 November 1967

"We were caused to feel like trembling," he told them, "because of the two typhoons that came our way in recent weeks."

Five Beautiful Dolls

Now, about that letter by candlelight, to Dr. and Dra. Casas in San Juan. Twelve years later, in December 1979, friends asked Ken where each of the children had been born. He typed his answer:

Both Stan and Kevin were born in San Juan Hospital, San Juan, Rizal. Delivered by Dra. Nora Diokno Casas, sister of Senator Diokno.

Ken, letter to friends, 7 December 1979

Which brings us back to the hill, and to the bottom of Mary Lou's first page, the line just before she turned it:

I am staying up all night, praying, writing letters and watching over our 5 beautiful dolls! they are so sweet when they're asleep.

Mary Lou, notebook, October 1967

Five: Becky, thirteen; Karen, twelve; Kevin, ten; Stan, seven; and Gordon, three. They slept in the house on the hill while their mother sat up by two candles, kept watch, and wrote to San Juan.

He Hadn't Forgotten

"Will I ever forget it??" Mary Lou had asked, at the top of the page.

Not quite two years later, in September 1969, Ken was on the road again.

At Haacks saw that typhoon was moving this way –
remembered "Trining". Hurried on – made good time.

Ken, Saturday 6 September 1969

He hadn't forgotten.

What "Will I ever forget it??" would turn out to mean, Gordon says, is the rest of the story.

From Mary Lou's typhoon notebook, Ken's diaries and letters of 1967–79, and Gordon's story "Two Candles" (8 Oct 2026).

ML + I

Last time, a typhoon: Mary Lou alone on the hill at [55 Malvar](#) with two candles and five sleeping children, and Ken turned back at a washed-out bridge. On Thursday 19 October 1967 he got through. *"They were surprised to see us."*

Everybody was home. But there was no electricity, and no water.

On Sunday the twenty-second Ken preached, and that week's Children's Bible Hour went out on the radio. Baguio had lost people in the storm, and he wrote that the program *"gave word of sympathy to those who lost loved ones."* At the top of the page, squeezed in beside the date, was the good news: *"Electricity on at 1:30."*

Lights, then. But still no water. On Monday, at the bottom of the page, four words:

Water tank is dry

Ken, Monday 23 October 1967



Becky's Dishes

So on Tuesday Ken went looking. He found a pump, borrowed it, and went to work hauling water up the hill in drums. He did not go alone.

Out to find water. Found pump at Mesman. Kevin helped with hauling 2 trips — 4 drums

Ken, Tuesday 24 October 1967

Kevin was ten. And at the foot of the same page is one more line, one that every family who has ever been without running water will understand:

Family crisis over Becky's dishes.

the same page

Becky was thirteen. Ken didn't say who won.

On Wednesday there were two more trips and four more drums, and something for Mary Lou: *"Installed Kerosene stove MW — 1957 for ML."* Then the pump went back to its owner. On Thursday, written big across the top of the page: *"Water on in afternoon!"* And at the foot, in capital letters, one word: *"WATER."*

Welming

Eighteen days after the night of the first storm, on Friday 3 November, a guest came to stay, Chuck Cox. They had painted his room that week and put in a new lamp. And on Saturday 4 November 1967 the wind came back.

Winds blowing hard from noon on. Typhoon "Welming"
ML + I stayed awake most of the night. Children
and Chuck rested well.

Ken, Saturday 4 November 1967

Another typhoon. Another night on the hill, the wind pulling at the house, five children asleep. Only this time she was not alone. *ML + I*.

The next morning Ken preached at Baguio Baptist on Jonah, chapters one and two: a man, a storm, and a God who brought him through it.

Spoke at Baguio Baptist on Jonah 1+2.

Ken, Sunday 5 November 1967

But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea,
and there was a mighty tempest in the sea.

Jonah 1:4

"Much wind damage in the city," he wrote. Then he went on with the week.

What "ML + I" would turn out to mean, Gordon says, is the rest of the story.

From Ken's diary for 22 October – 5 November 1967, in Gordon's story "ML + I" (The Malvar Years 8, 9 Oct 2026).

The Kearsarge Men

Some days don't make any sense on paper. They hold a little sadness and a big joy in the same few lines. Monday, the twentieth of November, 1967, was one of those days.

The war in Viet Nam was only a few hours' flight from Baguio. Camp John Hay, the American base on the edge of town, was where men from every branch of the service came for a few days of rest before they went back. The day before, at the John Hay chapel, the Engles had met the Eatons, the family who had lived in their house before them. On Monday Ken wrote it all down, one thing after another:

Word received that servicemen are here. ML Polly Taber + Janet Steiger practice for trio. Then John Eaton called possibility of men coming here. We said "yes". Had funeral for little kitten.

Ken, Monday 20 November 1967

"We said yes." And in the very same breath, a funeral for a little kitten.

Thirty-Five Sailors

Somebody on that hill had a sad afternoon. The diary doesn't say who held the shoebox. And then, that same night:

At 10 PM — 35 or so Navy men from the USS Kearsarge came for a sing and refreshments. The trio sang. We had literature out. I don't think I've ever seen a more appreciative group

Ken, Monday 20 November 1967

Ten o'clock at night. Thirty-five sailors in the living room at [55 Malvar](#). Mary Lou singing in a trio with Polly Taber and Janet Steiger. Refreshments, and literature laid out for anyone who wanted it.

Just Come from the War Zone

A week later Ken wrote to the church back home at Woodside and told them who those men were:

A week ago more than thirty servicemen visited us one evening. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and singing. Most of these men were from an aircraft carrier that had just come from the war zone. It was an unexpected privilege to have them.

Ken and Mary Lou to the friends at Woodside, 27 November 1967

Young men who, a few days earlier, had been out where the fighting was, and now were singing hymns in a living room on a hill in the pines.

But the Kearsarge men were only the warm-up. Back in October, the same week as the typhoon, Ken had written one short line:

ML got call from Chaplain on US Canberra. Wants a servicemens Conf for later part of Nov.

Ken, Thursday 26 October 1967

A Retreat for the Canberra

The USS Canberra was a heavy cruiser. Mary Lou described her in a notebook she headed "Servicemens' Work":

from the U.S.S. Canberra a heavy cruiser which patrols the coast of North Vietnam – shooting every night at shore targets. Chap. Zellar had called us a couple months ago asking if we'd plan a retreat for 25.

Mary Lou's notebook, "Servicemens' Work", 20 November 1967

Twenty-five were expected. Nine came, three of them officers. Mary Lou thought that was better:

This smaller group which arrived was better as they could be given personal attention.

Mary Lou's notebook, "Servicemens' Work"

Around the Fireplace

On Tuesday, the twenty-eighth of November, the Canberra men arrived at John Hay at three in the afternoon. That evening they came up the hill to the house.

They came out to the house at 700 PM. Around fireplace — spoke to them of Rich man — didn't realize until later that one of them was a rich young man.

Ken, Tuesday 28 November 1967

A missionary with a Bible, nine sailors from a warship, and the story of the rich man.

On Wednesday Ken wrote all nine names in his diary: the chaplain, Commander Dwight Zeller; a doctor; an Annapolis man; a brand-new father.

Mary Lou's Menu

On Thursday night, the thirtieth, Ken picked them all up at six o'clock and brought them home for supper. His line is short:

At 6 PM picked them up. Tour of house. ML's
Delicious supper.

Ken, Thursday 30 November 1967

But Mary Lou wrote the menu down, the way a good cook does:

Served macaroni meat + tomato casserole, fruit
salad, homemade bread, pickles, stollen coffee-
cake – coffee. Then later more roll, popcorn +
pop. Everyone ate til they were stuffed! Good
relaxed evening.

Mary Lou's notebook, "Servicemens' Work", Thursday 30 November 1967

Homemade bread. Stollen. Popcorn and pop. For a sailor a very long way from his mother's kitchen, that may have been the best meal of the whole tour.

Signs of Real Stirrings

Then, around the fire again, Ken spoke on John 21. There were testimonies. One young sailor, Jimmy, told them his whole story, and Mary Lou wrote that night, *"Really needs the Lord!"*

The next morning, at the closing service, Jimmy and a man named Manuel signed up for the Bible course.

Friday a.m. good service climaxing with invitation. No decisions but signs of real stirrings. Enrolled Jimmy + Manuel in W.B.T.

Mary Lou's notebook, "Servicemens' Work", Friday 1 December 1967

Farewell to them all. We gave them "Think of Your Future".

Ken, Friday 1 December 1967

And the men went back to the ship, and the ship went back to the coast of Viet Nam.

That Good Food

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:2

We think the sermon is the main thing, and the words matter. But on the ninth of December the chaplain himself wrote from the ship, and listen to what the men remembered:

The one feature of your ministry that will be long remembered in our minds is your sincere Christian concern which you had for all of us. We all remember that good food and have talked about it on many occasions.

Chaplain Dwight F. Zeller, USS Canberra, to Rev. and Mrs. Ken Engle, 9 December 1967

The concern, and Mary Lou's cooking. Never underestimate a good supper. The Lord has used a lot of them.

Next, Gordon says: one of the Canberra men had a son about Kevin's age, and from the Gulf of Tonkin he wrote ten-year-old Kevin a letter of his own.

From Ken's 1967 diary (20 Nov - 1 Dec), Mary Lou's notebook "Servicemens' Work," their letter to Woodside of 27 Nov 1967, Chaplain Zeller's letter of 9 Dec 1967, and Gordon's story "The Kearsarge Men" (The Malvar Years, 12; 16 Oct 2026).

Prays for Us Daily

Most of us don't write down the near-misses: the day the brakes held, the night the fever broke. We are thankful for about an hour, and then life rolls on and we forget. Ken Engle wrote them down.

In the kitchen at [55 Malvar](#) there was a box called a booster. The electricity on the hill could run low, and the booster was there to bring it back up. Ken pasted a snapshot of the kitchen into his album and wrote beside it:

Kitchen, [55 Malvar](#) — Note booster to left —
Sometimes voltage not 110 but 40 or 50 volts.

Ken's photo album, [55 Malvar](#)

The booster came to the house in July 1967. It *"took all afternoon to get it connected,"* Ken wrote, and it *"blew a fuse in the evening."* Late that August, on Kevin's tenth birthday, the day of the German chocolate cake and the telephone set that really worked, Ken tucked one line in just above the party:

The booster got very hot — that we almost had a
fire — strong odor from it.

Ken, August 1967

Almost. A man came the next day. In September there was a bigger booster. And the family got on with it.

The Kettle

Nine months went by. On Thursday 9 May 1968 President Ferdinand Marcos came to Baguio, and Ken bought four books at the OMF bookshop, the Living series, to put in the President's hands.

Pres Marcos arrives in evening. We got Living Series at OMF P32 4 volumes – ML wrote in them.

Ken, Thursday 9 May 1968

Mary Lou wrote in them. The family would give a good deal to know what she wrote. She didn't say.

Then came Saturday. Ken wrote the way a man writes when his heart is still pounding:

Awoke 530 – Booster – kettle on fire – minutes later ML smelled smoke – screamed – I ran – ground wire red hot. Threw water on curtains – before. Pull off all electricity. A few minutes later might have been too late.

Ken, Saturday 11 May 1968

One Sheet of Flame

And here is Mary Lou, the same day:

A day we'll never forget. At 6:00 Ken put kettle on to boil. We were talking in our room when I thot I smelled smoke. I dashed to the kitchen & the bamboo curtains in the kitchen were one sheet of flame! I yelled fire, yanked the boys outside. Ken fot the blaze. I called Karen & Julie. Had the hose ready at the back door. Ken got it out quickly.

Mary Lou, Saturday 11 May 1968

Two clocks, one fire. She smelled it; he ran. The boys were yanked out the door, Karen was called, and the hose was waiting at the back door. The second word in Ken's list is "*Booster*", the same box that had warned them on Kevin's birthday.

Then Mary Lou wrote, not about the damage or the soot or the cost of new curtains, but this:

Stove was not properly connected. The electrician said it could have happened any time even during nite! How thankful that the Lord allowed it in the daylight.

Mary Lou, Saturday 11 May 1968

Any time, even at night, with every one of them asleep in a wooden house on a hillside. Instead it came at dawn, with both of them awake and talking in their room. Mary Lou saw a Hand in the timing, and she wrote it down.

Breaking of Bread

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that
keepeth thee will not slumber.

Psalm 121:3

And then the day just went on. Ken's other page for that Saturday reads like any Saturday:

Electrician repaired stove – put in new box. Nick
did repair work. 3 new windows – bars etc. Boys
club – Breaking of Bread in evening. Wellers. CHB.
Epplers. Mrs Balanag. Sgt. Jaleco here. CHB with
us over weekend.

Ken, Saturday 11 May 1968, his other page

A scorched kitchen in the morning; the Lord's Supper in the house
at night.

"Pres Marcos —"

On Sunday the twelfth they were up at half past five again, on purpose this time. Ken headed the page in blue ink, "*Pres Marcos —*":

We got up at 530. ML called [Evelyn](#) — Fred called aide of Pres. Said Pres. dressing — they are going early. We ate rushed to Airport. Within minutes Pres. came. Review + 21 salute by PMA.

Ken, Sunday 12 May 1968

Fred was [Fred Balanag](#), [Evelyn](#)'s husband. Mary Lou gave it one line:

Another great day - Ken, Dad B. & Fred gave Volumes of Living Writings to Pres. Marcos at 7 this a.m.!

Mary Lou, Sunday 12 May 1968

It happened fast. President Marcos had come up the mountain for the [Philippine Military Academy](#), and the cadets gave him a review and a twenty-one-gun salute at the airport before he flew out. Fred had telephoned the President's aide, learned he was leaving early, and the Engles ate and rushed to the field. Within minutes the President was there.

Fred and [Evelyn](#) had come to the Lord only that year. Now Fred stood at the wing of the President's plane and put the Word of God into his hands, with Ken and Dad Brooks beside him.

The day after the fire, the books with her handwriting in them went on to the President of the Philippines.

At the Plane



*Fred Balanag presents the Living books to President Ferdinand Marcos at the Baguio airport, seven o'clock on Sunday morning, 12 May 1968. Ken bought them at the OMF bookshop, and Mary Lou wrote in them. Four years later Ken wrote to the President himself; read it in [*In His Joy, "Bibles for the Cadets."*](#)*

Kevin Engle's collection

Mr. Reinheimer

Something has been held back, and it is the best part. Go back seven years, to the summer of 1961. The family was in California at the Home of Peace, a missionary home on San Francisco Bay, getting ready to sail back to the Philippines. Ken needed typewriters for the work, and he had help.

Went with Mr. Reinheimer to San Francisco for typewriters for BSA. Went to Remington & Sears. Finally found two Remingtons #17 at a used place \$60 each. Felt the Lord directed.

Ken, Friday 30 June 1961

It was not the first time; in 1956 two used typewriters had come "*from or through Mr. Reinheimer*" too. A month later, on sailing day, Sunday 30 July 1961, the first name Ken wrote in the afternoon was his:

At 1:30 Mr Reinheimer there —

Ken, Sunday 30 July 1961

Down the edge of that page, sideways in the margin, he added, "*I was under tension most of the day.*" And the last line of the day: "*Sailed at 7PM — So thankful for everything*" The next day, at sea: "*Smooth sailing! The best 1st day of S.F. that I remember.*"

They sailed on the *Anna Bakke* at seven that evening. And Mr. Reinheimer, it turns out, kept on praying.

He Prays for Us Daily

Now go back to the fire page. Mary Lou has just written, "*How thankful that the Lord allowed it in the daylight.*" Here is the very next thing she wrote:

Letter from Wm. Reinheimer (86) saying he prays
for us daily, Lord's protection & care!

Mary Lou, Saturday 11 May 1968

Eighty-six years old. Half a world away. Seven years since the dock.
Every day.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man
availeth much.

James 5:16

We never get to see most of the prayers that hold us up. Every once in a while the Lord lets one show, on the same page and the same day as the thing it was holding back. That Saturday He let Mary Lou see one.

Somebody prayed for you this week, too. You may never know who. Thank them anyway. Better yet, Gordon says, be a Mr. Reinheimer for somebody.

Gordon's next story, he promises, will tell who [Fred Balanag](#) was, and how the man next door on the hill came to be at the President's plane with four books in his hands.

From Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries for 9–12 May 1968, Ken's diaries for 1961 and 1967 and his photo album, in Gordon's story "Prays for Us Daily" (The Malvar Years 9, 10 Oct 2026).

Jonah for Sunday

Every preacher has a few books of the Bible he keeps going back to, the way you keep going back to a good coat. For Ken Engle on the hill in Baguio, one of them was a little book of four chapters: a man who ran from God, a storm that found him, and a city God would not give up on.

Jonah. It turns up in his diaries again and again, from one end of the Malvar years to the other. Follow it Sunday by Sunday, and it tells a story of its own.

It starts with a storm. On the morning after Typhoon Welming, Sunday 5 November 1967, Ken went down the hill and preached Jonah 1 and 2 at Baguio Baptist: the ship, the sailors, the fish, on a morning when the whole city could still hear the wind.

I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the
LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell
cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

Jonah 2:2

Ten months later Jonah came back, and this time he came home.

A Class in the Living Room

In September 1968 the Engles were getting ready to try something new: a Bible class on Sunday morning, in their own living room at [55 Malvar](#). Sergeant Jaleco liked the idea.

Sgt. Jaleco receptive to Sunday a.m. meeting.

Mary Lou, Tuesday 17 September 1968

On Ken's page for that week, squeezed in at the end of a line, are three words:

... Fields arrived – late – thankful (210) Jonah
for Sun ... Plans for Sunday – studied for JHay +
[55 Malvar](#)

Ken, week of 15–21 September 1968

Then came Sunday the twenty-second. Ken taught Jonah first at the chapel on John Hay Air Base, and then:

Taught class on Jonah at John Hay AFB – 12 Then we
hurried home – our [55 Malvar](#) Class 17 adults 5
children + Engles = 29. Everyone seemed to like
morning hour 10:00 – 11:30.

Ken, Sunday 22 September 1968

Twenty-Seven or Twenty-Nine

Mary Lou wrote it down too, in green ink:

First day to have Bible Class at 10 a.m. 20 in
all. 27 with our family. A beautiful sunny day.
Real encouragement

Mary Lou, Sunday 22 September 1968

Ken counted twenty-nine. Mary Lou counted twenty-seven. Nobody was keeping score; they were too busy being glad. In Gordon's photograph of the class in 1969, Bibles on laps, [Evelyn Balanag](#) sits at the top right, listening hard.

And before the week was out, you can almost guess it, the wind came back. At the bottom of Ken's page:

Storm began about midnight — no sleep for ML.
Called off Brigade leadership — it was really
windy & rain. Typhoon "Nitang" had 185 km winds
near center.

Ken, week of 22–28 September 1968

Jonah on Sunday, a typhoon by the weekend. Some weeks the sermon comes with sound effects.

Chapel Hunting

Come forward a year, to Sunday 16 November 1969. The little class in the living room had become the family's own Sunday services. At the top of the page Ken wrote:

Services here. Began series on Jonah.

Ken, Sunday 16 November 1969

At half past eleven he was off down the mountain with Art and five Brigade boys. Three of them had never been to Manila.

The room kept filling up. A month later Mary Lou wrote that she and Ken had gone looking for a bigger place:

Ken & I went 'chapel hunting'. Felt it would be a positive finding. Negative til we sighted Teachers Camp & decided to inquire. Perfect facilities for ₱5.00 a room per Sunday. We'll use two.

Mary Lou, Tuesday 16 December 1969

Two Rooms

Ken's page for the same day:

Looked for a place to meet near Navy Base. Tried several. At last ML thot of Teacher's Camp – A room ₱5. Possibly we'll get 2.

Ken, Tuesday 16 December 1969

Two rooms. Not bad for a Bible class that began with twenty-some people in a living room.

The Sunday after Christmas was 28 December 1969. The boys had spent the week writing thank-you letters. And Ken wrote:

Good crowd – Sgt Mitch & Badilla here. Jaleco had to be at Ft del Pilar. Mrs Rodriguez here for SS & FBH. Spoke on Jonah 2

Ken, Sunday 28 December 1969

Salvation Is of the LORD

Jonah, chapter two, is the prayer from inside the fish. A man at the very bottom, *"the weeds were wrapped about my head,"* and from down there he says the truest thing in the book:

Salvation is of the LORD.

Jonah 2:9

Not of Jonah. Not of the sailors. Not of the preacher on the hill. Of the LORD.

That evening Ken borrowed a projector and turned the living room into a theater. Jaleco had made it after all:

Went to Nazarene Bible College got projector.
Showed "God of the Atom" — Jaleco, Fred & Badilla
plus young people here

Ken, Sunday 28 December 1969

Gordon has a photograph of a film night like it, the projector at the back, with Becky, Julie Aquino, [Evelyn Balanag](#) and Stanley Grant in the back row looking, he says, extremely excited (he means bored), and Karen at the back right.

The Second Time

One week later came the first Sunday of 1970, and chapter three:

Good group out – possibly 50. T/Sgt Misch out again. Spoke on Jonah 3.

Ken, Sunday 4 January 1970

Possibly fifty. And Jonah 3 begins with one of the kindest sentences in the whole Bible:

And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time.

Jonah 3:1

The second time. The same man who ran, the same man who sank, and God spoke to him again. That is grace. God doesn't only give second chances; He comes looking for us to give them.

The Sunday after that, 11 January, Ken was up early and out to the Philippine Military Academy:

Spoke at Cadet Chapel at 8 A.M. ... Spoke on Jonah ... Good group of young people out.

Ken, Sunday 11 January 1970

Nineveh

Rows of young men in uniform at eight in the morning, hearing about a God who gives second chances. That May the family would fly home on furlough.

If Ken ever preached chapter four on the hill, the diaries don't say. Maybe that is fitting. Jonah 4 is the chapter where the preacher sulks under a vine, and God has the last word. The last word is a question, about a city full of people He loved:

And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city,
wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons
that cannot discern between their right hand and
their left hand; and also much cattle?

Jonah 4:11

God cared about Nineveh. He cared about a living room in Baguio, too: twenty-seven people in it, or twenty-nine, depending on who was counting.

A beautiful sunny day. *"Real encouragement."*

From Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries, November 1967 to January 1970, in Gordon's Sunday story "Jonah for Sunday" (11 Oct 2026).

The Landlord and the Projectionist

Dr. Jose dela Rosa did more than rent the family a house. He owned a movie theater downtown, at the foot of Session Road, and he lent the Engles his projectionist.

So on film nights the living room at [55 Malvar](#) became a little theater. The projectionist came up the hill with the projector, and the family showed the [Moody Science films](#). Twenty, twenty-five, thirty, sometimes thirty-five people crowded in, and afterward Mary Lou served refreshments. Kevin remembers that Dr. dela Rosa himself came to several of the showings, where the gospel was very clearly presented.

The films came from the [Moody Institute of Science](#), founded in 1945, which grew out of Dr. Irwin Moon's "Sermons from Science." There were titles like *God of Creation*, *City of the Bees* and *Red River of Life*. Each one used the wonders of nature to point to the Creator. By 1951 about 200,000 servicemen a year were watching them.

For Ken, the films came from home. He had studied at [Moody Bible Institute](#) before the war and again from 1946 to 1950, and he had been an announcer on its radio station.

One of my father's objectives was that people would have as many opportunities as possible to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, whether while watching a film, at home, in their car, in a jeepney, or somewhere else.

Kevin, 2026

It was the same burden for the Philippines he had carried since he flew over the islands in the tail of a B-24.

As Kevin remembers it (8 Oct 2026), with histories of the Moody Institute of Science.



Nothing Is Impossible

On the first page of his 1967 diary, before anyone had heard of Malvar Street, Ken wrote his verse for the year, Isaiah 43:19, and under it a line of his own:

What new thing (things) will He do in 1967. I am
anxious to see.

Ken, 1 January 1967

In sixteen years in Manila, Kevin says, Dad never saw the start of a church. In Baguio he did.

It began with one young woman, [Evelyn Balanag](#), who came to Christ. Others followed, and a little company of believers began to meet. Whenever they met, Kevin remembers, there was one chorus they always sang, and it became the song of the Baguio church: "Nothing Is Impossible."

A man who had prayed in 1945 for a church on Mindoro, and never got there, saw one begin at last, in the pine city where he and Mary Lou had spent their honeymoon. Kevin calls the Malvar years the most valuable years they spent in the Philippines.

[Evelyn](#)'s own story, in Mary Lou's words, is told in Part Two of this volume: "Mary Lou, Mary Lou." Still to be told: where the church first met, and who came next.

From Ken's 1967 diary and Kevin's memories.

Back and Forth

In June 1970 the family came home to [Abilene](#), expecting to go back. Ken walked Gordon to Garfield Elementary on his first day. His verse for 1970 was Nehemiah 2:20:

The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore
we his servants will arise and build.

Ken's diary, verse for 1970

They stayed three years, so Karen could finish high school in [Abilene](#). Mary Lou's 1971 diary is full of small things. Gordon asked whether she knew "the kittens that grow on trees" (pussy willows). He shook his birthday cards to see if money fell out, and if none did, he said "No good!" Stan dreamed he was diving off the high dive and fell out of his top bunk. At eight Gordon typed a letter to his second-grade teacher, Miss McMahon, thanking her for a good year. In February 1972 Ken wrote to supporters that their return was still not definite: *"Karen has one more year of high school."*

In June 1973 they returned to Baguio. The younger children went to **Brent School**. Gordon built a model telegraph for the science fair, beside Stan's model of the Hoover Dam.

From Mary Lou's 1971 diary, Ken's diary and letters, and Gordon's story "The Boy Who Went to Four Schools" (1 Sep 2026).

Kevin and the Navy

In the spring of 1975 Kevin, seventeen, went down to Subic Bay to try for the Navy, played [Jud Fry](#) in Brent School's *Oklahoma!*, won the school's gold medal for best actor, and was sworn in at the gate at Subic on 27 May.

Those pages are now in Kevin's own book, [Kevin's Recollections](#), in the section "Growing Up in the Philippines": [Anchors Aweigh](#) · [Jud Fry](#) · [Best Actor of the Year](#) · [The Gate at Subic](#).

At the end of June 1975 Ken and Mary Lou left the Philippines for the last time as resident missionaries. They had served twenty-four years.

Companion Books

Eight companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

[In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle](#)

Dad's own letters · 1951–1987 · his life and ministry

[Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

[Grace Triumphant](#)

the autobiography of [Cyril H. Brooks](#) · © 1985 Walterick Publishers

["Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag](#)

Baguio City · 1968–2010

[Cheryl](#)

[Cheryl Lyn Engle](#) · her life, her music, her own words

[Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: "Carrying the Vision"](#)

[keepm.org](#) · the Emmaus app · [Moments to Remember](#) · [Karen and Patrick](#)

[Family Stories and Friends](#)

Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

[Kevin's Recollections](#)

Kevin Engle · in his own words · [Stewards Foundation](#) · [In Dad's Own Words](#)

Faithful Men: A Library of Christian Classics, from
[PlymouthBrethren.org](#): Brethren writers and missionary lives,
searchable by author, Scripture and topic. [Open the library ↗](#)

[The Table of Contents for the whole series →](#)

[Every link in the series, in one place →](#)

Sources

Gordon's stories used in this volume: A High Mountain Apart · Give Us This Mountain (with Ken's letter of 3 June 1967 to the Woodside Bible Chapel elders) · The Boy Who Went to Four Schools · Anchors Aweigh, My Boys · Best Actor of the Year · Two Big Shots · Be Not Afraid · Two Candles (with Mary Lou's typhoon notebook of 16–17 October 1967, Ken's diary for 17–19 October 1967 and 6 September 1969, and his letters of 27 November 1967 and 7 December 1979) · ML + I (Ken's diary for 22 October – 5 November 1967) · Prays for Us Daily (Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries for 9–12 May 1968, Ken's diaries for 1961 and 1967 and his photo album) · Jonah for Sunday (Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries for 5 November 1967 to 11 January 1970). "The Landlord and the Projectionist" is Kevin's own recollection (8 October 2026); on the Moody Science films, the online article "Sermons from Science" and David Coppedge's biography of Dr. Irwin Moon (crev.info) · The Kearsarge Men (Ken's diary for 26 October and 20 November – 1 December 1967, Mary Lou's notebook "Servicemens' Work," the Woodside letter of 27 November 1967 and Chaplain Dwight F. Zeller's letter of 9 December 1967). Also Mary Lou's 1971 and 1975 diaries, Ken's 1975 diary, his letter to relatives of 22 April 1975, and Kevin's own recollections (August 2026).

What Comes Next

Volume Four, *The Abilene Years*, continues the story.

Keep them for Jesus for eternity.

the prayer behind [KEE Philippine Missions](#)

Edition of 11 October 2026 · through Gordon's "Prays for Us Daily" (10 Oct 2026), "ML + I," "Two Candles" and "The Wedding," Ken's War Years letters of 1943-45, the 1950-51 letters, "[Herald of Christ](#)" (the story of [Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)), "Mary Lou, Mary Lou," the story of [Evelyn Balanag](#) with her photographs, "The Landlord and the Projectionist," and a list of hyperlinks



Lord, Give Us This Mountain

VOLUME FOUR • THE ABILENE YEARS

*From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street
Baguio City Philippines*

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle • An Engle Family History

Volume Four: The Abilene Years

Home to Kansas, the six grown up, and two homegoings · 1975–2009

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PART ONE

Home to Abilene

1975–2009 · *Abilene, Kansas*

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

Abilene

Ken never really left the Philippines. From Abilene he kept recording for the radio until about 2000, more than a thousand messages in all. He preached in the area assemblies, spoke at Kansas Bible Camp, and visited the nursing homes with a chalkboard.

"When Mary Lou is able to go along and play, that is a real plus."

Doug was born in 1976, twenty-two years after Becky. In September 1980 Ken took three-year-old Doug to the service at Brown's Home, where Grandpa and Grandma now lived. Doug had memorized a verse for each letter from A to Q. He said A through D into the microphone *"really well!!!"* Ken wrote, *"He made quite a 'hit.'"* A relative, Jenny Engle, gave him five dollars.

On 21 November 1987 Stan married **Fiona Harvey** in Torquay, England. Karen was the only Engle there. She sang, attended the bride, and brought home the pictures and a tape. *"She was the right one to be over in England,"* Mary Lou wrote.

On Memorial Day 1997, Ken put on Kevin's Navy jacket and walked to the Eighth Street Bridge to give the prayer. He began by naming the service in his own family:

Began by mentioning KLE in Navy, 2 in Air Force + KES in US Army Air Corps.

Ken, Memorial Day 1997

From Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries and letters, and Gordon's stories "He Made Quite a Hit," "The Witness" and "Anchors Aweigh, My Boys."

Down the Hall

On Tuesday 20 February 1962, in the Philippines, Mary Lou took four-and-a-half-year-old Kevin along to her music classes. He was not really old enough for school, but that day he got to go. While his mother taught, he went off on an errand of his own: down the hall to the first-grade room, where his big sister Karen, six, sat.

Took Kevin to school. to my music classes. He visited Karen's room.

Mary Lou's diary, 20 February 1962

That same day the whole world was holding its breath over one man.

Listening to Voice of America and recording as JOHN GLENN is supposed to go into orbit in an hour.

Mary Lou's diary, 20 February 1962

On his desk-diary page for that Tuesday, under Exodus 29:37, Ken wrote his own prayer:

O Lord my life I give to Thee on the altar.

Ken's desk diary, 20 February 1962

A man was about to go around the world, and a little boy had gone down the hall to find his sister.

A Mirror from Japan

Fourteen years later the boy was on the far side of the world himself. In the spring of 1975, at seventeen, Kevin joined the United States Navy. In the first week of January 1976 a letter reached the house in Abilene.

First letter from Kevin in Japan! Happy! Says he's at Yokota AFB. Tokyo and will go to his ship.

Mary Lou's diary, 5 January 1976

That April, Karen's twenty-first birthday fell on Easter Sunday. She came home at midnight. Ken was up at five for the sunrise service, the chapel was full that morning, more than ninety people signed the guest book at the afternoon open house, and the house was packed again that night. Mary Lou called it a "thrilling experience," and at the top of the day, in red ink, she wrote:

Karen's 21st birthday. Had wonderful day.

Mary Lou's diary, Easter Sunday 1976

One present had crossed an ocean, from the eighteen-year-old sailor who could not be at the table. Ken wrote it down, with a little E squeezed in above the name, because Kevin Dyer was in town that day:

Presents — Kevin E sent mirror from Japan.

Ken's diary, Easter Sunday 1976

From Mary Lou's diaries for 1962 and 1976, Ken's diaries, and Gordon's story "Down the Hall" (28 Sep 2026).

Saved Early Age

In the back of Ken's 1976 diary is a page printed with red columns and headed MARCH CASH ACCOUNT. He never put a penny in it. Down the column where the money should go, he wrote his family, one name to a line, with what each needed.

Becky & Dave — Mathson work · baby coming / Karen
— work, future plans / Kevin — Temptations,
responsibilities · Education, HS, college or
military / Stan — Job. Allergy. foot-toe. car
/ Gordon — maturing * GRIT / Douglas — saved
early age

Ken's 1976 diary

Douglas was a few weeks old. Year after year the line grew with the boy: *saved at early age* — *will of God* (1977), *Not spoil. Spir. train.* (1980), *1st grade, Kennedy* (1983).

On 29 December 1986 Ken opened the new diary to two facing pages headed *Memo for Next Year*. On the right he listed his family. On the left he wrote a prayer:

CALL upon ME and I will answer thee and shew thee
Great and Mighty things which thou knowest not.
GMT Jer 33:3

Ken, 29 December 1986

Months later he went back to that page and, under Douglas's name, squeezed in a line with a caret pointing to where it belonged:

^ Baptized 14 Jun 87 So. Porcupine ON

the same page

From Ken's diaries, 1976–87, in Gordon's "Saved Early Age."

The Wedding

Kansas, the last week of July 1983. Hot, not warm. Mary Lou wrote "over 100" at the top of the page, day after day.

108° today in shade.

Mary Lou, Tuesday 26 July 1983

So hot can't put body outside door. Kansas all dried up! Hope heaven is cool!

Mary Lou, Thursday 28 July 1983

But on the Monday of that week she had written something else:

Engles left for Chicago and Mark Dyer's wedding on 30th

Mary Lou, Monday 25 July 1983

Engles meant Grant and Mabel, Grandpa and Grandma Engle. He had turned eighty-four the week before; she was eighty-two. Off they went, out of that Kansas heat, all the way to Chicago, to see their grandson Mark, Eloise's boy, married to Sue on Saturday the thirtieth.

The diaries don't tell about the wedding itself; Ken and Mary Lou were home that week. But on the Sunday Ken wrote one line that says the trip was made and finished:

Folks got home from Pross Hts.

Ken, Sunday 31 July 1983

Prospect Heights. Home again. That was July.

Nine Grandsons

Four months later, on Monday 21 November 1983, Mary Lou wrote:

G'ma Engle died today in Wichita.

Mary Lou, 21 November 1983

The next day: "Kevin Dyer arrived today." On Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, the family came in from everywhere. "*Thanksgiving 1983 All Engles here because of Grandma,*" Mary Lou wrote, and Ken wrote down who would sleep under his roof that night:

Corkills, Dyer children – to stay with us – Mark + Sue and Craig – good visit.

Ken, Thanksgiving, 24 November 1983

Mark and Sue, married not four months. In July his grandmother had gone all the way to Chicago, out of that heat, to see him married. In November he and his bride came all the way to Kansas to see her buried.

On Friday the twenty-fifth Ken wrote, "*Kevin Dyer spoke.*" And Mary Lou:

G'ma Engle's funeral! 9 grandsons carried her coffin. Beautiful day!

Mary Lou, 25 November 1983

Newbern Cemetery

That Christmas Ken and Mary Lou headed their letter to friends with Luke 2:10–11, and Ken told them about the grandsons:

It was impressive to see these young men, who owed so much to their grandma's prayers and counsel, carrying her to Newbern Cemetery. The Cemetery is on the corner of the Engle farm.

Ken, Christmas letter, December 1983

Four months, one trip each way.

From Ken's and Mary Lou's 1983 diaries and their Christmas letter of December 1983, in Gordon's story "The Wedding" (9 Oct 2026).

Spoke on Emmaus Road

On Saturday 13 June 1987, at Becky and Dave's home in South Porcupine, Ontario, Ken wrote down an ordinary day.

Dave talking to Doug + Christy. Dave filling baptismal tank – hot water.

Ken, 13 June 1987

Then turn signals, barbecued chicken and salad. And on the last line of the page: "*Study = Luke 24.*" The road to Emmaus.

The next morning Dave baptized Doug, ten, and his own daughter Christy, and they told how they were saved. Ken "*Spoke on Emmaus Road.*"

It was no stranger's text. In August 1963 Ken had driven out to Emmaus Bible School and offered to teach, and he was still grading its correspondence courses in 1999. Doug went on to Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa, and graduated in May 2000.

On the night before his youngest son was baptized, a man who had taught the Emmaus road for twenty-four years sat down and studied it again, as though it mattered more this time.

From Ken's 1987 diary, in Gordon's story "Spoke on Emmaus Road."

Armed Forces Day

On Saturday 21 May 1988, at an outdoor ceremony in Dallas, Ken and Mary Lou found a piece of shade.

Kevin's graduation — ML & I both with Kevin ... B.A. in Psychology U of Texas at Dallas. Speaker — "Truth changes!" We sat in shade.

Ken, 21 May 1988

Afterward Kevin drove them around the city: Braum's for lunch, the place where the President was shot, Dallas Theological Seminary. Mary Lou noted in the margin, *"Kevin drove on 'E' for long time. speedometer said 11111111."*

He was thirty. He had left Brent without walking with his class, finished high school in the Navy, and his diploma had come home in a parcel. His Abilene class crossed the field in May 1976 without him. *"This was Kevin's class,"* Ken wrote.

Mary Lou's index for the year gives it three words: *"21 - Kevin graduated."*

Printed at the top of Ken's page for that Saturday, by a diary company that had never heard of the family, are the words **Armed Forces Day**.

From Ken's and Mary Lou's 1988 diaries, in Gordon's story "Armed Forces Day."

PART TWO

Homegoings

2003 · 2009 · *and the family that carries it on*

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

Two Homegoings

Mary Lou went home to the Lord on 12 April 2003, at seventy-two. The funeral was a week before what would have been their fiftieth anniversary. Stan set out a hundred cassettes of her music, and every one was taken. He played "Be Thou My Vision." Doug spoke, and in a letter afterward Ken lingered over him:

Next is Doug. You will enjoy him!! ... He is the son of our "old age."

Ken, in a letter of 22 August 2003

Doug borrowed the family joke that Dad "only knows how to play the radio."

Ken spent his last years with Kevin and Cheryl in Texas, with long visits to Becky and Karen. His humor never quit. *"If I ever forget,"* Kevin wrote, *"he reminds me he is the dad."*

Ken went home on Thursday 5 November 2009, in Abilene, four days before his eighty-fifth birthday. Kevin held his hand. Cheryl sang "Finally Home." A military honor guard gave him the honors he had earned over the Pacific, and he was laid to rest near Mary Lou.

Gordon, enjoy the journey.

Ken

From Ken's letter of 22 August 2003, in Gordon's story "The Son of Our Old Age" (1 Oct 2026), and family emails.

Companion Books

Seven companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

[In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle](#)

Dad's own letters · 1951–1987 · his life and ministry

[Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

["Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag](#)

Baguio City · 1968–2010

[Cheryl](#)

Cheryl Lyn Engle · her life, her music, her own words

[Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: "Carrying the Vision"](#)

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Sources

Gordon's stories used in this volume: He Made Quite a Hit · The Son of Our Old Age · Down the Hall · Saved Early Age · Spoke on Emmaus Road · Armed Forces Day · The Wedding (Ken's and Mary Lou's 1983 diaries and their Christmas letter of December 1983). Also Ken's diaries for 1976–2001 and Mary Lou's diaries and planners.

What Comes Next

Volume Five, *Moments of Melody*, tells Ken's radio ministry, from WMBI to keepm.org. Gordon is still sending a story nearly every day, and each one will be added to the series.

Keep them for Jesus for eternity.

the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

Edition of 11 October 2026 · through Gordon's "Prays for Us Daily" (10 Oct 2026), "ML + I," "Two Candles" and "The Wedding," Ken's War Years letters of 1943-45, the 1950-51 letters, "Herald of Christ" (the story of Rudy Ponce de Leon), "Mary Lou, Mary Lou," the story of Evelyn Balanag with her photographs, "The Landlord and the Projectionist," and a list of hyperlinks

UPDATED 14 OCTOBER 2026

30 PAGES



Lord, Give Us This Mountain

VOLUME FIVE • MOMENTS OF MELODY

*From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street
Baguio City Philippines*

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle • An Engle Family History

Volume Five: Moments of Melody

Ken Engle's radio ministry, from WMBI to keepm.org · 1946–2026

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Chronology: Ken Engle on the Air

1930s	A farm boy near Abilene listens to Moody Bible Institute's radio programs
High school	Wins an award for a speech with the FFA (Future Farmers of America); an FFA trip takes him to Chicago and Moody
1943	First term at Moody, before the war
1946-50	Moody student and announcer on WMBI, Chicago
Late 1940s	Trains Bill Pearce, later the host of Nightsounds, on the WMBI console; on the air with Helen Barth, the former dance-band singer
July 1950	Fills in on WMBI's "Morning Clock," four mornings
Fall 1950	Radio talks on his deputation trip east; his visa is recommended because he "specialized in religious radio broadcasting"
Mar 1951	Arrives in Manila; announcer for Cyril Brooks's Bible School of the Air on DZAS (Far East Broadcasting Company); 2,400 enrolled
1951-75	Programs from Manila and Baguio



Chronology, continued

- 1966 Thirty-six programs on Romans, with Dad Brooks
- 1967 Bible School of the Air passes one million students enrolled; his own program "Living Letters"
- Sept 1967 DZBS contract in Baguio; first Children's Bible Hour on the air, 2 September
- 1 Oct 1967 Moments of Melody begins on DZBS at 6 a.m., five minutes every day; DZFE and three overseas stations to follow
- 1970-73 On Kansas stations KABI, KSKG and KLJC; KSKG asks for Moments of Melody every day (1971)
- 1973-75 Back on the air from Baguio
- 1975-c. Records from Abilene: Moments of Melody, Moments to Remember, Living Bible, Living Psalms and more
- 2000 In all More than a thousand programs; 1,046 messages kept on Voices for Christ
- May 2004 Moments of Melody, remastered, airs on 265 stations of the Bible Broadcasting Network for three days
- 7 July 2026 keepm.org goes on the air, playing his messages around the clock

PART ONE

Heard at Home

1946–1951 · WMBI, Chicago · and a call to the islands

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Listen: Moments to Remember

A Radio on the Farm

Ken Engle's radio ministry began with a radio on a Kansas farm. As a boy he listened to the programs of Moody Bible Institute. In high school he won an award for a speech with the FFA, the Future Farmers of America, and an FFA trip took him to Chicago, where he saw Moody for himself. He enrolled.

After the war he went back to Moody and became an announcer on **WMBI**, the Institute's station. Once he introduced the salon orchestra as the "saloon orchestra." He blamed being "too long in the Air Force."

In the summer of 1950 he sent his sister Eloise his radio schedule, with news:

Surprise of surprises - I'm going to be doing the Morning Clock (Bob Murfins job) 4 morning in July (4,8,11,15). Pray for me.

Ken to Eloise, 29 June 1950

A fourteen-year-old listener, he added, had written in to say she had a mental picture that Bob Murfin looked like Ken Engle.

"Morning Clock" was the program that woke Chicago up. Two weeks later Ken wrote to Mary Lou Leonard, a student nurse he had just begun to date:

I have no idea how many faithful listeners I have lost the station by now. Even if no one else enjoys it I can say I'm having the time of my life.

Ken to Mary Lou, 13 July 1950

"So far I've received two requests from people for poems read on the air."

From Ken's letters and Kevin's memories.

You Broke Me In

At WMBI Ken also trained the new men. One of them was **Bill Pearce**, a Marine Corps trombonist home from the war, who came to Moody and was hired at the station. Ken taught him the control console. Bill worked closely there with Chuck Christensen.

Bill never forgot who taught him. In later years, whenever he saw Ken, he said the same thing:

You broke me in.

Bill Pearce to Ken, as Kevin remembers it

Bill went on to a long radio life of his own. At WMBI in the 1960s he hosted a late-night program, and in the 1970s he founded **Nightsounds**, music and a quiet word for the night, heard each weeknight on more than 300 stations in the United States, Canada and overseas. In 1992 he was inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Listen to Nightsounds at nightsoundsradio.org.

As Kevin remembers it (8 Oct 2026), with the Nightsounds station histories.

Helen Barth

Of all the voices at WMBI, the one Ken was happiest to work with was **Helen Barth**. The family remembers her as the nightclub singer who came to sing for the Lord, and Dad was always glad to tell it.

She grew up as Helen McAlerney in Moline, Illinois. As a young woman she sang with a dance orchestra and had a show on a station across the river in Davenport, Iowa, and she was headed for the nightclub circuit. She was not happy. In 1939 she enrolled at Moody Bible Institute, and during her first days there she came to faith in Christ.

WMBI turned her down twice. On her third audition she was hired. By 1942 she was on the staff full time, singing her own live programs every week, often alongside George Beverly Shea. In 1943 the bandleader Tommy Dorsey asked her to join his band, and she said no. The next year she married Reinhold Barth, and from 1950 they served with Youth for Christ in Germany, where she sang at Billy Graham's meetings in London and Berlin.

Ken never forgot sharing the air with her. Sailing to the Philippines in March 1951, he tuned in to DZAS from the ship and wrote Mary Lou the news:

Heard Helen Borth the other day.

Ken to Mary Lou, 14 March 1951

Halfway around the world, her voice had gotten there first.

From family memory, Ken's letter of 14 March 1951, and Moody Bible Institute's 2017 alumni tribute.



The Little Room

That August Mary Lou toured the Moody station with friends and wrote to Ken, who was home on the farm in Kansas:

Saw the little room from which "Morning Clock" emanates. Could just picture you there trying not to fall asleep and trying to wake others up.

Mary Lou to Ken, August 1950

Ken was glad of the break. Plowing on the farm, he wrote, was *"about the best vacation I could have because it's so restful after radio and school work."* Before he left Chicago he hooked up a little record player to his Hallicrafters short-wave set, *"ready to take to the Philippines."*

In Chicago Mary Lou kept listening. In December she heard him again:

This pm at 3:15 heard you over WMBI ... You quoted the verse "Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace" ect.

Mary Lou to Ken, December 1950

That same month an old friend, Clyde Dennis, wrote to Ken that he had heard his voice on WMBI *"and hoped I'd be broadcasting in the Far East soon."*

From Ken and Mary Lou's letters, 1950.

Religious Radio Broadcasting

That fall Ken spoke his way through New England and New York with his slides of the Philippines, and some of the talks went out over the air. *"It has to be written out for the radio,"* he wrote of one, *"and I've spent hours on it already."*

His visa for the Philippines was still in doubt. In November a note came from [Cyril Brooks](#) in Manila. The immigration investigator had recommended the visa, and Mr. Brooks explained what had helped:

I stressed particularly the fact that you had specialized in religious radio broadcasting. You see we have to demonstrate that there is no one locally to be had for the work you are coming to do.

[Cyril Brooks](#), quoted by Ken, November 1950

Ken passed it on to Mary Lou the same day.

You know how I love radio work, darling - well it looks as though over there I'll get to do it. The Lord has all these things planned.

Ken to Mary Lou, November 1950

He told her to find the new *Christian Life*, which had *"a wonderful article about DZAS,"* the gospel station in Manila. And he let himself dream: *"I can just see M.L. at the DZAS studio organ. It will be the sweetest music those Filipinos have heard."*

From Ken's letters to Mary Lou, November 1950.

Listening from the Ship

Ken sailed from San Francisco on 18 February 1951 on the freighter *California Bear*. Somewhere on the Pacific his receiver began to pick up DZAS, and he heard his own name.

Say I heard Mr. Brooks twice while on the ship. On Monday night he said something like this - "Next week we'll have a guest Mr. Kenneth Engle now on the *California Bear* - " (Thrill)

Ken to Mary Lou, 14 March 1951

"Sounds so much like WMBI," he wrote. In Manila Bay the next evening he listened to the six o'clock news from DZAS: "*The quality of the programs I find is very high.*"

Back in Chicago, Mary Lou listened to WMBI and thought of him.

Saturday Songsters were just on the air. My, but I do enjoy it. If the Philipines enjoy D. ZAS a fraction as much as we do WMBI, it must be a real blessing.

Mary Lou to Ken, 17 March 1951

At a young people's meeting she watched a film about HCJB, the missionary station in Ecuador. "*I was picturing you in the studio of DZAS,*" she wrote, "*as I actually viewed the type of work done by missionary radio.*"

From Ken and Mary Lou's letters, March 1951.

PART TWO

The Islands

1951–1975 · DZAS, Manila · DZBS, Baguio

UPDATED 14 OCTOBER 2026

The Bible School of the Air

Ken landed in Manila on Saturday 17 March 1951. On Monday he was opening and grading letters for Mr. Brooks's **Bible School of the Air**, which had *"well over 2000 enrolled,"* and that evening Mr. Brooks interviewed him on DZAS. Within the week Mr. Brooks let him do the announcing.

In the evening out to DZAS. I now do the announcing for the program. ... They are all so thrilled the way the school is going over. We get more letters than any other program. May all the glory go to Him.

Ken to Mary Lou, 26 March 1951

He wrote the scripts and mimeographed the lessons. The program aired on Monday nights and again on Sunday, so *"we are really on three times a week."* Hearing himself on tape, he admitted, *"I sounded kinda scared-maybe I'll get over that."* One week brought more than a hundred new enrollments, *"the biggest week yet,"* and a letter from a listener who had been saved. On visitation he met a young man in the tuberculosis hospital who had been *"reached by the radio work."*

Mary Lou answered from Chicago: *"I can just hear you announcing! (Those fortunate people getting to hear my Ken)."*

Two months later the station returned the favor. When word came that Mary Lou had said yes to his proposal, someone at DZAS dedicated a song on the air: *"So Kenny this is for you."*

From Ken and Mary Lou's letters, March-May 1951.

A Thousand Programs

Ken served on the air with the Far East Broadcasting Company in Manila from 1951. Over the years he made more than a thousand radio programs. In the spring of 1966 he and Dad Brooks recorded thirty-six programs on Romans, one chapter after another. For his many Roman Catholic listeners he often read from the Knox translation.

By June 1967 the Bible School of the Air had passed the millionth mark in students enrolled. When the family moved to Baguio that summer, Ken wrote to the elders back home that he would keep taping programs for it and for his own program, "Living Letters."

A gift for radio work had just come in, and he asked whether it was the first "green light" toward Baguio radio work. The letter is in Volume Three, "[Dear Brethren](#)."

In August he went calling on the radio stations of Baguio. By the ninth, DZBS had given him a contract.

From Ken's letter to the Woodside elders, 3 June 1967.



Be Not Afraid

On Saturday, 2 September 1967, the first Children's Bible Hour went out over DZBS in Baguio, with sixty seconds at the end to give the address. Ken's diary page for that day, with its verse from Matthew 14, is told in full in Volume Three, "[Be Not Afraid](#)."

Within the month he was at work on another program, the one the family remembers best: **Moments of Melody**, hymns and gospel music with a short word from Scripture in his own quiet voice. Here is how it began.

From Ken's 1967 diary and Gordon's story "Be Not Afraid" (7 Oct 2026).



Five Minutes from the Mountain

Five minutes isn't much. It's a cup of coffee going cold, or the time it takes to find the car keys. But give a man five minutes on the radio at six o'clock every morning, and you soon find out what he thinks matters most.

On Monday, 28 August 1967, a few months after the family moved to 55 Malvar, Ken dropped the children at Brent School and drove to DZBS, the Baguio radio station. That night he wrote:

Talked to them about a program for me. Five minute
– they offered me 600-605 AM for ₱2.85 a day.

Ken, Monday 28 August 1967

Six o'clock in the morning, for two pesos and eighty-five centavos a day. The very next day, with a typhoon named Rosie blowing outside, he sat down to plan it:

Began preparation of Moments of Melody +
Meditation using John. Centers around scripture –
with music + short shots.

Ken, Tuesday 29 August 1967

Real Joy

Moments of Melody: music, and the Gospel of John, a few verses at a time. The Gospel he built the first programs on says why it was written:

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John 20:31

He worked at it all through September. On the twelfth, after a morning at the market and a call to Dr. dela Rosa about the electric booster, he wrote a line that tells you how it felt:

Did 12 Moments of Melody – Real joy in doing these
+ on John – His Help!

Ken, Tuesday 12 September 1967



Three Overseas Stations

A week later he was down the mountain in Manila, recording at the big station, DZAS. And the news got bigger:

Then end to end recording of ½ hour of 5 minute Moments of Melody – got them on 12 programs. DZFE will release MMM (Moments of Melody + Meditation) beginning Oct 1 + 3 overseas stations besides DZBS – Praise Him.

Ken, Monday 18 September 1967

Three overseas stations, for a program planned at a desk in a house on a hill in Baguio.

On Saturday, 30 September, Ken drove down to DZBS with a box of tapes. He wrote it in two short lines, and you can almost hear him smiling:

Took 24 broadcasts to DZBS with announcements of Moments of Melody. First time I've ever had a daily program.

Ken, Saturday 30 September 1967

Sixteen years in the Philippines: sermons, classes, broadcasts, Brigade camps, Bible courses by the thousand. But never, until now, a program every single day.

Six O'Clock, Sunday Morning

The next morning, Sunday, 1 October 1967, at six o'clock:

6AM first release of Moments of Melody. Master Control theme – pearl song then verses from Knox translation “It Will Be Worth It All” closing theme – 5 minutes daily DZBS – DZFE + overseas.

Ken, Sunday 1 October 1967

The closing song was "It Will Be Worth It All."

Then he did what every man with a daily program has to do. He made more.

Working on Moments of Melody.

Ken, Monday 2 October 1967

Worked on Moments of Melody.
Correspondence Abilene.

Ken, Tuesday 3 October 1967

Five minutes a day is thirty-five minutes a week, and the week never stops.



From the Bedroom

Not even when the man does. On Wednesday, 22 November, Ken was sick in bed. He wrote:

Down all day – but made 5 of the 5 minute programs in my bedroom. Really kept me going. Some fever – real sore throat.

Ken, Wednesday 22 November 1967

A sore throat, in a radio man. And he recorded five programs anyway, from his bedroom, and said it kept him going.

Most of us do our best work when we feel our best. Every now and then the Lord lets us do it on a day we don't, and that turns out to be the day we remember.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD;
in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee,
and will look up.

Psalms 5:3



Seventy-Five Cents

The next day was Thanksgiving. On that page Ken noted a request from home:

Kevin D asked me to supply info on missions for their telephone service.

Ken, Thursday 23 November 1967, Thanksgiving

That was Uncle Kevin Dyer, back in Illinois, starting a telephone line people could call for the latest missionary news. Ken wrote back on the twenty-seventh, and he couldn't resist:

It is amazing to think that for 75¢ that people can call from anywhere in the country. With rates like that Mary Lou and Eloise would be talking cross country nightly. Hope they don't get rates like that for overseas. One of my savings since coming back to the Philippines was the phone bill!!

Ken & Mary Lou to Kevin & Eloise Dyer, 27 November 1967

Two brothers-in-law, one on each side of the world, both trying to get the news out faster.



Review of 1967

On 11 December Ken was back in Manila at the microphone:

Recorded 35 Moments of Melody – actually 40 because we had to do 5 over.

Ken, Monday 11 December 1967

At the back of that year's diary, on a page he headed "Review of 1967," among the biggest things of the year, he wrote one more line:

Review of 1967 ... June BAGUIO move ... Oct. 1 1st Moments of Melody DZBS

Ken's 1967 diary, "Review of 1967" page

Mary Lou remembered it too. Later, when she listed what the Lord had done in their Baguio years, she put it first under radio work:

3. Radio Work – 1) Moments of Melody a) DZBS – DZAH every a.m. b) over other stations from N. to S. through H. Epplers efforts

Mary Lou's Baguio Experiences notebook

From north to south, five minutes at a time.

From Ken's 1967 diary, his and Mary Lou's letter of 27 November 1967 to Kevin and Eloise Dyer, and Mary Lou's Baguio notebook, in Gordon's story "Five Minutes from the Mountain" (The Malvar Years, 11; sent 14 Oct 2026).



Moments of Melody

Years later a missionary named Jack Baker, who had also worked in radio at DZAS, visited the family in Canada. Becky wrote to Kevin afterward that Jack *"told Daddy how much he appreciated Dad's programs, Moments of Melody."* What Jack remembered, she said, was Ken's *"calm and loving ways, and gentle voice."*

When the family came home to Abilene from 1970 to 1973, the program came too. Ken was heard on Kansas stations KABI, KSKG and KLJC. Mary Lou's diary for 22 September 1971:

Ken & I went to Salina. KSKG wants to use m.m. every day.

Mary Lou, 22 September 1971

Ten days later they drove back to Salina *"to take tapes to KSKG."* In 1973 the family returned to Baguio, and the programs went on until they left the field in 1975.

From Becky's email to Kevin and Mary Lou's 1971 diary.

PART THREE

Still on the Air

1975–2026 · Abilene, Kansas · and around the world

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Listen: Moments to Remember

From Abilene

Today 1,046 of the messages Ken recorded from Abilene are kept on Voices for Christ.

His children teased him that Dad *"only knows how to play the radio."* In 2008, staying with Becky in Ontario, he listened to the old record albums of Radio Bible Class and the Sixteen Singing Men. Becky wrote that the music *"unlocks the part of his brain which remembers so much detail about the men involved in this music and Moody."*

From family emails, 2008.



Sky Angel

In May 2004, after some twenty years off the air, Moments of Melody came back. Kevin produced it. Audio engineers at Children's Bible Hour in Grand Rapids, Michigan, remastered the programs, taking the music off and putting it back in from new digital copies of the original records. Ted Sealy recorded an introduction and closing. Kevin had enough programs for more than seven years of weekly broadcasts.

The Bible Broadcasting Network carried it on 265 stations in the United States and South America, by way of the Sky Angel satellite. The signal did not reach Abilene, so Ken, seventy-nine, drove toward Salina to hear the first broadcast on AM radio.

Three days later the network cancelled it. Nobody knows exactly why. Ken wrote four words in his daily log:

Sky Angel Shot Down.

Ken, 4 May 2004

As Kevin remembers it, with Ken's daily log for May 2004.



On the Air Again

On 7 July 2026, Kevin wrote to the family: "*keepm.org Radio is LIVE — Dad's STATION just started.*"

keepm.org is a 24-hour gospel radio station. It plays Ken Engle's messages around the clock, along with Bible teaching from men like Tommy Nelson and Ray Stedman. It is part of **KEE Philippine Missions**, which carries on Ken's passion for the islands. Through the Messenger 60 Project, Filipino listeners who memorize sixty Bible verses receive a solar audio Bible of their own.



A farm boy listened to Moody radio in Kansas. Eighty years later his own voice is on the air again, day and night, for the Philippines he loved.

Keep them for Jesus for eternity.

the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

From Kevin's email to the family, 7 July 2026.

Companion Books

Eight companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

[In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle](#)

Dad's own letters · 1951–1987 · his life and ministry

[Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

[Grace Triumphant](#)

the autobiography of Cyril H. Brooks · © 1985 Walterick Publishers

["Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag](#)

Baguio City · 1968–2010

[Cheryl](#)

Cheryl Lyn Engle · her life, her music, her own words

[Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: "Carrying the Vision"](#)

keepm.org · the Emmaus app · Moments to Remember · Karen and Patrick

[Family Stories and Friends](#)

Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

[Kevin's Recollections](#)

Kevin Engle · in his own words · Stewards Foundation · In Dad's Own Words

Faithful Men: A Library of Christian Classics, from

[PlymouthBrethren.org](#): Brethren writers and missionary lives, searchable by author, Scripture and topic. [Open the library ↗](#)

[The Table of Contents for the whole series →](#)

[Every link in the series, in one place →](#)

Sources

Drawn from: Ken and Mary Lou's letters of 1950–51 (Engle Letters, 2007 transcription project); Ken's diaries and his letter of 3 June 1967 to the Woodside Bible Chapel elders; Mary Lou's 1971 diary; Gordon's stories "The Letter She Lost," "Give Us This Mountain," "Be Not Afraid" and "Five Minutes from the Mountain" (Ken's 1967 diary, his and Mary Lou's letter of 27 November 1967 to Kevin and Eloise Dyer, and Mary Lou's Baguio notebook); family emails 2008–2026 from Becky, Kevin, Gordon and Doug; Kevin's recollections (8 Oct 2026: the FFA speech award, WMBI 1946–50, training Bill Pearce, and the later program names); on Bill Pearce and Nightsounds, KARI 550 and WORD-FM station pages; on Helen Barth, Moody Bible Institute's 2017 alumni tribute; Ken's 1973 testimony tape.

More to come. Kevin is gathering more of Dad's radio material, and this volume will grow.



What Comes Next

Kevin is gathering more of Dad's radio programs and papers. This volume will grow as they come in.

Keep them for Jesus for eternity.

the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

Edition of 11 October 2026 · through Gordon's "Prays for Us Daily" (10 Oct 2026), "ML + I," "Two Candles" and "The Wedding," Ken's War Years letters of 1943-45, the 1950-51 letters, "Herald of Christ" (the story of Rudy Ponce de Leon), "Mary Lou, Mary Lou," the story of Evelyn Balanag with her photographs, "The Landlord and the Projectionist," and a list of hyperlinks



Lord,
**Give Us
This Mountain**

COMPANION BOOK • IN HIS JOY

KENNETH ENGLE, WITH KEVIN ENGLE

*From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street
Baguio City Philippines*

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle

Ken Engle's letters, with Kevin Engle's recollections, 1951–1987

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In His Joy

For thirty-six years Ken Engle wrote home to the people who prayed for him. He typed on whatever machine he had, kept a carbon, and nearly every time he ended the same way: **In HIS joy**. About twenty years ago Kevin and Gordon had the carbons scanned. There are 509 pages, from the 1940s to 1987, most of them addressed to the elders and the "Dear Ones at Woodside," Woodside Bible Chapel in Maywood, Illinois, the assembly that stood behind him all his life.

This book tells Dad's story from those letters, in his own order, year by year. Where the story goes beyond the letters, it comes from Kevin Engle's own memories and recollections of his father. The other volumes of this series tell the war years, the courtship, the house on Malvar Street, Evelyn and Rudy. This one tells the work: what he did, where, with whom, and what verse he was leaning on when he did it.

Almost every letter opens with a verse. Those verses are kept here with their references, the way he wrote them.

Wherever Dad's letters mention **Kevin** or **Karen**, the page says so. Both of them are serving in the Philippines today, and these letters show where that began.

We proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:28 (Phillips), at the head of Ken's letter of 10 October 1969

That verse hung on the wall of every office he ever had. *"It is a joy to be in the same type of work as he was doing in the first century,"* he wrote under it, *"...proclaiming, teaching, training."*

From Ken's letter to Woodside, 10 October 1969, and Kevin's memories.

The Plaque on Dad's Wall



Kevin with his Philippines mug, beneath the plaque that hung in every office Dad ever had (Colossians 1:28, "We proclaim Christ"), beside Dad's photo from his memorial service. The work goes on.

Kevin Engle's collection

The Prayer Meeting at Moody

1949 or 1950

When Dad was a student at Moody Bible Institute, he belonged to a prayer group that met to pray for China. That burden went back to his first year at Moody, when [Harry Liu](#), a Chinese student, led a prayer meeting for China (see A Missionary from China). At the same time he had been writing back and forth with [Cyril Brooks](#) in the Philippines, and he was praying about whether the Lord wanted him there.

One night Dad asked some of the other Moody students to join him for an all-night prayer meeting. They prayed through until morning.

The next morning Dad went to his mailbox. Inside was a letter from [Cyril Brooks](#), inviting him to come to the Philippines as a missionary. That letter had been on a ship for thirty days. It reached him the very morning after he had spent the night asking God for direction.

God had sent the answer a month before Dad finished asking for it.

“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”

Isaiah 65:24

From Kevin Engle's recollections

PART ONE

The Manila Years

*1951–1967 · San Juan · the Bible School of the Air
· Binangonan*

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026

Thirty-Six Years Ago Today

On 17 March 1987, a retired missionary in Kansas sat down to write the folks at Woodside and started with a date.

It was 36 years ago today that I began my missionary work in the Philippines. It was a Saturday and St. Patrick's Day. A launch brought me in from the freighter which was anchored in Manila Bay. I had boarded the freighter on February 17th in San Francisco at Pier 45. You could say I was very glad to set foot on Philippine soil.

Ken to Woodside, 17 March 1987



Dad comes off the launch, Saturday 17 March 1951, brought ashore from the freighter anchored in Manila Bay: his first day in the Philippines as a missionary.

Kevin Engle's collection

He kept that day all his life. In July 1976 he was reading in the Tagalog Bible the San Juan believers had given him at his welcome, on Mrs. Dayton's lawn. He copied the inscription into a letter: "...sa pagkakataon ng kanyang pagdating sa San Juan, Marzo 17, 1951" (on the occasion of his arrival in San Juan, March 17, 1951). "Yes, 25 years ago," he added. "I treasure this volume and thank the Lord for these 25 years."

That first year he also spoke at the first servicemen's Bible conference in Manila. "We had less than a dozen men at that conference," he remembered in 1968. Seventeen years later he would stand before 160.

From Ken's letters of 17 March 1987, 22 July 1976 and 30 July 1968.

The Bible School of the Air

Dad came out to work with Cyril and Anna Brooks, and the Brookses had a radio Bible school. In 1959 Ken wrote its history for Emmaus Bible School, whose courses it used.

Mr. & Mrs. Cyril H. Brooks were used of the Lord to begin the work in 1950. ... It began as a "sideline" but has become a very important part of the Philippine work.

Ken to John Smart, Emmaus, 27 May 1959

The first office was one small room under the Brooks house with two desks. By 1959 it had seven desks, 27 courses, *What the Bible Teaches* in seven languages, and 328,799 students enrolled. Filipino staff did most of the grading, on purpose: *"It is our desire that the nationals be prepared to carry on the work fully should we be forced to leave the field."*

Not every family welcomed the lessons. In 1954 Ken wrote that some students' lessons had to go *"in a special envelope with no indication that it is from the Bible School of the Air,"* because relatives destroyed them. *"Prayer is our best weapon."*

In May 1967 the school marked its seventeenth anniversary and its millionth student, at the Medical Science Hall in Manila. No one could say which student was the millionth, so Dad Brooks gave Bibles to four new ones. Ken gave the history.

From Ken's letters of 1954, 27 May 1959 and 15 May 1967.

On the Air at DZAS



Then and now. Top: Ken Engle (left) and Ken Brooks, live on the air with “Question Time” at DZAS Manila, the gospel station of the Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC), about 1953. Bottom: the same two friends in 2009, Ken Brooks (left) and Ken Engle, not long before Ken went home to heaven.

Kevin Engle’s collection

Where No Evangelist Had Gone

In October 1964, while the Engles were in Illinois, a Filipino co-worker wrote Ken from San Juan about a trip he had just made to Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

He had found about thirty believers there, led by a man named Salvador Marcellano. Marcellano had picked up a gospel tract half buried in the mud, then enrolled with his neighbor in the Bible School of the Air courses. The group had grown out of the courses and the radio programs. No missionary had ever visited.

The Lord can accomplish His work even without any direct or immediate human instrumentality. Here is a place where no evangelist, no pastor or worker has set foot in, and yet the Lord has enabled these people to come to know Him.

letter to Ken from San Juan, 19 October 1964

They sang the songs they had learned over the radio.

Twenty-one years later, in Dallas, it happened again, to Ken's own son. See "Our Missionary in the Pacific."

There are no comments. But you know the promises that His word will not return unto Him void!

Ken, of his Bible-reading broadcasts, 2 September 1983 (Isaiah 55:11)

From a letter to Ken from San Juan Gospel Chapel, 19 October 1964.

The First Afternoon

The Christian Service Brigade is Rudy Ponce de Leon's story, told in its own book. But Ken kept its birthday. In January 1967 he wrote:

We had our first meeting at the San Juan
Elementary School on February 2nd, 1952.

Ken to Woodside, 27 January 1967

For the fifteenth anniversary there was a field day for the whole battalion and a broadcast on DZAS. *"I will tell the same story on the air that I told that first afternoon fifteen years ago."*

The boys' club was only one of the San Juan works. There was a college group, some first met at camp, who called themselves "The Prayer Fellowship." There was "Youthtime," which in its first year saw *"around 150 who professed salvation or help in regard to assurance."* In 1963 the San Juan young people marked the streets in red on a hand-drawn map and put a tract in every home.

In 1960 an elder named Sofonias Clavecilla wrote from the little chapel in Pasadena, San Juan:

As an elder of the church here in Pasadena, I
salute you as the first missionary who planted the
Word of God and the first to arrive in our place ...
The one you planted bore fruits.

Sofonias Clavecilla to Ken, 24 October 1960

The things that thou hast heard of me among many
witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men,
who shall be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

From Ken's letters of 1963 and 27 January 1967, and Bro. Clavecilla's letter of 24 October 1960.

Born in San Juan

Karen. In the spring of 1972, from Kansas, Dad stopped in the middle of a letter to Woodside:

Karen is celebrating her 17th birthday today. It hardly seems possible that it is 17 years since she arrived and we were living in our first little house in San Juan, Rizal, Philippines.

Ken to Woodside, April 1972

Kevin. In July 1958 Ken sent a photograph of the family with a report of his meetings on Mindanao: *"Kevin is now almost a year old."* Years later he told friends where each child was born: *"Both Stan and Kevin were born in San Juan Hospital, San Juan, Rizal."* Kevin began where the work began.

The family lived in San Juan from 1951 to 1967, near Camp Crame. *"We worked with the youth of the San Juan Gospel Chapel for so many years,"* Ken wrote in 1983.

From Ken's letters of 16 July 1958, April 1972, 7 December 1979 and 7 December 1983.

Binangonan

From 1957 to 1967 Ken's provincial work centered on **Binangonan**, a fishing town on Laguna de Bay. *"It was a thrill for us to see what the LORD has done there just since 1956 when they began,"* he wrote in 1968.

The believers built a new chapel in 1960. In the hot season of 1963 there were open-air meetings in a temporary shelter on a vacant lot in the fishing quarter, far from the chapel.

"Then Caleb calmed the people." ... It reminds me of what people around Galilee might have been like. ... In this area we are seeking to be fishers of men.

Ken to Beachwood Chapel, 2 April 1963 (Numbers 13:30, Berkeley)

That June, Binangonan held the first workers' conference it had ever had: more than fifty Sunday School teachers, elders, Brigade leaders and children's-class teachers. On 28 August 1966 the Binangonan believers opened a new work at **Taytay**, with Eugenio Tique, the elder and carpenter who built missionary homes and nearly built Faith Academy.

In April 1968 Ken baptized four in the lake while fishermen watched from their boats. One was Narciso Aguinaldo, a bulldozer operator at the cement plant. A shoe repairman gave him a tract, he mailed in the coupon, and a believer came to visit.

From Ken's letters of 1963, 29 August 1966, 20 March 1968 and 19 April 1968.

Eleven in the Lake

Kevin. On the last Lord's Day before the family left for America in July 1963, Ken baptized eleven young people at Binangonan. He took two of his children along, and one of them was Kevin, not quite six.

We had the joy of seeing 11 young people baptized in Binangonan last Lord's Day. When I say we I mean that Becky and Kevin went along. ... They had a farewell meal at noon. It will be hard to leave these folks.

Ken to Woodside, 25 July 1963

The family was going home because Mary Lou was ill. That same week a large gift for the trip came from Woodside, and Ken got the news at his desk at the Bible School of the Air. *"Right then I thanked Him."*

We have had so much sunshine surely we should not fear the clouds.

the same letter

Ten years later, in September 1973, the family was back at Binangonan for "Family Sunday." Sixteen were baptized.

From Ken's letters of 25 July 1963 and about October 1973.

A Billboard, Large and Clear

And the Lord said to me, "Write my answer on a billboard, large and clear, so that anyone can read it at a glance and rush to tell the others."

Habakkuk 2:2 (Living Prophecies), at the head of Ken's letter of 3 March 1966

Ken had seen the Michigan brethren's gospel signs in 1963 and 1964. Driving west from Illinois in November 1965, he counted only six gospel billboards between Illinois and California. Back in Manila, Christ for Greater Manila put him in charge of its sign work.

A gospel sign in a good location preaches 24 hours a day. ... It can speak in any language.

Ken, "A Billboard ... Large and Clear," 1966

The first board went up on Rizal Avenue: "*I AM THE WAY...*" (John 14:6). A John 3:16 board was bulldozed and stolen, and later turned up as part of someone's roof. They got it back, repainted it and put it up again. The first Tagalog signboard went up in January 1967 with Acts 16:31. In July 1967 a double sign at Binangonan "*points in two directions. By means of the Tagalog verse, it points people to heaven. Then the arrow directs them to the Chapel.*"

In December 1967 a sign ten feet by twenty-four went up on the main highway up the mountain to Baguio. Sammy, the Christian artist who painted it, rode beside it all the way. The landowner gave permission from his horse-drawn *karitela*.

JESUS SAID, "COME UNTO ME...I WILL GIVE YOU REST."
"ACQUAINT NOW THYSELF WITH HIM AND BE AT PEACE."

the sign (Matthew 11:28; Job 22:21)

From Ken's letters and his article on gospel signs, 1966-68.

Cloudy Days

The years from 1963 to 1965 were hard ones. Mary Lou was ill, and the doctors sent her home for care. The elders at Woodside wrote, *"We are prepared to stand behind you completely in this problem."*

So Ken taught. From 9 September 1963 he was on the faculty of **Emmaus Bible School** in Oak Park, Illinois, in both the freshman and the upper classes. In August 1965 WMBI put him back on the air for four evening messages. *"It was a thrill to do a little microphone work again,"* he wrote to Rudy.

I THE LORD HAVE CALLED THEE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND
WILL KEEP THEE. I have seen the Lord do this for
15 years.

Ken to Rudy Ponce de Leon, 13 August 1965 (Isaiah 42:6)

In December 1965 the doctor gave his approval, and the whole family flew back to Manila. A year later Ken looked back:

It was just a year ago today that our plane
touched down at Manila International Air Port ... It
has been a good year. However, it has not been a
year of all sunshine. There have been cloudy days
... it is good to know that "back of the clouds the
sun is always shining."

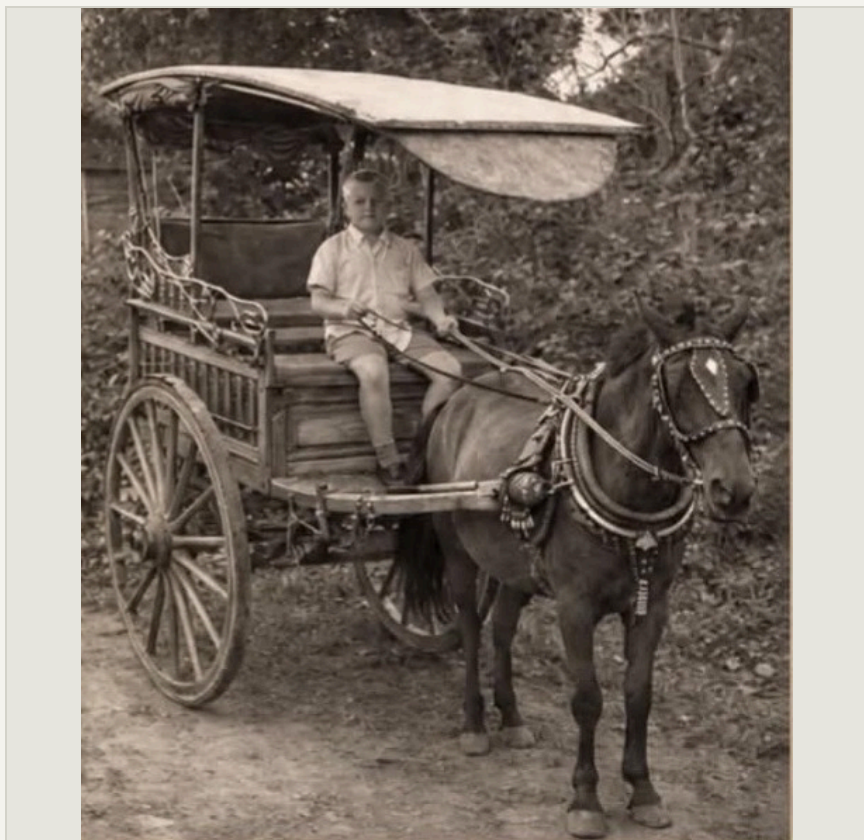
Ken to Woodside, December 1966

In 1966 he began his own program on DZAS, **Living Letters**: fifteen minutes of the New Testament read aloud with music, starting in First Corinthians.

From the Emmaus Bible School newsletter, autumn 1963, and Ken's letters of 1963–66.

A New Mission

Kevin. On 5 September 1965, just before the family went back to the Philippines from furlough, Kevin was saved at Woodside Bible Chapel in Maywood, Illinois, the assembly that stood behind Dad all his life. Mrs. Wallace Logan, a missionary to Africa, led him to the Lord. From that day he had a new mission.



Kevin, about eight, at the reins of a calesa in the Philippines, taken shortly after he was saved on 5 September 1965: a boy with a new mission. That mission goes on today, taking the gospel to the Philippines on digital Bibles through keepm.org, and Kevin is getting ready to go back for the first time since 1993.

Kevin Engle's collection and Kevin's memories



PART TWO

Give Us This Mountain

1967–1975 · Baguio · Kansas · and back

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026

A Whole New Mission Field

Volume Three tells how the family came to 55 Malvar. Three months after the move, Ken wrote to Countryside Bible Chapel near Boston, the people who had sent him a gift for radio:

We have been given a whole new mission field with great new opportunities.

Ken to Countryside Bible Chapel, 7 September 1967

DZAS could not be heard in Baguio; another station blocked it. So Ken started a program of his own. **Moments of Melody** went on the air on **1 October 1967**, at six in the morning, over **DZBS**, Baguio's commercial station: five minutes of a gospel song, a short thought and a reading from Scripture, *"to help you start your day and help you think beyond today."* For his Catholic listeners he read from the Knox Bible.

Then the program spread, and he had not asked for any of it.

MOMENTS OF MELODY is heard daily on seven stations throughout the Philippines. Surely this is of the LORD. I did not ask one of these stations to carry the program.

Ken, spring 1968

There were 250 programs on seven stations in April 1968, and 320 on ten by that September. By October 1969 there were 460 programs on seventeen stations, from Baguio to Mindanao, and KSAB on Okinawa. On Holy Thursday 1969 the two Baguio stations played the special crucifixion series every half hour. The chaplain of the USS *Tripoli* used it at sunrise prayers.

From Ken's letters of 7 September and 9 October 1967, 19 April and 16 September 1968, and 4 April and 10 October 1969.

My Boys Help Me

For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose.

Philippians 2:13, at the head of Ken's letter of 14 July 1981

The children's program came first. On 2 September 1967 Ken was sponsoring the *Children's Bible Hour* from Grand Rapids on DZBS, with sixty seconds at the end for a Baguio address. The children wrote in by the hundreds.

Kevin. About 1970 Ken described the program for his supporters:

However, we add local announcements and the children write to us here. My boys, Kevin and Stanley, help me with the program.

Ken, "Radio Philippines," about 1970

Kevin was about twelve. By 1974 he was working in his father's studio himself. See "Gospel Dimensions."

Mary Lou and Ken sponsored the *Children's Bible Hour* from 1967 for as long as they lived in the Philippines and long after. Lino Aragon of Binangonan answered the letters. They came from the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, and from Vietnam and Cambodia "*until those countries fell.*"

From Ken's letters of about 1970, 12 June 1975 and 29 March 1979.



Kevin at the Microphone



“Dad had me doing radio early!” Kevin, about eleven, on the air at DZBS/DZAH on Harrison Road, Baguio City, in 1968. Rudy Aguilar, the station’s sound engineer and manager, was on the other side of the glass, just out of sight; the lady working sound with him can be seen through it.

Kevin Engle’s collection

The Four B's

Behold, I will do a new thing ... I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19, the verse the Lord gave Ken in January 1967

In January 1968 Ken summed up the year in one line:

We have often asked prayer for three B's.
(Broadcasting, Brigade and Binangonan) Now we add
a fourth: Baguio!

Ken, January 1968

Baguio was where the war came on leave. Servicemen on rest and recreation from Viet Nam came up the mountain, and twice a year there was a servicemen's Bible conference. In October 1967 Ken spoke at the thirty-second. In July 1968, at the thirty-fourth, about 160 came, from Viet Nam, Guam, Taiwan, Okinawa, Clark and Cubi Point. Ken taught Philippians every morning at eight. A young Jewish sailor from Guam stood and said he had trusted Jesus "*as His Savior and Messiah.*"

I had the joy of speaking at the first conference in 1951 soon after my arrival in the Philippines. We had less than a dozen men at that conference. This time we had around 160.

Ken to Woodside, 30 July 1968

From Ken's letters of 9 October 1967, January 1968 and 30 July 1968.

Pray That This War Would Be Over

In late 1967 nine men from the cruiser USS *Canberra* came to Bible studies in the Engle home. One of them wrote later from the Gulf of Tonkin.

Kevin. The sailor took a liking to ten-year-old Kevin, "*because he has a son about the same age,*" and wrote to him personally:

And do us a favor if you would. Pray that this war would be over soon so we could all go home to our families in the USA.

a sailor of the USS *Canberra*, in a letter to Kevin, quoted by Ken, 10 January 1968

Under it Ken wrote a prayer:

We long that some of these men will come back to fight another war here in the future with the Sword of the Spirit as their weapon.

Ken to Woodside, 10 January 1968

Eight years later the boy who got that letter came back to Baguio himself as an American sailor and a Christian.

From Ken's letter to Woodside of 10 January 1968.

Except the Lord Build the House

Evelyn Balanag's story has its own book. Here is the church that grew out of it, in Ken's letters.

In February 1968, a few doors from the Engles, Evelyn finished the twelve lessons of *What the Bible Teaches* in two days. That week she came to Christ. "It is one of the most thrilling experiences we have ever had in the service of the Lord," Ken wrote. "The Lord did it all." Her husband Fred followed. Their friends came to the house, and by October there was a Sunday class in the Engle living room.

Karen. Ken described those Sunday classes in October 1968:

After a time of singing together as Mary Lou plays the piano we divide into classes. Mary Lou has the ladies. I have the men and Becky and Karen the children.

Ken to Woodside, 17 October 1968

Karen was thirteen, and already teaching Filipino children their Bible lessons. When the classes became a Sunday School and Family Bible Hour in August 1969, she had her own class. When the little church held its first baptism, Karen was baptized with Fred and Evelyn Balanag and the two sergeants from the Philippine Military Academy (Volume Three).

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

Psalms 127:1, closing Ken's report of the new Sunday School, 1969

They averaged thirty-five, and one Sunday sixty-two came. By 1970 they had outgrown the living room and moved to a quonset hut on Navy Road, which the military men painted themselves.

It is often much easier to look back on the guidance of the Lord than to move forward into it.

Ken to Woodside, 17 October 1968

Kevin. *"The Baguio Battalion is encouraging,"* Ken wrote the Brigade office in June 1969. *"My boy, Kevin, is in the group here."*

From Ken's letters of 29 February, 17 October 1968 and June–October 1969.

Bibles for the Cadets

Up the road from Baguio is the Philippine Military Academy, "*the West Point of the Philippines*." Two of its sergeants, Ruperto Jaleco and Marcos Badilla, were among the first in the little church, and they brought soldiers with them.

The Bibles for the graduating cadets began, as Kevin remembers it, about 1968. The first presentation Ken describes in his letters was in March 1970, when he and officers of the Officers' Christian Union from Clark Field gave American Tract Society Bibles to sixty-five graduating cadets. It became a yearly gift. In January 1974 the graduating class was "*the largest class ever*."

I was asked to present the Bibles. I spoke for possibly five minutes and then each man came forward to receive his Bible. There were 114 Bibles given to the men. ... As we walked among the crowd afterwards a number of Bibles were in evidence. It almost seemed like we were attending a Bible conference to see people carrying the Bibles!

Ken to Woodside, 24 January 1974

When the Engles left, Cyril Brooks carried it on. In 1978 he gave Bibles to 139 graduates.

In 1972 Ken wrote to President Marcos himself, recalling the day in Baguio when he and Fred Balanag gave the President the Living books:

I first saw the Philippines as I served with the Fifth Air Force during Liberation in 1944-45. I returned to the Philippines in 1951 not with a gun but that time with the "sword of the Spirit", the Bible.

Ken to President Ferdinand Marcos, 13 March 1972



Fred Balanag presents the Living books to President Ferdinand Marcos at the Baguio airport, Sunday 12 May 1968. Ken bought them at the OMF bookshop, and Mary Lou wrote in them.

Kevin Engle's collection

From Ken's letters of 25 March 1970, 13 March 1972, 24 January 1974 and 5 April 1978.

Ten Thousand Miles Away

The family went home on furlough on 27 May 1970, planning on a year. It stretched to three, so the children could finish school.

But the radio work did not stop. With a studio recorder the ladies of Workers Together sent him, Ken recorded in the farmhouse and mailed the tapes to Manila.

Though we are 10,000 miles away we speak daily by tape recording over there. We actually have more broadcast hours now than ever before.

Ken, fall 1971

The Living series grew to *Living Psalms* and *Living Proverbs*, and a new verse-by-verse series began, *Moments of Meditation*. When President Marcos declared martial law on 21 September 1972 and closed the stations, "*the missionary station, DZAS, was the first non-government station to return to the air,*" still playing Ken's tapes. A man in India wrote twice about *Moments of Melody*.

So little is much when God is in it!

Ken to Countryside Bible Chapel, 20 March 1972

He found Kansas just as open. "*I had to go overseas to be able to come home and get into some of these places,*" he wrote. There were the Lions Club and Rotary, and KABI, where *Moments of Melody* became Abilene's morning program.

God ... hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will.

Acts 22:14, Ken's verse for 1972

From Ken's letters of 1971–72.

A Kansas Furlough

Karen. In February 1972 Ken told the elders his family news. *"Karen is teaching a Sunday School class at the Chapel. She also played the guitar and accompanied the young people that sang at the last film showing."* She was sixteen, and the chapel was Grace and Truth, where Dad had grown up.

Kevin. The same letter:

Kevin and Stanley attend a Boys Brigade near here. Kevin tells me he is to give devotions tonight. That will be a first for him.

Ken to Woodside, 10 February 1972

That June, harvest:

Harvest is underway here in Kansas. Kevin and I have been out helping with the farm work on my brother's wheat farm. Dad is 73 and still takes his turn on the combine. ... It is my favorite time of the year. It is always a reminder of what the Lord Jesus said about looking on the fields that are white unto harvest.

Ken to Woodside, 27 June 1972

I will try to walk a blameless path, but how I need your help, especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should.

Psalm 101:2 (Living Psalms), at the head of Ken's letter of March 1972

From Ken's letters of 10 February, March and 27 June 1972.

Back to the Mountain

The family left Kansas on 23 June 1973. A visa they had kept "*in force since 1957*" was renewed by a telephone call from Ken Brooks in Manila.

We just look back and marvel at all the LORD has done since we left Kansas June 23rd.

Ken to Woodside, 10 September 1973

The believers were meeting in a home, with the Family Bible Hour in the carport. In January 1974 they moved into the auditorium of St. Theresa's College, a closed Catholic school. One of its buildings had housed General Yamashita during the war. "*We are interested in a different kind of treasure,*" Ken wrote.

If the Spirit of Him who raised Christ Jesus from the dead lives within you He will, by the same Spirit, bring to your whole being new strength and vitality.

Romans 8:11 (Phillips), on the wall of Ken's studio, "a good verse for 1974"

That first November there was a baptism: two Brigade boys, a young couple from the neighborhood, an OMF missionary, and one of Ken's own sons.

From Ken's letters of 2 May, 10 September and 26 November 1973 and 24 January 1974.

Gospel Dimensions

This time the Engles had a recording studio at home, off Ken's office. He made the fifteen-minute programs there, and the five-minute ones, and something new: one-minute spots called **Moments to Remember**. In October 1973 FEBC in Manila asked for all of them. *"We have all agreed that they are very excellent."*

I probably sounded casual when you told me that they liked Moment to Remember. Actually I was thrilled.

Ken to Glynn and Lela Dean, FEBC, 26 October 1973

Kevin. In April 1974 Ken wrote his parents in Kansas:

Kevin is helping in my studio...splicing tapes. He can help me quite a bit now. In fact did I tell you he made up his own 15 minute program for teens called GOSPEL DIMENSIONS. We don't know if they will put it on DZAS or not. They have a sample right now.

Ken to his mother and dad, 23 April 1974

Kevin was sixteen. That December he was helping start a Bible class on the Brent School campus. Fifty years later the boy who spliced the tapes put his father's voice back on the air. KEEPM.org Radio plays Dad's programs around the clock (Volume Five).



I let so many things crowd in and let that which I really enjoy the most...radio take a "back burner." I feel I have made a mistake in this and plan to do better in 1974.

Ken to Glynn Dean, 18 February 1974

From Ken's letters of 16 and 26 October 1973, 3 December 1973, 18 February and 23 April 1974.

Short-Term Missionaries

Karen. In the summer of 1974, nineteen-year-old Karen and her sister came out from Emmaus Bible School for two months. Woodside sent them, and Ken called them "*short term missionaries from Woodside.*" They landed at Manila International Airport on Monday, 24 June.

Karen taught some of the girls at the Chapel guitar...also helped some of the SS teachers with flannelgraph. They enjoyed getting to Binangonan and San Juan and seeing so many old friends.

Ken to Glynn and Lela Dean, 16 September 1974

Her sister typed for Ken and wrote scripts for *Moments to Remember*. Karen went to the ladies' Bible class with Mary Lou and worked with the children and the young people. Children's classes, music, teaching the teachers: it was the kind of work she would come back to do for many years on Romblon.

That summer the servicemen's conference met at John Hay Air Base, and VBS at the Navy Road chapel drew ninety children.

Pray for us as we seek to reach the "brown gold"... the people of this area with the Gospel. It is work to mine either kind of gold.

Ken to Woodside, September 1974

From Ken's letters of 27 June, 16 and 20 September 1974.

They Could Be on Their Own

The name Baguio means "storm."

Ken, November 1974, after a month of typhoons

The last Baguio winter was full. An Australian team from Gospel Literature Outreach came for four months, and there was a six-day Bible school with eight classes a day. *"The two married men that did not miss a session attended 48 classes."* A new home Bible class met among the Ibaloy, *"the original peoples of Baguio."*

In March 1975 Ken wrote something new:

More and more we feel the believers here could be on their own. However, we would so much like to see them in their own building.

Ken to Glynn and Lela Dean, 19 March 1975

On 1 May 1975 he wrote the elders at Woodside that it was time to go home, for Mary Lou's sake. They had prayed five years for land for a chapel.

Interestingly it was 21 days later that the opportunity to get land for the Chapel came to us.

Ken, looking back, 10 June 1977

The land was bought before they left. Building began on 15 September 1975, and on 14 December 1975 the **Christian Fellowship Gospel Chapel**, on Morning Glory Street, opened. Fred Balanag chaired its elders. *"This comes after seven years of the gospel going forth in that area,"* Ken wrote.

Overall though we believe that our absence has been good for the work. ... It is not our work...it is the Lord's work. Just as our children need us at a certain time but then they need to be on their own...so it is with our children in the faith.

Ken to the Woodside elders, 10 June 1977

From Ken's letters of 1974-77.

PART THREE

Still Sending

*1975–1987 · Abilene, Kansas · and the Philippines by
mail and by air*

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026

Our Missionary in the Pacific

Kevin. Kevin joined the Navy at Subic in May 1975, and soon he was back in the Philippines. Ken's letters from then on are full of him.

Our oldest son, Kevin, is in the Far East in the Navy. He just spent some time back in the Philippines. He was able to visit Baguio three times. ... We felt much like the apostle Paul in I Thessalonians three where he sent his son in the faith, Timothy, back to Thessalonica.

Ken, summer 1976

Our son, Kevin, is our representative out in that part of the world now. ... As a boy he used to like to listen to tapes about Adoniram Judson. ... I wrote him recently that now he is getting to be a missionary to that part of the world just like Judson.

Ken, 22 July 1976

Our missionary in the Pacific area at this time is our son, Kevin.

Ken to Colton Gospel Chapel, 30 October 1976

On the supply ship USS *White Plains*, Kevin and one other Christian ran the services and showed gospel films on the ship's closed-circuit television. The Baguio believers wrote the Engles how much his visits encouraged them, and "*how impressed they were with Kevin's maturity.*"

In 1977 he took a shipmate named Rick, from the carrier *Midway*, up to Baguio. On the way back to the ship, past the bars, Rick spoke of how empty that life was, and Kevin asked him about his soul.

The result was that before Rick got back on the ship he trusted the Lord as Savior. ... It is the first one that Kevin has led to the Lord.

Ken to Woodside, 2 March 1977

Rick finished *What the Bible Teaches* and sent a cassette recorder to the chapel in Baguio. By December 1977 Kevin had made "*probably his sixth visit to the Philippines since he has been in the Navy.*"

From Ken's letters of 1976-77.

Fruit in Dallas

Kevin. In April 1985 the telephone rang in Abilene.

We had a phone call this week from Kevin, who now lives in Dallas. He says it looks like he will soon have a Bible class with some Filipinos that he has contacted there. One of them even took the course "What the Bible Teaches" from our Bible School of the Air. This is exciting to learn that there continues to be fruit from those broadcasts and courses. Pray for Kevin as he teaches this class.

Ken to Woodside, April 1985

A course his father had helped mail out of a room in Manila came back to his son in Texas thirty years later. That September Ken added that Kevin was teaching a Sunday School class at Wheatland Bible Chapel *"and is often given the opportunity to speak at the Family Bible Hour."*

The next summer Ken reported *"the big event of recent days ... the wedding of Kevin our oldest son to Cheryl Ferris"*; her parents had been missionaries in Korea, and *"the two dads performed the ceremony."*

From Ken's letters of April and September 1985 and summer 1986.

Radio from the Wheat Fields

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Romans 10:18, at the head of Ken's prayer letter, December 1977

Ken recorded in the basement of Grace and Truth Gospel Chapel, ten miles out of town, because *"the nearest house is over a half mile away."*

- **The Emmaus Bible Hour.** Emmaus asked him to turn its correspondence courses into fifteen-minute programs. The first aired on KABI on Sunday, 14 January 1979. By 1981 there was a full year of them, built on *What the Bible Teaches*, *Guide to Christian Growth*, *Lessons for Christian Living* and *Summary of the Bible*. By 1986 there were two years, heard from Georgia to Nova Scotia. That year he airmailed the scripts to Rudy in Manila, who called them *"an answer to prayer."*
- **The Bible, read aloud.** For FEBC he read the whole New Testament, then the Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah and more, with no comment. It aired Sunday mornings at 10:30 in Manila and in 1986 also from Iba, Zambales. *"There are no comments. But you know the promises that His word will not return unto Him void!"* (Isaiah 55:11)
- **At home.** A five-minute sermonette on KABI some 732 times, *"Outreach"* with Christian businessmen, and Bible lessons on cable Channel 8. In 1980 he chaired Abilene's public-access television.

In 1980 a fire at the Back to the Bible office in Manila destroyed about a hundred master tapes, *"tapes that we have used over and over and even made copies and sent to other stations."* He kept recording.



Let us never be satisfied to be "receivers" but
may we also be "transmitters."

Ken to Woodside, 30 March 1976 (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

From Ken's letters of 1976-86.

Don't Worry If It's Hard to Pronounce

From Kansas Ken kept sending: Sunday School and VBS materials to Binangonan and Baguio, cassette libraries, and books. The Walterick publishers in Kansas City gave books free, and by 1983 about fifty Filipino workers and elders had complete sets of William MacDonald's Old Testament commentary. He helped pay for students at the short-term Bible school north of Manila, where former Brigade boys now taught.

He asked his supporters to pray for the two places by name.

Don't worry if it's hard to pronounce the names of the places. The LORD will know what you are praying about!

Ken to the Lees, Junction City, 25 February 1981

In 1985 he chose the photographs and wrote the captions for *Grace Triumphant*, the life of Cyril Brooks. Dad and Mom Brooks died in 1986, two months apart. "*They took us into their home and coached us in our early days there.*" That February, during People Power, FEBC stayed on the air around the clock at full power.

We can't help but wonder if some of our programs were not being beamed out when the transmitters were on full power in the crisis??

Ken to Woodside, 13 March 1986

From Ken's letters of 1981-86.

Our Own Representative

Karen. In June 1985 Karen flew to Manila with the summer team of International Teams, which her cousin Mark Dyer led there. Ken wrote Woodside:

We keep in touch by letter with these folks but now our own representative from the family will be there. We value your prayers for Karen.

Ken to Woodside, June 1985

It has been ten years now since we have been in the Philippines. Our son, Kevin, was back a couple of times to visit the believers when he was in the Navy. Now our daughter, Karen, is over there on a summer team ... She wrote of tasting some of the tropical fruits that she had not had in years.

Ken to Woodside, 11 July 1985

She helped in a clinic and at the Bible camp north of Manila, and her team went to all three of the places her parents had worked: San Juan, Binangonan and Baguio. She came home with gifts from Filipino friends. *"Binangonan especially seem to be going forward,"* Ken reported.

For about 25 years we served as overseas missionaries ... a number of our children are now interested in missions.

Ken to Woodside, 18 September 1985

From Ken's letters of June, 11 July and 18 September 1985.

Only Eternity Will Show

About 1983 Woodside asked its missionaries a question: what difference did it make? Ken wrote about the boys' club. An older Filipino, not yet a believer, had asked him for one when Ken was still learning the language. The boys came to Christ and were trained, and then they trained others. Rudy, Pete, Reny, Lino and Eliseo became elders, broadcasters, translators and leaders.

We have been involved in other kinds of work such as radio, youth work, Christ For Greater Manila, camp work etc, but this is the work that I have just described that seems to have left the greatest impression. Only eternity will show what really is important but thirty years later, that's the way it looks.

Ken to Woodside, about 1983

He had said it another way in 1965:

As missionaries some of us sowed some of the early seeds. But now is the time for it to have a full Filipino flavor.

Ken to Rudy Ponce de Leon, 13 August 1965

And in 1987, writing about a Philippine ambassador who had been sent off to Washington as *"a missionary for Christ disguised as an ambassador"*:

We all need to be missionaries, I feel is the bottom line.

Ken to Woodside, 17 March 1987

From Ken's letters of 13 August 1965, about 1983 and 17 March 1987.

The Mountain, Again

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you
great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3, "a verse that keeps coming to mind in 1987"

Ken went home to the Lord on 5 November 2009. He never saw what came next.

Karen went back. She served in the Philippines from 1990 to 1995, and again from 2012, on the island of Romblon: children's work, the ministries of the local church, and a bake shop where she trained people in a skill and a way to earn a living. Her husband Patrick served beside her and helped translate some of William MacDonald's writing. When the Lord took Patrick home in 2026, Karen chose to keep on, and she is going back. The girl who taught the children in the living room on Malvar Street, and taught the girls at the chapel guitar in 1974, has served in the Philippines longer than any of Ken and Mary Lou's children.

Kevin went back too, the way his father had: by radio first. The boy who spliced tapes in the Baguio studio and made *Gospel Dimensions* now runs **KEEPM.org**, KEE Philippine Missions, with Dad's programs on the air day and night, and audio Bibles for Filipinos who memorize Scripture. In 2026 he retired to give himself to it, and he is going back to the Philippines alongside Karen. Dad called him "*our missionary in the Pacific*" when Kevin was a nineteen-year-old sailor. Fifty years later it is still true.

Some of us sowed the early seeds, Dad wrote. The seeds are still coming up, and two of the children who watched him sow them have gone back to the field.

In HIS joy.

From Ken's letter of February 1987 and Kevin's memories (October 2026).

Christian Servicemen's Centers

Ken Engle first saw the Philippines as a serviceman himself, a B-24 tail gunner in 1945. When he came back as a missionary in March 1951, some of the first people he served were American servicemen a long way from home.

Soon after he landed he met **Jesse Miller**. Miller had been an Army mechanic at Clark Field when the war began. He survived the Bataan Death March and years as a prisoner of war in Japan, went to Bible school, and came back to the Philippines as a missionary. In 1954 he and his wife Nettie founded the **Overseas Christian Servicemen's Centers** (today Cadence International): homes away from home where a soldier or sailor could find a meal, a Bible study and Christian friends.

Ken was there near the beginning. In his testimony, recorded at John Hay in 1973, he said he helped with the **GI Gospel Hour**, started a Friday-night Bible class for Navy men at **Sangley Point**, and spoke at the first servicemen's conference, held in the fall of 1951 with only a handful of men.

I could not help recall the first of these conferences which was held in Manila in 1951 with only a handful of men. I had the privilege of speaking to those fellows.

Ken to Woodside, 9 October 1967

Sangley Point and Cavite

Sangley Point was the U.S. Navy station on the point of Cavite, across Manila Bay. Ken kept going down to the Navy men there for years. On 11 March 1966 his diary records a full day: a Tagalog lesson, a period at the language school, and then, at half past two, he and Marvin Graves drove to the American Embassy, caught a boat down to Sangley Point, and he spoke on the Quiet Time. He got home at a quarter past eleven that night.

Mary Lou and the children went too. In March 1960 the letter from the Woodside elders approving their furlough arrived just as the family was leaving with Ken for Cavite, for a meeting of Navy servicemen and their wives.

I brought it to the car on the run.

Ken to the Christians of Woodside Bible Chapel, 15 March 1960

In July 1962 he spoke at a servicemen's conference in Baguio. The next spring a serviceman in Japan heard his fifteen-minute radio program and wrote asking for lessons, for himself and for a friend.

Twice a Year in Baguio

When the family moved to Baguio in 1967, the servicemen came to them. Baguio was where men on rest and recreation from Viet Nam came up the mountain, and twice a year the servicemen's centers held a Bible conference there.

In October 1967 Ken spoke at the thirty-second, with over a hundred men from Okinawa, Viet Nam and the Philippine bases. A month later a group from an aircraft carrier just back from the war zone spent an evening in the Engle home, and a base chaplain telephoned to ask Ken to take charge of a three-day conference on the Air Base. In January 1968 Dad Brooks was a main speaker, and Ken spoke on "Missions in the Philippines." They set out a display of Emmaus courses and sold more than ninety, to men from Viet Nam, Okinawa, Taiwan, Guam and the Philippines.

In July 1968, at the thirty-fourth, the theme was "A Relevant God for a Restless Age." About 160 came. Ken taught Philippians every morning at eight, and four men professed faith in Christ. [Read more: "The Four B's" → "Pray That This War Would Be Over" →](#)

Men from the First Conference

The handful of men at that first conference in 1951 did not forget it. By October 1967 Ken could write that at least two of them were now running servicemen's centers themselves.

In the summer of 1971, home on furlough, Ken and Mary Lou went to a servicemen's conference in Colorado, with about 160 there, and met men they had known in the Philippines. One of them had been saved at the original Manila conference. He was now directing servicemen's centers in Panama and in the Philippines.

At the August 1969 conference Ken and Ken Brooks helped with the seminars. Men from all over Southeast Asia, Viet Nam included, bought the *What the Bible Teaches* charts to lead Bible studies on their own bases. And in February 1970 Mary Lou spoke to about sixty servicemen's wives on retreat at John Hay Air Base, where she had been organist at the base chapel.

John Hay, 1974

Back in Baguio in 1973, Ken took up the conferences again. In February 1974 about seventy-five came; he helped with a seminar and spoke at the closing breaking of bread. Then he gave about twenty-five servicemen and their wives a tour of Baguio, and Mary Lou served them cupcakes. In March the two of them held a conference for servicemen's wives.

That July the conference met at John Hay Air Base, with Dr. Gary Collins of Trinity as speaker and the theme "Made Whole in Christ." Ken led the Bible hour at eight each morning.

The 45th semi-annual Servicemen's Bible conference has just finished here in Baguio. About 75 men and their wives attended, mostly from Clark Field and Subic Naval Base. The 'Kitty Hawk' aircraft carrier was also represented. Pray for these servicemen and their wives, also for those who work at servicemen's centers seeking to witness for Christ.

Ken, in MISSIONS magazine, May-June 1974

In September more than a hundred came, from Clark, Subic and Navy ships; a chaplain from the carrier *Oriskany* wrote to thank them. Another conference opened 1975.

A Center at Fort Riley

Even in Kansas, Ken kept looking for servicemen. Fort Riley, the big Army post, is a few miles from Abilene, next to Junction City. On 28 November 1971 Mary Lou wrote in her diary:

Dick Patty called - coming in Wednesday to look over Junction City for Service men' Center.

Mary Lou, 28 November 1971

Two weeks later Ken asked the Woodside believers to pray about a servicemen's center at Fort Riley. He was working on it with a Junction City policeman and his wife, and they had surveyed the town with a representative of the Overseas Christian Servicemen's Centers.

The friendships lasted. In January 1983 two men from the servicemen's centers, Bob Hingham and Sid Henry, stopped in Abilene for breakfast, and Ken wrote of friends with ties to "Nettie and Jessie Miller."

The Gospel Hour at Clark Field

Kevin. In May 1975 Kevin joined the Navy at Subic. That September, after boot camp, Ken wrote that he was in fellowship at Laurel Chapel and helping at the **Servicemen's Center in San Diego.**

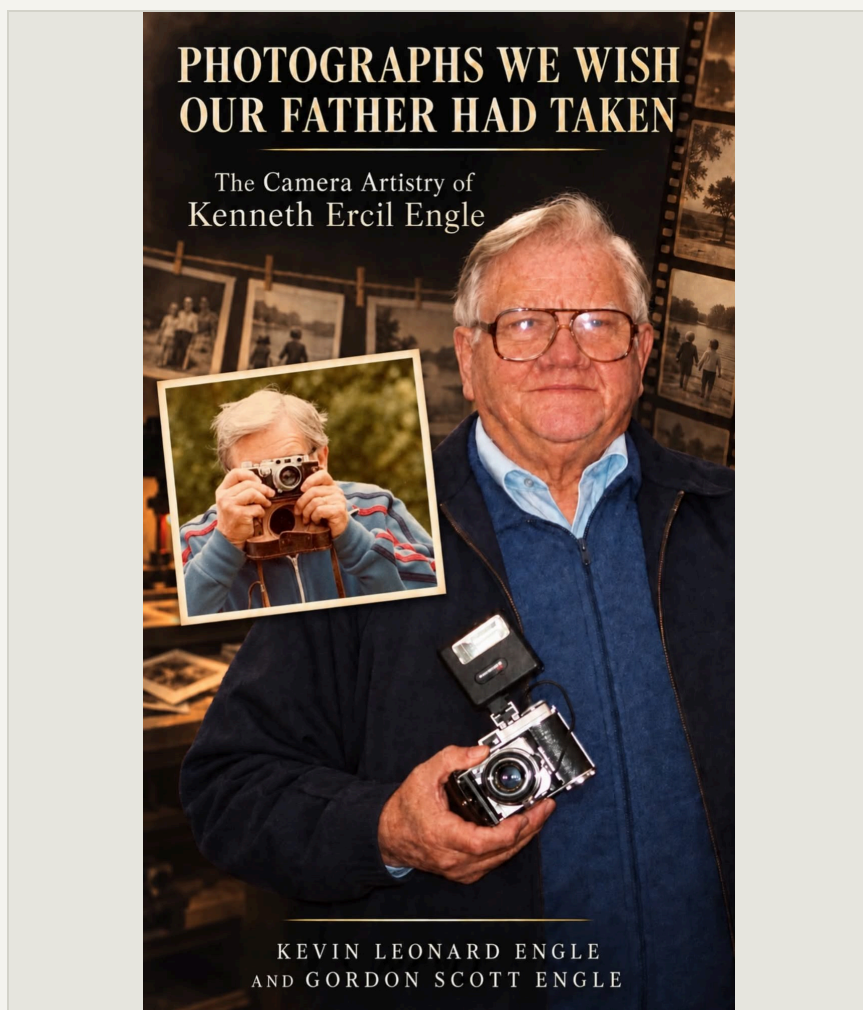
The next spring Kevin was back in the Philippines on the USS *White Plains*. On 8 May 1976 Ken wrote the Woodside believers that Kevin planned to go to the Gospel Hour at the **Christian Servicemen's Center at Clark Field**, and then up to Baguio. He likened it to Paul sending Timothy back to Thessalonica.

Twenty-five years after Ken spoke to a handful of men at the first conference, his son was one of the servicemen at the center. [Read more: "Our Missionary in the Pacific" →](#)

Photographs to be added.

From Ken's 1973 testimony tape; his letters of 1960–1983 and diary of 11 March 1966 (in Gordon's story "Thrilled"); the MISSIONS magazine prayer pages of 1974; Mary Lou's 1971 diary. On Jesse Miller, his obituary in the Denver Post, 2001.

Ken and His Cameras: Just for Fun



Photographs We Wish Our Father Had Taken: The Camera Artistry of Kenneth Ercil Engle, by Kevin Leonard Engle and Gordon Scott Engle.

Cover, Kevin Engle's collection

Dad was seldom without a camera. He left some thirty thousand photographs and slides. This book, still in progress, is just for fun.

In progress. More to be added later.

Milestones

- 1924 Born 9 November, on the farm south of Abilene, Kansas
- 1942 Wins first place in the national FFA public-speaking contest, Kansas City, with "Food, Our Weapon"
- 1943–45 Army Air Forces; B-24 tail gunner, Fifth Air Force, over the Philippines
- 1946–50 Moody Bible Institute; student announcer on WMBI
- 1950 Commended to the Lord's work by Austin Gospel Hall, Chicago, and Grace and Truth Gospel Chapel, Abilene
- 1951 17 March: ashore in Manila; Bible School of the Air; speaks at the first servicemen's conference
- 1952 2 February: first Brigade meeting, San Juan Elementary School
- 1953 26 April: marries Mary Lou Leonard, San Juan Gospel Hall
- 1955 Karen born in San Juan; first furlough



San Juan Gospel Hall, Manila, where Ken and Mary Lou were married on 26 April 1953. Kevin believes the man in white in the doorway, facing away, is Dad.

Kevin Engle's collection

- 1957 Back in Manila, 10 January; Kevin born in San Juan; Binangonan years begin
- 1958 Evangelistic meetings on Mindanao
- 1959 Teaches at FEBIAS; the Bible School of the Air passes 328,000 students
- 1960 Binangonan builds its chapel; furlough
- 1962 Tenth anniversary of the Brigade; Highland Bible Conference
- 1963 Billy Graham Manila crusade; eleven baptized at Binangonan; home for Mary Lou's health; Emmaus Bible School faculty, 9 September
- 1965 WMBI "Bread of Life" messages; back to Manila in December
- 1966 *Living Letters* on DZAS; gospel signboards; Taytay work begins 28 August
- 1967 First Tagalog signboard; Brigade's fifteenth anniversary; BSA's millionth student; "Give Us This Mountain," 3 June; Baguio; *Children's Bible Hour* on DZBS, 2 September; *Moments of Melody* begins 1 October

Milestones, continued

- 1968 Evelyn and Fred Balanag saved; home Bible classes; Karen teaching the children
- 1969 Sunday School and Family Bible Hour in the living room; *Moments of Melody* on 17 stations
- 1970 Quonset hut on Navy Road; Bibles to 65 PMA cadets (the yearly gift began about 1968); furlough from 27 May
- 1970-73 Abilene; "more broadcast hours than ever before"
- 1972 Martial law; DZAS first back on the air
- 1973 Back to Baguio, June; *Moments to Remember*
- 1974 St. Theresa's College hall; Kevin's *Gospel Dimensions*; Karen a short-term missionary
- 1975 Short-term Bible school; leaves the field in June; Christian Fellowship Gospel Chapel opens 14 December
- 1976-77 Kevin, "our missionary in the Pacific," visits Baguio; leads Rick to the Lord
- 1978 Commended to the work in the homeland by Grace and Truth
- 1979 *Emmaus Bible Hour* first airs, 14 January
- 1980 Master tapes lost in the Back to the Bible fire, Manila
- 1985 Karen with International Teams in the Philippines; *Grace Triumphant*
- 1986 People Power; Emmaus scripts to Rudy
- 1987 "It was 36 years ago today..."
- 2009 Goes home to the Lord, 5 November, Abilene
- 2026 KEEPM.org Radio; Kevin and Karen back to the Philippines

Days Dad Remembered

He kept anniversaries the way other people keep birthdays. A few of them, in his words:

- *"It was twenty years ago this summer that I was commended to the work of the Lord."* (April 1970)
- *"It is sixteen years since I first came to the Philippines."* (June 1967)
- *"Speaking of history, it was just 14 years ago that we were in Baguio on our honeymoon at this very same time of the year."* (May 1967)
- *"We celebrated the 17th anniversary of the Bible School of the Air and the enrolling of the millionth student."* (May 1967)
- *"By the way, we celebrated our tenth year in Brigade work with a special meeting in March."* (1962)
- *"It was just a year ago today that our plane touched down at Manila International Air Port."* (December 1966)
- *"We have been engaged in the broadcasting ministry for the past sixteen years over DZAS."* (September 1967)
- *"Twenty Five years ago I went to the Philippines as a missionary. Thirty one years ago I was there for my country."* (1976)
- *"I recall your Chapel as being one of my stops just before I went to the Philippines as a missionary for the first time twenty-five years ago."* (October 1976)
- *"It is now about 32 years since I first said goodbye to you there and set sail for the Philippines."* (December 1982)
- *"It has been ten years now since we have been in the Philippines."* (July 1985)
- *"It was 36 years ago today that I began my missionary work in the Philippines."* (17 March 1987)

Dad's Verses

His verse for the year

- 1967 Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I will do a new thing"
- 1970 Nehemiah 2:20, "arise and build"
- 1972 Acts 22:14, "chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will"
- 1974 Romans 8:11 (Phillips), on his studio wall
- 1979 Deuteronomy 32:3, "I will proclaim the name of the Lord"
- 1980 Psalm 96:3–4, "Tell of His glory among the nations"
- 1984 Psalm 105:1, "Make known His deeds among the peoples"
- 1985 Deuteronomy 33:27, "Underneath are the everlasting arms."
(*"Come to think of it we need that verse every year."*)
- 1987 Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you"

Verses at the head of his letters

Psalm 84:11 and Ruth 1:16 (the wedding verses, 1953) · Numbers 13:30 (1963) · Isaiah 50:4 (1963) · Isaiah 26:3 (1963) · Proverbs 1:33 (1964) · Isaiah 42:6 (1965) · I Corinthians 15:58 (1965) · Habakkuk 2:2 (1966) · Joshua 14:12 (1967) · Isaiah 66:2 (1967) · Job 34:32 (1967) · Philippians 4:4–7 · Ephesians 5:17 (1968) · II Corinthians 4:7 (1968) · Isaiah 40:29–31 (1969) · Psalm 127:1 (1969) · Colossians 1:28 (1969) · Psalm 32:8 (1970) · Jeremiah 10:23–24 (1970) · John 1:12–13 (1971) · Psalm 9:1 (1971) · Psalm 101:2 (1972) · James 5:16 (1972) · Psalm 139:3 (1972) · I Thessalonians 1:8 (1973, 1976) · Colossians 1:10 · Psalm 67:1–2 (1976) · Romans 10:18 (1977) · Acts 26:17–18 (1978) · Philippians 2:13 (1981)

Answers for Volume Five

Volume Five, on Dad's radio work, ended with open questions. The letters answer some of them.

- **When did Moments of Melody begin, and where?** On 1 October 1967, at 6 a.m., over DZBS in Baguio. It went on FEBC's DZFE in Manila that November.
- **Moments to Remember?** One-minute spots, begun in Baguio in late 1973 on a commercial station. In October 1973 FEBC asked for all of them, and in 1974 they also ran on DZBS.
- **The FFA award?** In 1942. Ken won the regional contest in Chicago on 10 August with a speech called "Food, Our Weapon," and then first place in the national contest at the FFA convention in Kansas City that October.
- **The Living series?** *Living Letters* began on DZAS in 1966, starting in First Corinthians. Then came *Living Gospels* (1968), *Living Prophecies* (1969–70), *Living Psalms* and *Living Proverbs* (1972), fifteen minutes each, most of them on Sunday mornings at 9:15.
- **Stations after 1975?** KABI Abilene, KSKG-FM Salina and KLJC Kansas City for *Moments of Melody*. The *Emmaus Bible Hour* was on KABI and on stations in Georgia, Florida, Wisconsin, Texas, Nova Scotia and elsewhere. DZAS, DZFE-FM, the Iba station and FEBC shortwave carried the Scripture readings.

From Ken's letters of 1967–86 and newspaper clippings of 1942.



Sources

Drawn from: a 509-page scan of Ken's typed letters and papers kept with them, 1942–1987 (file "KEE Letter 52-75"); his prayer letters, his letters to Woodside Bible Chapel and other assemblies, letters to him from Filipino co-workers, the Emmaus Bible School newsletter (autumn 1963), *Know Your Missionaries* (1977), *Christian Missions in Many Lands* (1977), the *Abilene Reflector-Chronicle* and a Kansas City newspaper (1942). Karen's and Kevin's present work from Kevin (October 2026). Dad's letters were scanned about twenty years ago by Kevin and Gordon.

Companion Books

Seven companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

[Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

["Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag](#)

Baguio City · 1968–2010

[Cheryl](#)

Cheryl Lyn Engle · her life, her music, her own words

[Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: "Carrying the Vision"](#)

keepm.org · the Emmaus app · Moments to Remember · Karen and Patrick

[Family Stories and Friends](#)

Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

[Kevin's Recollections](#)

Kevin Engle · in his own words · Stewards Foundation · In Dad's Own Words

Faithful Men: A Library of Christian Classics, from
[PlymouthBrethren.org](#): Brethren writers and missionary lives,
searchable by author, Scripture and topic. [Open the library ↗](#)

[The Table of Contents for the whole series →](#)

[Every link in the series, in one place →](#)

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the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

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Lord, Give Us This Mountain

COMPANION BOOK • HERALD OF CHRIST:
THE STORY OF RUDY PONCE DE LEON

*From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street
Baguio City Philippines*

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle • An Engle Family History

Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

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COMPANION BOOK

Herald of Christ

*The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon · San Juan, Rizal ·
1951–1967*

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

Rudy

Whenever Ken came home on furlough and stood up to speak in a church, there were names he always mentioned. **Reny Garantuza** was one. **Lino Aragon** was another. But the name he came back to most was [Rudy Ponce de Leon](#), of San Juan, Rizal.

Rudy was one of the boys in the very first boys' club Ken started after he reached the Philippines in March 1951. That club became the **Christian Service Brigade**. Rudy grew up in it, was baptized out of it, and became the first in the Philippine Brigade to reach its highest honor, the **Herald of Christ**. In time he led the whole work, which grew to twenty-two clubs across the Philippines. He studied for several years at a seminary in New Zealand, and he has served the Lord among the assemblies in San Juan and far beyond ever since.

Rudy was born about 1939. As this is written he is still living, in his late eighties, and the stories that follow are for him as much as for anyone.

Kevin says that as far as the development of the Brigade program goes, "*Rudy was the one.*" [Evelyn Balanag](#) is the heart of the Baguio story. Rudy is the heart of the Manila one.

"Is There a Cost?"

Ken reached Manila on Saturday 17 March 1951 and moved in with Cyril and Anna Brooks in San Juan. Within weeks he had children's classes going on Saturday afternoons. By July he was teaching gym to the boys at Grace Christian High School: exercises, games, and stories of Christian athletes and missionaries told between the drills.

That fall he began to talk about something more.

Talked to Steve about Brigade. Later talked to Noel. I'm very encouraged, step by step as He leads.

Ken, Sunday 30 September 1951

Among the San Juan boys who came to the new club was Rudy, a boy of about twelve. As Ken told it in the churches back home, and as Kevin remembers it, Rudy came up to the young American with one question first.

"Is there a cost to attend the boys' club?"

"There is no cost," Ken told him.

So Rudy came. He kept coming for the rest of his life.

Bright and Keen

What did the boys do? Everything. Ken led them in calisthenics and strength challenges. They memorized Scripture and worked through Bible correspondence lessons. They went swimming and played ball, and they sat around a council ring while a leader gave a short word from the Bible.

The Brigade had a motto, *Bright and Keen for Christ*, and a plain purpose, which the Philippine Brigade later printed on its brochure: "*To win and train boys for Christ.*" A boy earned awards as he went, and each time he came to his leader to pass a test, there was a chance to talk. The brochure called it "man-boy contact" and said its possibilities were limitless.

Ken's 1955 diary shows the Saturdays:

Took Brigade swimming to Balara. 7 boys and 3 leaders. Dominy & Arturo passed swimming test.

Ken, 29 January 1955

Brigade tests of strength.

Ken, 5 March 1955

Brigade fellow passing tests for camp contest.

Ken, 9 April 1955

Not everyone was pleased. When Ken went out to Welfareville about starting a club there, he wrote that the priest "*surely opposes our coming in with a good boys' program.*"

Brigade Boys



Kevin, about eleven, with Eddie Alfonso in his Brigade uniform, about 1968. Eddie's father, Eleazer "Ely" Alfonso, helped Ken when he first came to the Philippines: he showed him the ropes, taught him the customs and helped him with his Tagalog. The Brigade Ken started grew to twenty-two clubs across the Philippines under [Rudy Ponce de Leon](#).

Kevin Engle's collection

The Faithful Three

By the start of 1955 the Brigade was still small. Some Saturdays only a handful came. Ken counted the ones who never missed.

Brigade with faithful 3: Rudy, Reny & Doming.

Ken, Saturday 8 January 1955

Rudy and Reny were in everything together. The next afternoon the San Juan Gospel Hall held its elections.

Election in afternoon. Mr. Mercado got Chairmanship. Noel Ison Sunday School Superintendent; Rudy & Reny other SS offices.

Ken, 9 January 1955

A few weeks later the young people elected Rudy again.

Elected Rudy for Publicity and Gospel Activities Chair.

Ken, 27 February 1955

On the last day of March Ken went to town and bought presents.

Got gifts for Rudy and Lety. Went to office worked, then to Rudy's graduation with Reny. Secretary of Education Hernandez spoke.

Ken, 31 March 1955

A Boy Who Showed Up

Through 1955 Rudy's name runs all through Ken's diary. He went where Ken went. In June Ken "*arranged for Luis and Rudy to go to jail service,*" to the meetings at Bilibid Prison. The next Sunday:

At Light Bringers, Reny and Rudy gave chalk talk. Went to Bilibid. Mercado and I spoke. Brigadiers sang.

Ken, 19 June 1955

The Light Bringers were the San Juan young people. A chalk talk is a gospel message drawn on a board as it is preached, and it was Rudy and Reny drawing.

He worked, too. The Bible School of the Air was flooded with enrollments that year, more than a thousand a week, and the boys came on Saturdays to help stamp and mail the lessons.

Only Rudy to work at BSA. Rudy cut his hand. Brigade boys helped in the afternoon.

Ken, 25 June 1955



Rudy Baptized

That summer the Brigade boys began to make up their own minds about following Christ. On the last Sunday of July a gospel team from Taylor University was in Manila, and Ken heard them at Grace.

Rudy and Doming dedicated their lives to the Lord.

Ken, Sunday 31 July 1955

The day before, Ken wrote that he *"Gave some instruction to Rudy on Baptism."* In August Rudy came to the house for the baptism class. Ken and Mary Lou were getting ready to go home on furlough, selling the car and the furniture. On the first Sunday of September, ten days before they flew:

Taught. Rudy baptized. Farewell for us.

Ken, Sunday 4 September 1955

The next Saturday was Ken's last Brigade meeting for a year: *"Last Brigade, farewell to boys."* On Sunday the young people said goodbye.

Farewell at Light Bringers Surely brought tears.
Thank Him for all these young people. Sang "Blest
Be The Ties".

Ken, 11 September 1955

He had come to the Philippines four and a half years before, a single man with a scooter and a mimeograph. He went home on furlough a husband and father, leaving behind a boy of about sixteen, newly baptized, who would one day lead the work.

In the Hands of the Nationals

Year after year the work grew. The boys who had passed tests began to give them. In June 1967, writing to the elders at Woodside Bible Chapel just before the family moved to Baguio, Ken could report:

The Brigade program was almost wholly in the hands of the nationals.

Ken, letter to the Woodside elders, 3 June 1967

Rudy was one of those hands. Around 1968 or 1969 he became the first in the Philippines to earn the **Herald of Christ**, the highest honor in the Christian Service Brigade. It crowns years of Bible study, Scripture memory and service, and in America it is often compared to the Eagle Scout.

The move to Baguio meant Ken saw less of Rudy, but Rudy still came up the mountain. He is in one of the photographs of the little church's earliest days at 55 Malvar, sitting by the door.



A singspiration at 55 Malvar, Baguio. Evelyn Balanag is in the center. Rudy is sitting next to the door.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008

Led by One of the Original Members

On 31 January 1973, at John Hay in Baguio, Ken's testimony was recorded. Near the end he spoke of the boys' club he had started in 1951. By then it had grown to twenty-two clubs across the Philippines, and it was led, he said, by one of the original members.

Kevin has no doubt who that was: Rudy. Rudy was the man who managed those twenty-two clubs.

Rudy also spent several years at a seminary in New Zealand, and came home to serve the assemblies.

A Boys' Class, Turned Club

Forty years after Ken started the club, the letters were going the other way. Among Ken's papers are prayer letters from the **San Juan Gospel Chapel**, signed by Rudy I. Ponce de Leon for the elders and deacons. The boy from the 1951 club was now writing to the missionaries' supporters himself.

In December 1995 he reported a recognition service for Stimson "Tatang" Alviar, the most senior Filipino worker among the assemblies, for thirty-five years as a worker commended from San Juan, most of them in Pampanga. He reported medical missions that had treated more than seventeen thousand people since 1986, always with the medicine given free, and gospel work among families driven from their homes by lahar after the typhoons.

In June 1996 came camp news: five summer camps, four of them breaking attendance records, and a Holy Week camp with sixty assemblies represented. And there was a small thing at home. At San Juan, he wrote, the *"Sunday School boys' class (turned club)"* had been meeting for three months, and its membership had grown from five to fifteen. The boys had done so much of their Bible work and other requirements that many of them earned free passage to youth camp. It was a boys' class turned club, in San Juan, with tests to pass and a camp to win, and no cost.

He signed it *"Yours At HIS Throne."*

The Rest of Rudy's Story

A boy asked whether there was a cost. A young missionary said there wasn't. Seventy-five years later the club, the camps, the churches and the men they trained are still the answer to that question.

The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

Ken and Uncle Kevin Dyer built the Teach Others Program on that verse in 1959. Rudy is what it looks like in a life. There are more stories in Ken's diaries, where Rudy's name appears again and again, and Kevin hopes one day to gather them into a book of Rudy's own.

From Ken's diaries for 1951 and 1955, Rudy's prayer letters of 1995–96, the Philippine Brigade brochure, Ken's 1967 letter and 1973 testimony tape, and Kevin's memories (9 Oct 2026).

Sources

This book draws on Ken's diaries for 1951 and 1955, Rudy's San Juan Gospel Chapel prayer letters of December 1995 and June 1996, the Christian Service Brigade of the Philippines brochure, Ken's 1967 letter to the Woodside elders, his 1973 testimony tape, and Kevin's recollections (9 October 2026). It was first published as Part Four of Volume Two.

Companion Books

Seven companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

[In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle](#)

Dad's own letters · 1951–1987 · his life and ministry

["Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag](#)

Baguio City · 1968–2010

[Cheryl](#)

Cheryl Lyn Engle · her life, her music, her own words

[Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: "Carrying the Vision"](#)

keepm.org · the Emmaus app · Moments to Remember · Karen and Patrick

[Family Stories and Friends](#)

Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

[Kevin's Recollections](#)

Kevin Engle · in his own words · Stewards Foundation · In Dad's Own Words

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[The Table of Contents for the whole series →](#)

[Every link in the series, in one place →](#)

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Lord, Give Us This Mountain

COMPANION BOOK • "MARY LOU, MARY
LOU": THE STORY OF EVELYN AND
FRED BALANAG

*From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street
Baguio City Philippines*

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle • An Engle Family History

"Mary Lou, Mary Lou": The Story of Evelyn and Fred Balanag

Baguio City · 1968–2010

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COMPANION BOOK

"Mary Lou, Mary Lou"

The Story of Evelyn Balanag · 1968

UPDATED 13 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

Evelyn

[Evelyn Balanag](#) was born in Pakistan. Her father was British, an Anglican, and her mother was Pakistani. When she was a girl, her father told his children stories from the Bible. It was a seed planted early, and it waited many years.

In Pakistan she met **Federico Balanag**, a Filipino who was there on business. They married and made their home in the Philippines, where they raised six children.

In January 1968 Mary Lou went to visit Evelyn and invited her to take a Bible correspondence course. Within days Evelyn nearly died, and in that same hour she put her trust in Jesus Christ. With her, the Baguio church began.

Evelyn and Mary Lou became close friends. Evelyn had her own way of calling for her: "*Mary Lou, Mary Lou!*" Kevin can still hear her saying it.

Evelyn went home to be with the Lord in 1985. What follows is the account Mary Lou wrote at the time, word for word, exactly as she wrote it. After it come Evelyn's pictures, from Kevin's blog about her and the family albums.

In Mary Lou's Own Words

Evelyn Balanag - Pakistani - Deathbed Conversion and she lived to tell about it.

On Monday, January 29, 1968, Ken and I wanted to do visitation of BSA students for a rally on the 31st when Bob Harrison would be here, also Dad and Mom Brooks. Before we went out, I went to visit Evelyn Balanag to enroll her in WBT if she wanted, also to invite her and her husband to the Wednesday evening rally. She was most eager to study the course, and said she wanted to come to the rally. She had been ill for several days as she had had a miscarriage and was still feeling rather weak.

On Tuesday morning, the 30th, she brought me her whole course, completed and wanted to talk and ask questions. We had a good time of discussion over coffee and cookies. She wanted to enroll in the next course, Lessons for Christian Living. So she took that book home with her.

On Wednesday, her house helper came to tell me that she would not be coming to the rally as she had just been taken to the hospital because of bleeding.....She said that Evelyn would have an operation Thursday morning.

We had the rally with good attendance, Bob Harrison sang, Dad Brooks spoke and it was a very good evening.....But we were disappointed that Evelyn and her husband Fred had been unable to come. Bob Harrison prayed for her in the hospital...None of us really knew her true condition at that time.

Thursday, we found out that she had been very ill....that she had almost died Wednesday night. I went in Thursday morning just after she had come back from surgery, and stayed a bit. She was much improved by then.

Friday, I went to the house to visit her after she had come home from the hospital. She then told me her story:

She said that she was barely conscious at the hospital because of weakness due to lack of blood. But near midnight on Wednesday, she suddenly felt worse, and called "Doctor", then passed out. For the next two hours, doctors worked over her....oxygen, fluids, medication. They called her husband to the hospital because they said she was dying.....She came back to consciousness during these attempts to save her, and saw her husband crying at the side, and noticed a needle going in each arm with fluids....

While she was unconscious, she said all she can remember is a vision of God Himself...sensing that she was dying, that she was floating on stars.....then when she came to consciousness, her first thought was, "Oh, God has spared me! If I had died, I would be in hell right now."...."I want to accept Jesus this minute." And she, by faith accepted the Lord in the split second of consciousness.....All that she had studied in WBT flooded her mind, and she took that step of faith, believing in Christ as her own Saviour and was saved!

The doctor said to her, "We think you should have the priest here for last rites." But she told him that she did not want a priest...because she was right with God, could confess to God Himself, and anyway, why should she need a priest when a priest is a sinner, too. The doctor was somewhat shocked at this statement of heresy, but sadly nodded alright.

She told me that she knows that God has saved her physically so that she could be saved spiritually, and she was so happy, and so radiant!

Her father had laid the background for this decision many years ago, when he told his children stories from the Bible. He is a British Anglican, married to a Pakistani lady.

He has read the Bible through many times, although he himself gets drunk time after time. So we do not know if he is a born-again believer. But he realized the importance of spiritual matters, and of the reading of the Holy Word...and imparted this to his children. However, she knew nothing of spiritual life through Christ when this contact was made. What she had learned had been through the correspondence course, WBT, just 48 hours previous to this physical crisis in her life.

She completed the second course, brought it to me, and asked for the third, Guide to Christian Growth. She said that she used to read paper-back books, but they made her feel dirty. She said, the reading of these courses makes her feel so clean, inside and out....She has started a Quiet Time using Daily Bread of Scripture Union Notes.....She also is interested to begin a ladies class in her living room, teaching WBT first, with me there as an advisor.

It has truly been a work of the Holy Spirit in her heart and life because I have not really done much talking with her...there wasn't time. Things happened so fast. It has been thrilling to our whole family of what can really happen when a person accepts the Lord, and the change in her own life. She has begun witnessing to all who come in contact with her.

She finished GOG in three days, then went on to SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE which she did in 4 more days. Her husband stayed up late at night to help her as it was quite difficult. They both memorized quite a bit of Scripture....He was not saved yet, but was quite interested and sympathetic. She said that she felt so clean when she was studying these courses. On Feb 12th, she finished it, and took home WINNING SOULS THE BIBLE WAY, also she enrolled in the memory course of BIBLE MEMORY ASSOCIATION. She told me how distasteful the movies are to her now, and other amusements...that she has begun to use less cigarettes now...She used to smoke 20 in a day, but is down to 8 now. She hopes to be off them completely very soon! She had no prompting from me in all these decisions to drop things out of her life. Just the presence of the Holy Spirit has convinced her that she should not do certain things anymore. She is praying fervently that her husband will accept Christ soon so their family can be united. It is a wonderful thing that he is so sympathetic and is learning Scripture. They have pored over the Bible Atlas trying to straighten out in their minds the divisions of the land in Joshua! He is fascinated with the book. Tomorrow morning, I am going to teach her how to make bread!

Mary Lou Engle, January-February 1968

Mary Lou's account ends there, in February 1968. The pictures that follow carry Evelyn's story on.

55 Malvar

The Engles rented the house at 55 Malvar, on Aurora Hill, from 1967 to 1970. The first meetings of the little assembly were held there. It was there, too, that Evelyn came to visit Mary Lou and to pick up her Emmaus correspondence courses.



The Engle home at 55 Malvar, Aurora Hill, Baguio, 1967–1970.

Photograph by Ken Engle; Kevin's blog, 2008

The First Bible Study

One of the earliest Bible studies met at 55 Malvar in 1968. Evelyn shared a chair with Mrs. Jaleco, with Mrs. Badilla on her other side. Their husbands would soon be among the first men of the church.



One of the earliest Bible studies, 55 Malvar, 1968. Mary Lou is standing. Evelyn, in the checkered sweater, sits in the same chair as Mrs. Jaleco, with Mrs. Badilla on her other side.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008

Singing at Malvar

Whenever the believers met, there was one chorus they always sang:
"Nothing Is Impossible."



A singspiration at 55 Malvar. Evelyn is in the center. [Rudy Ponce Deleon](#) is sitting next to the door.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008

Fred

Mary Lou ended her account with Evelyn *"praying fervently that her husband will accept Christ soon."* In 1969 Fred and Evelyn were baptized together at the church's first baptism, with Sergeant Jaleco, Sergeant Badilla, and two of the Engle girls, Becky and Karen. [William MacDonald](#) (1917–2007), the Bible teacher, conducted the baptism and gave a word from the Scriptures.



The first baptism, 1969. Ken Engle with all who were baptized: Fred Balanag, Sgt. Jaleco, Sgt. Badilla, Becky Engle, Evelyn Balanag and Karen Engle.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008

A Family

Fred and Evelyn raised six children: Polly, Dolly, Ferdie, Boy, Frankie and Molly.



Fred and Evelyn with a new baby. The album page says 1969 and names him Ferdinand; Kevin's blog wondered whether it might be Dolly, about 1963.

Photograph by Ken Engle; Engle family album

The Balanags



In their Navy Base house, about 1974. Left to right: Polly, Dolly, Fred, Ferdie, Evelyn, Boy and Frankie. Molly had not yet arrived.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008



The Balanag family, about 1974.

Photograph by Ken Engle

The Godhouse

Before long the believers were meeting in the Guardhouse on Navy Base, which they affectionately called the "Godhouse."



Walking down the road away from Navy Base after a meeting in the Guardhouse, 1971. Anna "Mom" Brooks and Evelyn are in the center.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008

The First Elders

By 1974 Fred Balanag was one of the church's first three elders, with Ruperto Jaleco and Marcos Badilla.



The three elders, 1974: Jaleco, Balanag and Badilla.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008



Some of the leadership of the assembly, about 1974, at the Engle home, 30 C.M. Recto, Navy Base.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008

Old Friends



Fred and Evelyn visiting Ken and Mary Lou at the C.M. Recto house, 1975.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008

At the Chapel



Dad Brooks standing next to Evelyn, with Fred Balanag in the brown suit and Joyce Hardisty in the foreground on the left. Probably around 1977.

Photograph by Ken Engle; caption from Kevin's blog, 2008

Just Down the Street

In *Prays for Us Daily*, Gordon left a question on the step: who was Fred Balanag, and how did he end up at the President's plane with four books in his hands?

First, a small correction. He wasn't quite the man next door. Years later Ken put it this way, in a letter home:

When we moved to Baguio, Philippines in 1967 the first one to trust the Lord as personal Savior was a Pakistani lady. She and her husband, a professor at Baguio Tech, lived just down the street. She then asked us to pray for her husband.

Ken & Mary Lou Engle, letter to friends, 22 April 1972

Just down the street. And the story of Fred Balanag doesn't start with Fred at all. It starts with his wife.

A Big Week

Her name was Evelyn. On Monday, the twenty-ninth of January, 1968, Mary Lou wrote in her little planner:

Evelyn Balanag began to study W.B.T. Was very interested. Did 1 & 2 today

Mary Lou, Monday 29 January 1968

W.B.T. was the Bible correspondence course *What the Bible Teaches*. Ken wrote that the same day was the biggest of its kind since they had come:

Biggest day of visitation since coming to Baguio. Mrs Balinog begins WBT.

Ken, week of 28 January – 3 February 1968

And the next day, Mary Lou again:

Evelyn completed course and asked many questions about spiritual matters.

Mary Lou, Tuesday 30 January 1968

The whole course. In two days.

The Rally at Brent

Wednesday night was a big night for the Engles: a rally at Brent School, with the singer Bob Harrison. But the Balanags didn't come.

B.S.A. Rally. Bob Harrison sang at Brent.
Excellent program and some response. House filled
for rally. Dad Brooks spoke. Bob sang. Balanags
didn't come as Evelyn got sick.

Mary Lou, Wednesday 31 January 1968

Ken put down what happened at the rally:

We learned Mrs Balanog in hospital – prayed
(Evening BSA Rally) Bob prayed for Evelyn.

Ken, Wednesday 31 January 1968

On Thursday Mary Lou went to the hospital. She wrote
that evening:

Went to hospital to visit Evelyn. She ... was
improving, but had been very ill – had almost died
during the night.

Mary Lou, Thursday 1 February 1968

Evelyn Saved!

On Friday, the second of February, Evelyn came home, and told Mary Lou what had happened in the night:

Evelyn came home from hosp. She told me she had accepted the Lord during the time she was so very sick. Was really rejoicing in her new spiritual birth. Enrolled in LCL.

Mary Lou, Friday 2 February 1968

Ken heard it too, and wrote it down. Someone later ran a blue highlighter over the last words:

Got word – ML went to see Mrs B. She almost died Wed night when she knew she wasn't saved – when she came to she trusted the Lord.

Ken, week of 28 January – 3 February 1968

Ken's box for that Friday:

she had stayed up Tue night & finished WBT. Thinking much on it. Mom & Dad Brooks here in the evening – we rejoiced.

Ken, Friday 2 February 1968

Asked the Lord to Save a Soul

At the back of that year's diary, on a yellow page where Ken kept the dates that mattered, he wrote it one more time, under Bob Harrison's rally, in green highlighter:

31 Jan 68 — Bob Harrison — 2 Feb 68 —
Evelyn saved!

Ken's 1968 diary, yellow end page

But here is the line that stops you. At the bottom of Mary Lou's page for that week, in the little box marked Notes, she wrote:

At beginning of this week, we had felt it was to
be a big week. Had asked the Lord to save a soul!

Mary Lou, notes for the week of 29 January 1968

They asked on Monday. By Friday, the answer was home from the hospital, rejoicing. We pray small prayers most of the time. Every so often it does us good to remember that God is not embarrassed by a big one.

And Thy House

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Acts 16:31

And thy house. Because the very next thing Evelyn did was ask them to pray for her husband.

On Sunday evening, the eighteenth of February, Mary Lou wrote:

Fred Balanag here to study John Ć Ken in evening.
Evelyn and I visited Brooks.

Mary Lou, Sunday 18 February 1968

Fred Balanog here for first study in John. ML took Evelyn to see C. Brooks

Ken, week of 18–24 February 1968

Ken's quiet-time verse that month, written in his diary for Thursday 29 February, the week Fred and Evelyn first studied John:

I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent,
and hast revealed them unto babes.

Luke 10:21

The Gospel of John

The next Sunday the Balanags came again, and brought five others with them:

730 The Balanags plus 5 others came, Sgt Jaleco + Sgt Hipol, Sonny + his mother. We all studied the Gospel of John.

Ken, Sunday 25 February 1968

Evelyn didn't slow down, either.

Mrs. Balanag has finished 8 courses – going on to Acts.

Ken, week of 18–24 February 1968

And she brought her friends. On the ninth of February she brought Pasing and Mely:

Evelyn brought Pasing & Mely to visit. Began W.B.T. Mely's husb. close to Mormon conversion. Brooks here – met Evelyn & spoke about Pakistan.

Mary Lou, Friday 9 February 1968

Sergeant Jaleco

A week or so later Ken wrote of a first sergeant at the Philippine Military Academy who was studying the course:

Sgt Jaleco PMA — 1st Sgt studying WBT — wants it. His wife had it. He is a man almost won by Mormons.

Ken, week of 18–24 February 1968

The same Sergeant Jaleco who would sit in the living room at 55 Malvar for years to come.

Then, three weeks later, Tuesday, the nineteenth of March:

Fred came over — we reviewed verses. He says he has really trusted the Lord — is using the verses in his classes.

Ken, Tuesday 19 March 1968

A professor, using John's Gospel in his own classroom. And on the last day of March, Ken added four words of his own:

Bible Class — Jaleco + PMA man back. Feel Fred is really born again!

Ken, week of 31 March 1968

At the Ramp

Now come to May. The kitchen fire was Saturday, the eleventh. Early the next morning, Sunday the twelfth, the telephone did the work:

We got up at 530. ML called Evelyn – Fred called aide of Pres. Said Pres. dressing – they are going early. We ate rushed to Airport. Within minutes Pres. came.

Ken, Sunday 12 May 1968

Mary Lou called Evelyn. Fred called the President's aide. And on the airfield, with the cadets of the Military Academy giving the twenty-one-gun salute, it was Fred, a believer for about eight weeks, who stepped forward:

went to the plane. Fred went to the Mayor. At ramp Fred presented Living Series (4 volumes) to him. Also introduced us.

Ken, Sunday 12 May 1968

Four Books



At the plane: Fred Balanag and President Marcos, Baguio airport, Sunday 12 May 1968.

Kevin Engle's collection

Mary Lou wrote it in one breath:

Another great day — Ken, Dad B. & Fred gave
Volumes of Living Writings to Pres. Marcos at 7
this a.m.!

Mary Lou, Sunday 12 May 1968

The John Class

A few days later Ken left on a trip. Before he went, he wrote:

Had prayer with Fred + turned over John lessons +
Halleys to him.

Ken, week of 12-18 May 1968

The man who came for his first Bible study in February was teaching the John class in May.

So that is who Fred Balanag was. A professor just down the street. A husband his wife prayed for. A brand-new believer who walked up to a President with four books.

But something has been held back, and it is the best part.

Half a Million Pesos

Come forward eight years, to the autumn of 1976. The Engles were in Kansas by then, and Kevin was in the Navy. Kevin had been back to Baguio, and he sent his folks a cassette with news. Ken passed it on to the church at Woodside:

It is about Mr. Balanag, one of the elders. As some of you recall he was one of the first to be saved in 1968. Besides his teaching responsibilities at the University of Baguio he is Housing Administrator for the City. Recently he was offered a bribe of half a million pesos (\$75,000) if he would sign a certain paper. He refused and is in some danger. Pray for him.

Ken & Mary Lou Engle, letter to Woodside Bible Chapel, 27 October 1976

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house;
but he that hateth gifts shall live.

Proverbs 15:27

The President Called

Half a million pesos, and he said no. Then the very next lines of the letter:

When the Presidesnt of the Philippines was in Baguio not long ago he phoned Mr. Balanag giving him his support in this present tense situation. You may remember that some years ago Mr. Balanag gave some books of the Bible to the President.

Ken & Mary Lou Engle, 27 October 1976

The President of the Philippines picked up a telephone and called the man who had once handed him four books on a windy airfield, eight years before.

And what *"Fred presented Living Series (4 volumes) to him"* would turn out to mean is... the rest of the story.

From Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries, January–May 1968, and their letters of 1972 and 1976, in Gordon's story "Just Down the Street" (The Malvar Years, 10; sent 12 Oct 2026).

Evelyn's Church

Evelyn went home to be with the Lord in 1985. The work that began with her did not stop. In December 2010 her son Ferdie filmed the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Navy Base Chapel, and Kevin posted it on the blog.

There is nothing more Evelyn would have wanted than for the readers of this blog, and her family, to come to know and love the Savior she loved, who died and gave himself for her, and for you.

Kevin, on his blog about Evelyn, 2008

From Mary Lou's own account of January–February 1968, and the photographs and captions on Kevin's blog about Evelyn (2008).



Photograph coming

More photographs from the family collection are on their way.

Sources

Mary Lou's account of Evelyn Balanag (January–February 1968), sent by Kevin on 8 October 2026, with Kevin's notes on Evelyn's family; the photographs and captions on Kevin's blog about Evelyn (balanag.blogspot.com, 2008–2013), with the original slides and album pages from the family collection. It was first published as Part Two of Volume Three. Gordon's story "Just Down the Street" (The Malvar Years, 10; sent 12 October 2026), from Ken's and Mary Lou's 1968 diaries and their letters of 22 April 1972 and 27 October 1976.



Photograph coming

*More photographs from the family
collection are on their way.*

Companion Books

Seven companion books stand beside the five volumes of the story.

[In His Joy: The Life and Ministry of Ken Engle](#)

Dad's own letters · 1951–1987 · his life and ministry

[Herald of Christ: The Story of Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

[Cheryl](#)

Cheryl Lyn Engle · her life, her music, her own words

[Karen, Patrick, and Romblon: “Carrying the Vision”](#)

keepm.org · the Emmaus app · Moments to Remember · Karen and Patrick

[Family Stories and Friends](#)

Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

[Kevin's Recollections](#)

Kevin Engle · in his own words · Stewards Foundation · In Dad's Own Words

Faithful Men: A Library of Christian Classics, from
[PlymouthBrethren.org](#): Brethren writers and missionary lives,
searchable by author, Scripture and topic. [Open the library ↗](#)

[The Table of Contents for the whole series →](#)

[Every link in the series, in one place →](#)

What Comes Next

This is one of seven companion books to *Lord, Give Us This Mountain*. The [Table of Contents](#) lists every book in the series.

Keep them for Jesus for eternity.

the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

Edition of 11 October 2026 · through Gordon's "Prays for Us Daily" (10 Oct 2026), "ML + I," "Two Candles" and "The Wedding," Ken's War Years letters of 1943-45, the 1950-51 letters, "Herald of Christ" (the story of [Rudy Ponce de Leon](#)), "Mary Lou, Mary Lou," the story of Evelyn Balanag with her photographs, "The Landlord and the Projectionist," and a list of hyperlinks