BASAHIN SA TAGALOG →

UPDATED 24 OCTOBER 2026

104 PAGES

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 13 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." Dad later wrote that he was "possibly led to the LORD" through the radio ministry of Dr. Walter Wilson of Kansas City.

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.

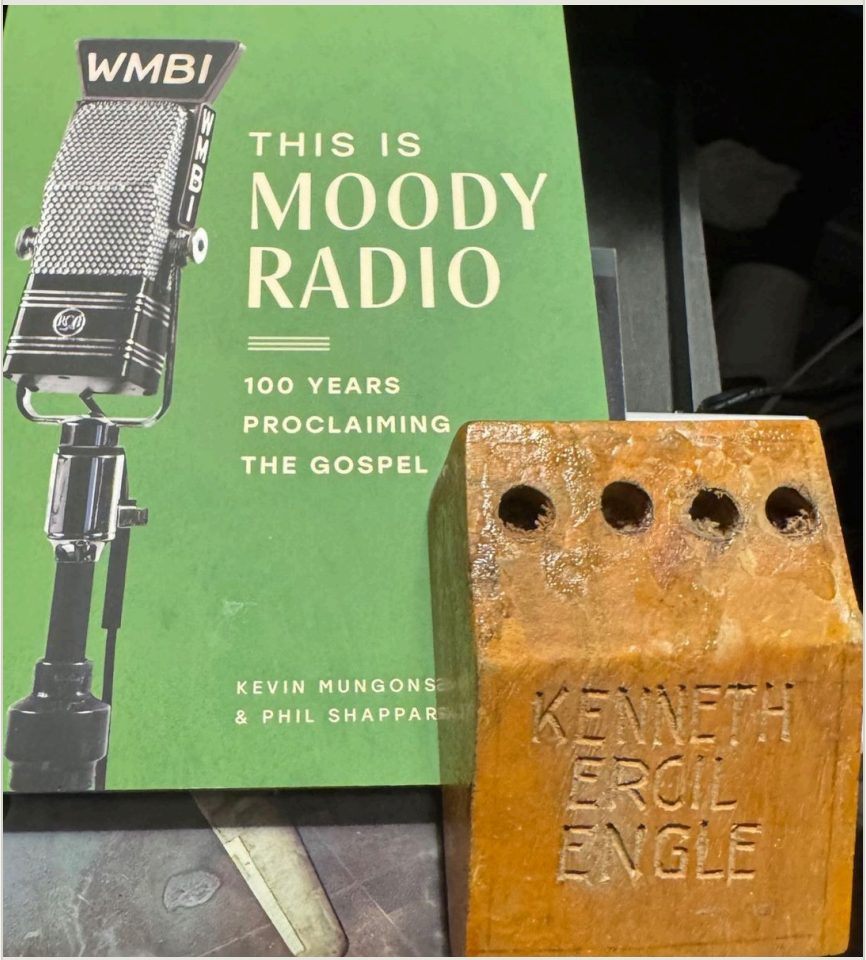
He liked to open his testimony with a joke: *"I'm not related to Marx and Engels."*

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.

A Gift for Dad, 1969



A birthday gift Kevin carved for his father at age twelve, November 9, 1969, shown with This Is Moody Radio: 100 Years Proclaiming the Gospel (2026). The book tells the story of Moody Radio, the station where Ken Engle first learned radio as a student announcer. The pencil holder has seen its years; the name on it hasn't faded.

`Kevin Engle's collection · book by Kevin Mungons and Phil Shappard (2026)`

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."*

Mr. Holloway's Sunday Nights

Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas · October 1943

The Baptist Training Union at Sheppard Field was run by Mr. Holloway, a widower of sixty or more who reminded Ken of his grandfather, "not in looks but actions and ways." Every Sunday night he drove a team of Christian soldiers out to the little churches around Wichita Falls: Burkburnett, Thrift, Iowa Park, Kamay and Cashion. *"He is a real soul winner,"* Ken wrote.

On the first Sunday, 3 October, Ken spoke on "What We Believe About the Church." When the young people sang "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before," he told them it made him homesick and had the whole church stand and sing it again for him.

Two weeks later, at Cashion at 9:15 at night, a soldier stood up in the corner and said he was not a Christian.

> Mr. Holloway explained to him the way of salvation. … He then had the other Christian soldiers stand up and come forward. We all stood there together. He didn't do it however after the meeting he was saved. He asked for prayer so I'll pass it along to you.
>
> Ken to the folks, 18 October 1943

It is the first time the letters show someone coming to Christ through Ken's preaching. The team, Butler, Smith, Fuller, Hannah, Pate and Ken, planned a series on salvation, and Ken took "When can you be saved." Mr. Holloway came even when his doctor told him to stay in bed, because the boys might ship out before another Sunday. By April 1944 he wrote Ken that the work had seen 27 conversions and 150 rededications.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

A Bible, Some Tracts and Two Men on Their Knees

Sheppard Field · October 1943

In the barracks Ken's witness was quieter. One night the soldier in the next bunk sat on his bed smoking. Ken wanted to kneel for his prayers and took his time.

> He just seem to stay there and so I waited. Then as I closed my bag and was working at it he got down on his knees and started to pray. So I realized we were each waiting on the other.
>
> Ken to the folks, 12 October 1943

A bright young cadet came to ask "a great favour": could he borrow Ken's Bible? Aunt Lois sent tracts, the best package he had received, *"When you give out tracts to soldiers they have to be timely and these are the best I've seen in that way."* After reading one, the man next to him began the book of Mark.

Corporal Butler took him to a prayer meeting that aviation mechanics had held every night since April.

> It was just like our meetings back at Moodys. … When I left M.B.I. I never thought I would get to meet as many fellows like the men I knew in Chicago. But I find quite a few in the Army and they are real because war is real.
>
> Ken to Grandpa and Grandma, 17 October 1943

A lieutenant back from the Pacific told them he had seen big men pray over there. Ken wrote, *"War brings out a lot of things. I'm sure glad I have Christ in my heart and am ready for anything."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Guard Duty at the Ammunition Dump

Sheppard Field · September–November 1943

The letters from Sheppard Field are full of training. There was the G.I. haircut, "so short that it sticks up in front," and the obstacle course three days a week, with rope swings over green water and an eight-foot wall: "All of these took some muscles and a little courage." In gas training he smelled mustard gas, and on the drill field the men wore masks "18 minutes out of every hour." He studied the Thompson submachine gun and the new M-1 carbine, and in late October he threw his first grenades. Of the 70 men in his barracks, 29 failed the mental exams. *"But through the help of the Lord I passed."*

On 23 October he drew post 18, the ammunition dump in the trees south of the field, one of the few posts with live rounds: two hours on and four off for twenty-four hours.

> I thought to myself (what if a spy were to come up would I be able to aim the gun and shoot him) So I was very relieved when they told me that we don't kill anybody on this post.
>
> Ken to the folks, 25 October 1943

The family drove down from Kansas about the weekend of 9 October: "my father, mother, two sisters and brother," with a cake from Aunt Lois. Ken had asked them to "bring some Kansas water." Mr. Holloway preached about them afterward, the parents who came all the way from Kansas to see "this Eagle fellow" (the typist's spelling).

At the foot of one letter Ken wrote a motto he kept for life: *"We don't know what's in the future but we do know who holds the future."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

"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.

The Master Pilot

Henderson State Teachers College, Arkadelphia, Arkansas · 1944

The college paper announced that Cadet Engle would speak during Religious Emphasis Week on "The Chaplain's Work On The Home Front." On Wednesday, 1 March 1944, the other speaker did not come.

> We had a very good crowd and the Lord really helped me in speaking. The other fellow who was to speak wasn't there so I got to be the speaker of the evening.
>
> Ken to the folks, 3 March 1944

In speech class a soldier said Engle would know more about the Bible because he had been to Moody. *"It gave me a real thrill to hear soldiers hold the Bible in such high a place."*

On 21 March he spoke to the college Y.W.C.A., comparing learning to fly with the Christian life. His outline ended: "V The Master pilot – Jesus … 1. My draft & Down drafts … 3. Let go – Let God." At the top of a letter he wrote Deuteronomy 31:6, "one I think goes good with flying."

Flying itself was hard. One night in March he wrote:

> Tonight I was about as blue as I have been for a long time. … so I got down on my knees and asked the Lord to help me and I feel fine now. … Mother I was so glad to hear that you were praying for me each afternoon at 2:30.
>
> Ken to the folks, 24 March 1944

He was reading Spurgeon's life, *The Shadow of the Broad Brim*, and hoping for navigation: *"maybe the Lord is preparing me."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Praying for the Roommates

Arkadelphia and Harlingen · January 1944 – February 1945

Ken's roommates at Henderson were Frisella, a Catholic from St. Louis whom he went with to New Year's Mass; Gragey; and Hall, a troubled young man. When Hall was in the infirmary, Ken brought him tracts. In January he asked the folks to pray.

> I would ask your prayers that I may win my roomates to the Lord and that I may not go their way as they would like.
>
> Ken to the folks, 5 January 1944

By February Frisella was reading the Bible every day in spite of the teasing. *"Frisella is coming along fine in the Bible. He asks me quite a few questions."* When the first Arkansas snow fell, Ken put a snowball in Frisella's bed.

Hall went on with Ken to Harlingen, Texas. On 30 April 1944, after many long talks, Hall told Ken he was ready.

> He said he believe that it was only fair to give god a chance. … he told me he had never realized what a thrill it was until then.
>
> Ken to the folks, 30 April 1944

They prayed together. Ten months later Hall wrote from Sheppard Field. He was married now, and "completely happy," and he signed himself "A Pal forever." Gragey went to the infantry and wrote from Italy, remembering where they had been on Easter 1944.

At Harlingen Ken found a Christian Endeavor group of soldiers and WACs, and a gunnery instructor who knew the Plymouth Brethren: *"I was surprised because so few people even know P.B. even exist."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

"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."*

A Missionary from China

Arkadelphia · January–April 1944

At Moody Ken had prayed for China, and the burden went with him into the Army. In January 1944 he sent home a newspaper clipping about Harry Liu, "the Chinese boy I talked with quite a bit at M.B.I.," and asked that it be kept in his files. On 30 January he spoke at the Baptist Training Union on "our failure in meeting the missionary challenge." *"I didn't do too well, I couldn't get said what I wanted to."*

Harry Liu had come to Christ in China and enrolled at Moody in 1941. He later served with the Pocket Testament League and told his story in *Chinaman's Chance* (1956). A 1944 letter from Harry to Ken was found taped inside a copy of the book. See also The Prayer Meeting at Moody.

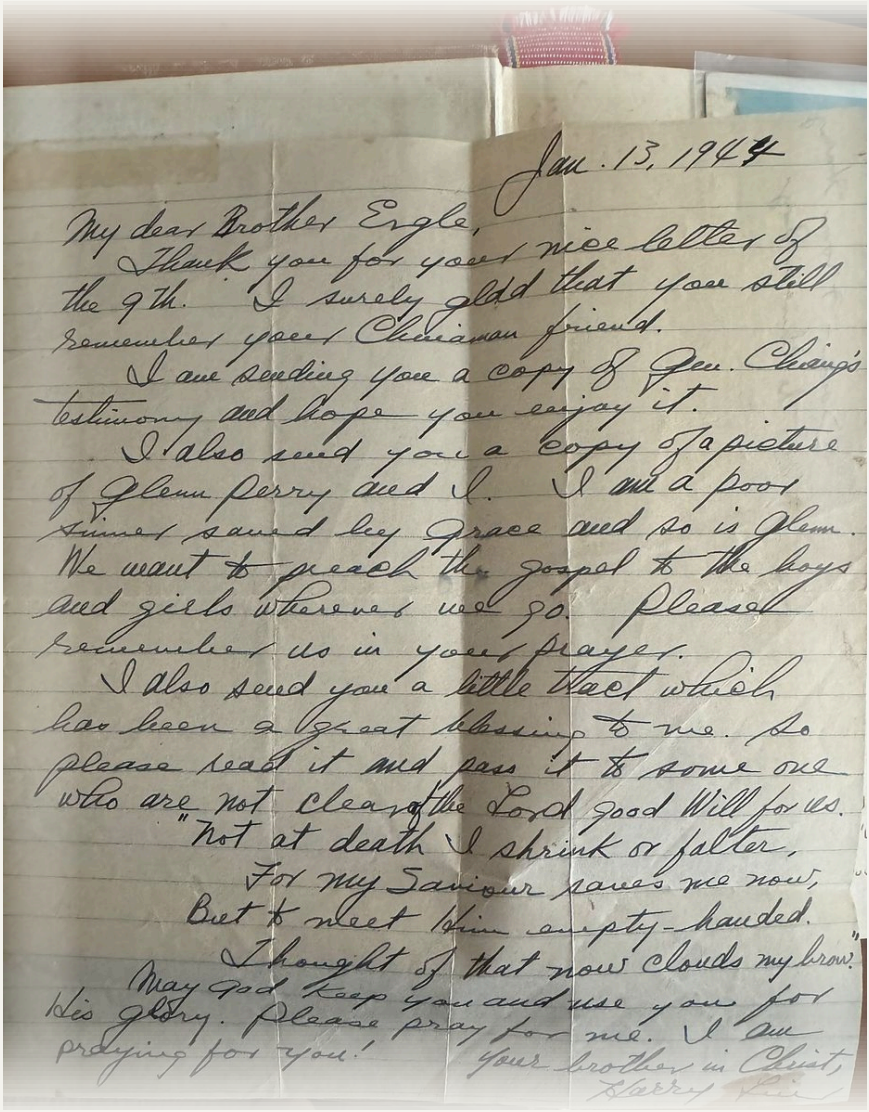
After the cadet program was cut, he and Carl went to the missionary week at Arkadelphia.

> At ****** we went to Miss Watson's home. She is a return missionary from China. We had a good talk with her only it was too short. … The missionaries from Brazil and China spoke. And the Japanese American also spoke.
>
> Ken to the folks, 12 April 1944

He bought the course book, *The Word Overcoming the World*, and was still trying to finish it when he left. When shipping orders came on 4 April (they were cancelled), Ken said goodbye from the chapel platform: *"It seems like this school sort of fell in love with its soldiers."* Six trees were planted by the dormitory for men who had died in the service.

The train to Harlingen arrived at two in the morning on 22 April. Red Cross canteens along the way gave out food and Gospels. He had relearned Psalm 91, and he wrote, *"You know the nearer to battle we get the stronger I'll have to be for the Lord."*

Harry Liu's Letter, 1944



Jan. 13, 1944

My dear Brother Engle,

Thank you for your nice letter of the 9th. I surely glad that you still remember your Chinaman friend.

I am sending you a copy of Gen. Chiang's testimony and hope you enjoy it.

I also send you a copy of a picture of Glenn Perry and I. I am a poor sinner saved by Grace and so is Glenn. We want to preach the gospel to the boys and girls wherever we go. Please remember us in your prayer.

I also send you a little tract which has been a great blessing to me. So please read it and pass it to some one who are not clear of the Lord good Will for us.

"Not at death I shrink or falter,
For my Saviour saves me now,
But to meet Him empty-handed.
I thought of that now clouds my brow."

May God keep you and use you for His glory. Please pray for me. I am praying for you!

Your brother in Christ,
Harry Liu

Harry Liu's letter to Ken, 13 January 1944, found taped inside Dad's copy of Chinaman's Chance. Ken was in the Army and had written to him on the 9th. The words are typed out on the next page.

Kevin Engle's collection

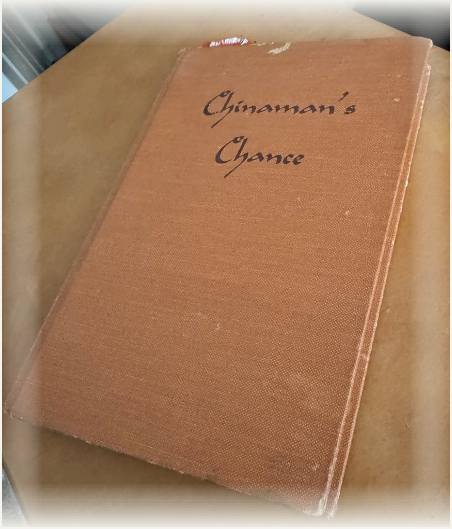
Harry’s Letter, Word for Word

Harry Liu to Ken Engle · 13 January 1944

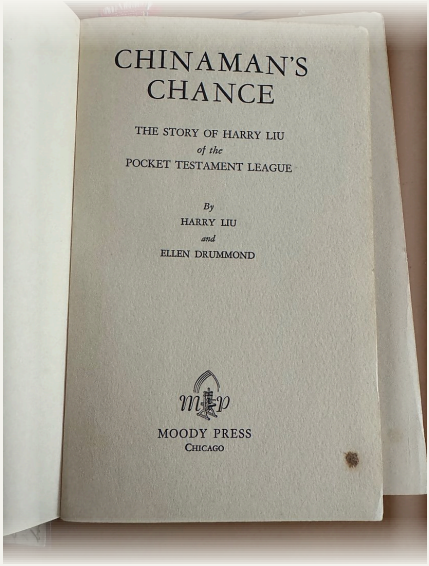
> My dear Brother Engle,
>
> Thank you for your nice letter of the 9th. I surely glad that you still remember your Chinaman friend.
>
> I am sending you a copy of Gen. Chiang’s testimony and hope you enjoy it.
>
> I also send you a copy of a picture of Glenn Perry and I. I am a poor sinner saved by grace and so is Glenn. We want to preach the gospel to the boys and girls wherever we go. Please remember us in your prayer.
>
> I also send you a little tract which has been a great blessing to me. So please read it and pass it to some one who are not clear of the Lord good Will for us.
>
> “Not at death I shrink or falter,
> For my Saviour saves me now,
> But to meet Him empty-handed,
> Thought of that now clouds my brow.”
>
> May God keep you and use you for His glory. Please pray for me. I am praying for you!
>
> Your brother in Christ,
> Harry Liu

“Gen. Chiang” is Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, China’s wartime leader. The verse Harry copied out is from the hymn “Must I Go, and Empty-Handed?” (Charles C. Luther, 1877). See A Missionary

Chinaman's Chance



Dad's copy of Chinaman's Chance, Harry Liu's own story.
Kevin Engle's collection


CHINAMAN'S
CHANCE

THE STORY OF HARRY LIU
of the
POCKET TESTAMENT LEAGUE

By
HARRY LIU
and
ELLEN DRUMMOND

MOODY PRESS
CHICAGO

The title page: The Story of Harry Liu of the Pocket Testament League, by Harry Liu and Ellen Drummond, a returned missionary from China (Moody Press, Chicago).
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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."*

The Bible Class at Nadzab

Nadzab, New Guinea · Christmas 1944 – January 1945

Before Ken moved up to the Jolly Rogers, he started a Bible study at Nadzab with two Christian friends, Robert Meek and a man the letters call only "Lucky." On Christmas afternoon 1944 he watched Meek build a tent, with a parachute for a ceiling.

Meek wrote in January. The weeknight project had stopped without Ken, but the Sunday class was going on.

> No one other than Lucky and I were interested in the project you started before you left here and so it has been disbanded. … The Sunday morning Bible class is doing well considering what we started out with and I hope the interest will grow.
>
> Robert Meek to Ken, 22 January 1945

About twelve came each week, fifteen the Sunday before he wrote, and Chaplain Watters was bringing "very wonderful Gospel messages." Meek and three others now lived in the parachute tent and were growing tomatoes from seed his wife had sent.

Lucky thanked Ken for a tract.

> Anyway ole boy what *** takes place I'm really pulling for you and backing it up with prayer.
>
> Lucky to Ken, 7 January 1945

Ken's envelopes now read "Cpl. Kenneth E. Engle, APO 713-1." His serial number was 37538334.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

"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 celleloid 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."*

Letters from the Crew

Spring 1945

When Ken left the crew in March 1945, Jim Hickey wrote that they had sorted his things before turning them in.

> We separated most of your stuff before we turned it in. We took out all your stuff including your Bible and other books.
>
> Jim Hickey to Ken, 11 April 1945

The crew had all made staff sergeant. "Stanley has been checked out in the lead! We flew it on our last mission to Farmosa." Their garden had failed: "Chickens dug up half the radishes and Carrot, and the rats ate the rest."

At home the family did not know where he was. A neighbor back from the Pacific told Grant there was a San Jose on Luzon and one on Mindoro. Mother wrote, *"With you so far away we feel so helpless,"* and then, *"But I just read the Verse 'But my God shall supply all your need' and distance means nothing to him."* At the bottom Keith added Romans 8:28 and Eloise added Isaiah 26:3. Two months later Ken wrote, "Romans 8:28 is still in the 'Book of books.'"

Ken had been a help to others too. Johnny Hanrahan, a soldier he had met that spring, wrote in June:

> I should have written you before, Ken, to thank you for the encouragement and guidance you provided during those troublesome days at the 126th. … I will always be grateful that you were at my right hand when you were. … I've gained something Ken - I'm passing it on to others.
>
> John C. Hanrahan to Ken, 24 June 1945

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

John Sunberg

England · 1945

John Sunberg was a Christian friend from Ken's training days. He flew with the Eighth Air Force out of England, and in February 1945 he wrote to "Cpl. Kenneth E. Engle." He had seen Hannah, a friend from training, in London. He had no Christian buddy on his crew, but he was keeping up his Bible.

> I'm reading my Bible twice daily and memorizing scripture verses. … I have completed 13 operations and have 22 to go. I thank God for His wonderful protection thus far.
>
> John Sunberg to Ken, 27 February 1945

In December his brother Bill wrote Ken from Red Oak. On 18 March 1945, on the twenty-third mission, to Berlin, John's bomber was badly hit. The crew tried to reach Russian-held territory and all bailed out.

> They all got out of the plane safely but were straffed by Russian Fighter planes.
>
> Bill Sunberg to Ken, 18 December 1945

John and Sergeant Marino were killed. Both letters were kept with Ken's own.

Others wrote too. Harry, a gunner who flew seven missions before he was grounded, told Ken, "I needed some one just like you to associate with, and to go to church, to weekly meetings with."

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Where He Wants You

Abilene and Chicago · 1945–1948

Ken went back to Moody after the war, and from the farm and from Chicago he was already giving to missions. In 1945 the Moody Missionary Union thanked him for a gift. In 1946 missionary Anita Lewis thanked him for ten dollars and his prayers: "May the Lord greatly use you for His glory and soon put you in His appointed place of service."

In 1948 a letter came from India. Violet Hendrickson, a Moody friend commended from Austin, wrote from a girls' school in Kollegal. She had seen a full-page Moody advertisement in a magazine, with Ken's picture in it, "dealing with a man at a mission." She remembered their talk in the Sweet Shop about whether a missionary should plan his road or leave it with the Lord.

> Kenneth, it is the most wonderful thing in the whole world to know that the place you are in is the place that the Lord Himself has chosen for you. … Have you had any more leading from the Lord as to where He wants you? There seems to be such a need all over.
>
> Violet Hendrickson to Ken, 19 August 1948

That spring Keith was engaged to Cleo Barten and asked Ken to be best man. Ken gave his brother advice.

> It's putting the Lord Jesus Christ first in everything. If you put Him truly first He will work out all of the details. … Then you want to talk over having family worship in your home.
>
> Ken to Keith, 28 April 1948

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

The Treasure Boat

Worcester, Massachusetts · August 1949

After graduating from Moody in 1949, Ken spent his August vacation running a two-week Daily Vacation Bible School in a small chapel in Worcester, Massachusetts. It began on 8 August.

He ran it as a voyage. Every child needed a ticket to board the ship. A sailboat race moved each crew ahead for bringing Bibles and visitors, and one little boy brought 28 children over the two weeks.

> Another highlight of the day was the memory work which we called the treasure boat, the Bible being our treasure map.
>
> Ken's report, September 1949

One morning a boy stayed behind. He was the friend who had brought all those visitors.

> The greatest thrill of the work was one morning when I had the opportunity to lead a young fellow to the Lord Jesus. What joy he had when Jesus came in.
>
> the same report

On closing night the parents came, and the gospel was given to them too. Then Ken went on to New York and Washington, D.C.

Boys and girls, verses learned by heart, and the gospel: it was the work he would do for the rest of his life, before he knew where the Lord would send him.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

PART TWO

Ken and Mary Lou

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

UPDATED 24 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.

Ken's journal gives the date: Monday 26 June 1950. "A time of waiting had just ended," he wrote. He had been interested since January and had waited months for the Lord's "go ahead." "I'm so glad I waited, may it ever be so." 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.

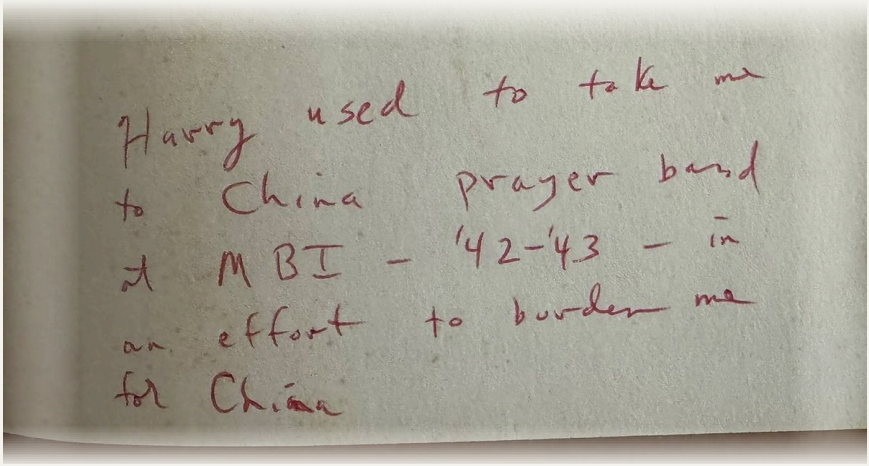
"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Isaiah 65:24

From Kevin Engle's recollections

▶ Hear Dad Brooks

The China Prayer Band



Dad's own note in red ink, written in his copy of Chinaman's Chance: "Harry used to take me to China prayer band at MBI – '42–'43 – in an effort to burden me for China." It was at Moody Bible Institute that Harry Liu first laid China on Ken's heart. See A Missionary from China.

Kevin Engle's collection · *Chinaman's Chance* © 1956 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

An Open Door

Chicago · May–August 1950

In the spring of 1950 Ken wrote to Cyril Brooks in Manila to ask about the need. The answer came in late May. Mr. Brooks wrote that Ken should follow the Lord's guidance, and then:

> There is definitely a place for you to help around San Juan if the Lord calls you to work with us. Right now much is being left undone because we have not the time and strength to cope with it all.
>
> Cyril Brooks, quoted by Ken to his mother, 26 May 1950

There was English work among the young people, he said, "in which you could help to relieve us immediately," and he mentioned a roll-away bed.

> Needless to say when I got the letter I was thrilled. It looks as though an open door is before at least at this moment. … The Lord has given me real joy and peace in my heart since the decision to go to the Islands. There's nothing better than being in His will.
>
> Ken to his mother, 26 May 1950

Ken drew up a timetable, with the field in December. (Whether this is the letter of the all-night prayer meeting, the family does not know.)

His last weeks at Moody were full. He gave a talk on lepers when his voice was weak: "I do believe the Holy Spirit used it." On 17 July the Dean called a day of prayer for the graduating class, "a day I'll long remember." He graduated on 3 August 1950.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Commended to the Work

Chicago and Abilene · June–July 1950

On Sunday 25 June 1950 Ken met with the elder brethren at Austin Gospel Hall in Chicago and gave his testimony. *"They would like to write out a joint letter with the Abilene assembly,"* he told his sister Eloise.

The letter is dated 9 July 1950. It is addressed to "Christians gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in the United States, Canada and elsewhere." It tells how Ken came to Chicago from Abilene as a student and how he was called into the armed forces.

> Later he was called into the service of the armed forces and while in Philippines, the need for the gospel in that country was laid upon his heart by the Holy Spirit. … We have learned to love our brother Engle and appreciate his desire to be of service in the work of the Lord.
>
> the letter of commendation, 9 July 1950

It says he wished to go out as a fellow laborer with Cyril Brooks of Manila.

For Grace and Truth Gospel Hall in Abilene it was signed by D. W. Emig, F. H. Nicholson, Ken's father Grant Engle, his uncle Orville Robson and his brother Keith Engle. For Austin, fourteen men signed, among them Henry T. Moffat, Dr. R. Winfield Scott, Phil R. Clarkson and Clarence R. Welsher.

Among the Brethren a missionary does not join a board. He goes out commended by his home assemblies, and they stand behind him in prayer. Ken's father and brother put their names to the letter that sent him.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

The Assembly That Sent Them

Austin Gospel Hall, Chicago · 1894–1953

This is the story of Austin Gospel Hall in Chicago, later Woodside Bible Chapel, told by James Brown, one of the believers who had been there since the early days. It traces the little assembly from a rented store in 1894 to a hall of about two hundred believers. Near the end, among those the assembly sent out to serve the Lord in distant lands, you'll find "Mr. & Mrs. Ken. Engle — Philippines."

Origin and Growth of Austin Assembly, 1894 until 1953 · by James Brown

In the year of 1894 Austin, Illinois was a small village just west of Chicago.

In the Spring of that year two brethren came from Avondale (Winsor Chase and James K. Pea) to explore the possibilities of establishing a testimony in the Village, which was at that time inhabited by a church-going community composed chiefly of Lutherans, Baptists and Methodists. Incidentally, at that time there were no saloons in the village, nor was there a Roman Catholic church in the vicinity in which the Austin Gospel Hall is presently located. In the fall of 1894 the two brethren, named above, moved to Austin with their families — this opening up the way for the establishment, in a small way, of an assembly in Austin. In the meantime the Gospel had been proclaimed at street corners; and among those who took an interest in this work, was that doughty pioneer Preacher Donald Ross, who spoke in the open air several times, and also visited the homes at which he left Gospel tracts. Early in the year of 1895 the families of William Pea and Forsyth Frazer came from Avondale; and were later joined by three Swedish families (Matson, Anderson and Hagland) who had been in fellowship with those known as exclusive brethren. The seven families decided to rent a Store at what was then called Ontario Street (now known as Ohio Street) and Parkside Avenue.

There they observed the Lord's Supper, conducted a Sunday School, Gospel meetings on Sunday nights and also meetings during the week.

Gospel campaigns were conducted in the hall by Donald Ross, James Harous, Mr. Honeypenny, John Smith, Donald Munroe, Alexander Marshall, C. F. Rose, W. J. McClure and others. Tent meetings were also conducted in the district, and the meetings in the hall and tent resulted in conversions among the unsaved and in edification of saints. A small store was rented at the corner of Laramie and Chicago Avenues in 1900, and children's meetings were conducted there by Mr. Soper, Mr. Cole and Mr. M. Capp; some of the children were converted and added to the Assembly. About this time two of the leading brethren were taken from the little company of believers — Winsor Chase going to Evanston, Illinois on account of the removal of the business he was engaged in, and the other went home to be with the Lord after a few months illness. From 1901 until 1902 the believers were united with the West Side Meeting, located on Colorado Avenue near Madison Street. Early in 1905 the Austin Believers decided to return again and set up a testimony in their neighborhood, and this they did by renting Nissen's Hall which was located about four blocks East of Laramie Avenue on Chicago Avenue. The year of 1907 found the believers meeting in a store a few doors East of Laramie on Chicago Avenue, and in 1908 they were located in an upstairs Hall located at 419 N. Laramie Avenue. The leading brethren at this time were Tom Bendelow, G. N. Barnes, D. Stubbs, D. M. Kerr and Alec Anderson. The younger set were composed of John Duff, Robert Houston, Jr., William Murray, James Brown, Ralph Barnes, Elizabeth and Ann Gilmour, Mary and Alice Pea.

A short time later, Mr. Robert Houston, Sr., and the remainder of his family came from New York. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Murray came from Kilmarnock, Scotland, and helped to swell the number of those in fellowship. Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gilmour and the remainder of the family came in the year of 1912, and by this time there were about forty or fifty in fellowship.

At this time there was a fairly good sized Sunday School, and Mr. C. F. Atwood, well known to the elder brethren, and who had associated with the assembly late in the year 1908, was appointed superintendent of the Sunday School. The Lord's Supper was observed each Lord's Day at 10:30 A.M., the Sunday School was conducted at 2:30 P.M. and the Gospel was proclaimed at 7:45 P.M. each Lord's Day evening. Various Evangelists preached in the Hall at 419 N. 52nd Avenue (as it was then named) from 1908 until 1915 when the believers occupied a newly built hall at 748 N. 51st Court (now named N. Leamington Avenue). Prominent among the Evangelists at this time was Mr. Robert McMurdo, who with his family had taken up residence in Austin, and at various times conducted a series of meetings, preaching the Gospel and ministering the Word with results following. Local brethren from time to time proclaimed the Gospel on Lord's Day at 7:45, and ministered the Word on Tuesday evenings at 7:45 P.M. These meetings, with speakers' names, were advertised in a local paper called the Austinite which was published and widely read throughout the community, and which give considerable space to Church news. A meeting was held on February 17, 1915 at AUSTIN GOSPEL HALL, 419 N. 52nd Avenue, and corporate name was adopted, viz., AUSTIN GOSPEL HALL INCORPORATED. Alec Anderson, Thomas Bendelow and C. F. Atwood, Trustees.

Plans were made for the securing the property at 746-748 N. 51st Court, and the erection of a Hall thereon at an estimated cost of $6500. The Assembly was to pay rental of 5% of cost to the Incorporated body.

Land was purchased as of March 15, 1915 for $1260. Building was contracted for in the month of May, 1915. Seats were purchased at a cost of $500.00 and other furnishings were donated. The building was erected at a cost of about $5250.

The opening Conference was held in the new Hall on Saturday August 16, 1915, and whereas a few minor details in connection with the building had to be attended to these did not delay the formal opening of the hall.

Those in Fellowship with the Austin Assembly were asked to lend money at 5% interest, and a sum of $6455 was subscribed (sufficient to cover the indebtedness), and an agreement was signed by all Note Holders, permitting payment of any or all notes at any time. These notes were taken up from time to time so that by June 1916, all notes were paid and indebtedness on the property was cleared. Incidentally Mr. C. F. Atwood took up approximately $5000.00 of the outstanding notes in order to make this possible. This action on the part of Mr. Atwood resulted from brotherly love, and a high attainment in CHRISTIAN

[A passage here could not be read in the scan.]

Associated in fellowship with the Austin Assembly in early days were Mr. & Mrs. George Mizen, Mr. Eugene Peterson (now of Toronto), Miss G. Skinner, Mary & Alice Pea, Mrs. A. Houston, the Cameron Family, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Mizen, Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Bendelow, Mr. & Mrs. W. Duncan, Dr. W. Scott. Later on came Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Welsher and a number of others from the Kostner Avenue Mission. The Skinners, from Elgin, the Simpsons from Kansas City, and influx of families from overseas helped to swell the number in fellowship to about 200.

A number of those in fellowship went over to the Irving Park district, held Gospel Meetings in a Store, aided by H. H. Harper they grew in numbers, and finally decided to build a Hall at 5614 Dakin Street. Another off-shoot of the Austin Assembly may be found in Norwood Gospel Chapel, even though they came directly from the Irving Park Gospel Hall. Mr. J. Willard Hoyle and others who are now in fellowship in Norwood Gospel Chapel were originally in Austin, and though separated geographically they are still in fellowship with those who meet in the place from whence they went out. Thus from a small beginning there are now three Assemblies in happy fellowship with one another.

The influence of the Austin Assembly will be far reaching in effect for some have gone from our midst to distant parts of the earth in order to proclaim the GOSPEL OF THE GLORY OF THE BLESSED GOD to those who SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH. The following brethren and sisters were commended to the Lord's service at different times by the Austin Assembly:

Mr. Maitland — Angola (presently at home).

Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Davies — India (presently in England).

Harold H. Harper — U.S.A.

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Gibbs — Natal.

Mr. & Mrs. Aden Ferguson — Natal.

Alfred P. Gibbs — U.S.A.

Mr. & Mrs. James Kenny — South America.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Rogers — Fr. Eq. Africa (presently at home).

Mrs. Alice Hey — France.

Mr. & Mrs. Ken. Engle — Philippines.

Violet Hendrickson — India (presently at home).

Mr. & Mrs. John Duff, Mr. & Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. Elizabeth Murray are the only ones remaining who were in fellowship in the early days, and after spending 45 years in Chicago, Mr. & Mrs. J. Brown are about to leave for Toronto, Canada.

Trustees at present date are John Duff, James Brown, C. R. Welsher, Donald Anderson and Henry T. Moffat.

The above written by JAMES BROWN.

Written by James Brown, a trustee of Austin Gospel Hall, about 1953, from a typescript in the family papers. Austin Gospel Hall later became Woodside Bible Chapel.

Read it in the Faithful Men Library ↗ · **Download the PDF ↗** · **Tagalog PDF ↗**

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.

Seven at Kansas Bible Camp

Wichita, Kansas · August 1950

Kansas Bible Camp met at 1601 West 51st Street in Wichita, with about 110 campers. Ken taught fifty to sixty-five children, aged nine to fourteen, three periods a day. The director, Richard Burson, taught the campers "Get your mind off Mary Lou."

> My heart is overflowing tonight as I write - Two children professed to be saved - one little colored fellow and a little white girl.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, August 1950

By Friday's campfire testimony meeting there were more.

> Seven children (4 boys & 3 girls) professed to be saved. No two were saved at the same time or place.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, August 1950

He was careful about counting: *"When we speak of souls being saved I think we should be very careful for I believe we grieve the Lord many times in this matter. Mary Lou, I don't know when I've seen such a blessing on my ministry as I saw at camp."*

That summer the Korean War began. Friends were classified 1-A, and Mary Lou asked whether Ken would be called up again.

> I went over there for Uncle Sam once this time I hope to go for the Lord. However, He knows best and if He wants me in there that's just where I want to be.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 23 August 1950

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Two Columns on the Tractor

Abilene, Kansas · August–September 1950

Home on the farm, Ken began telling of his call. At Elm Springs Bible Hall he gave "a Philippine flannel talk to the kids" and spoke on worldwide missions. On 17 September he preached at the First Baptist Church of Abilene.

> A man and a woman came up after the morning service and said they remembered meeting me at Walla Walla, Wash. That was when I was in the air force and we met at the Baptist minister's home – Small world.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 18 September 1950

He ordered a thousand prayer cards, and each had his name misspelled. The printer sent a second thousand with the name right. *"Mary Lou, I believe this was of the Lord. Two thousand for the price of one."*

Then came a hard choice. Don Parker, who was arranging his New York meetings, was hurt when his yacht's engine blew up and asked Ken to wait until late October. Should he leave in September anyway?

> I went out on the tractor to harrow … and also to pray for guidance.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 19 September 1950

On the tractor he made two columns of reasons, September and October. September had "far the best list." *"It's a step of faith but M.L. He is giving me the 'green light' almost daily regarding the field. … Even though it's a dark picture in regard to getting a visa I believe if we pray He will work it out at just the right time."*

The next day he summed it up in his journal: "Took to Lord, used two plans, He showed which one, see blessing ahead. Result of waiting on Him."

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

The Boy from Wheaton

Chicago to New England · October 1950

On the night train from Chicago to Boston, Ken noticed a young man across the aisle reading his Bible. He was a Wheaton College student going home because of troubles.

> I had a wonderful time of fellowship with him. We went to the diner for a bite to eat - he certainly isn't ashamed of the Word. He carried his Bible along and put it on the table.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 17 October 1950

Seeing the boy's troubles, Ken decided not to spend money on a sleeper, and slept curled up on an empty seat. Mr. MacDonald met him in Boston wearing a plaid tie so Ken would know him.

That first night Ken spoke at the Cliff Street hall in Boston. "Real warmth. Several asked if I had a place to stay. The Lord did this." Five years later, home on his first furlough, he came back to Beech Street to tell of God's faithfulness in the Philippines. "Like home to be at MacDonalds."

He now had 95 slides of the Philippines. The first night with them he wrote, "The slides were beautiful but the speaker KE. was poor." But the meetings grew: Somerville, Worcester, Attleboro, Westerly. *"I had one of the best gospel meetings last night that I've ever had. I know it was in answer to prayer."*

A woman at the Beech Street meeting in Somerville asked him to teach her child evangelism class. He put her directions in his pocket, went to Beacon Street instead of Beacon Terrace, and came half an hour late. *"The lesson: It is not enough to have followed the Lord yesterday and the days before but we must walk with Him today."* Two months later she wrote that the children were praying for him, and sent a gift, half of it from them.

He copied a line from David Brainerd's journal for Mary Lou: *"I wanted to wear out my life in His service, for His glory."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Why Go to a Foreign Land?

West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park · August–November 1950

Mary Lou was a student nurse, and she was finding her own call. In the Loop she shared a cafeteria table with a complaining old woman and gave her the tract "The Way of Salvation." Ken wrote back, *"You have the makin's of a good missionary."*

People asked why go abroad when so many at home were unsaved. She found the answer in Luke.

> Luke 4:43 tells where the Lord himself says “I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also; for therefore am I sent!”
>
> Mary Lou to Ken, 24 October 1950

> Heathen all around us with access to the gospel, and yet worse, thousands in Africa or the Phillipines who gladly would accept Him if only they could hear about Him. It's wonderful that we should be chosen to witness isn't it.
>
> Mary Lou to Ken, September 1950

On night duty a man dying of cancer asked her why she was going to be a missionary.

> I explained to him how altho healing bodies is important for this life, healing of souls would mean an eternity of life or death.
>
> Mary Lou to Ken, November 1950

In the margin of one letter she wrote "(MINDORA)," for Mindoro, where Ken had prayed for a church in 1945.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

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."*

Soil or Souls

Kansas · November–December 1950

The visa still had to go before the Commissioners of Immigration in Manila. One commissioner had just been replaced, and the new man, a Catholic who had gone to a Presbyterian school, favored evangelicals. Mr. Brooks wrote, "KEEP ON PRAYING." After it came through, Ken wrote, *"I still can't get over the visa. He did it and I'll never know how."*

Back on the farm, he kept preaching while he waited for a ship. At a ministers' meeting in December the speaker helped farmers with their crops.

> He was more interested I believe in soil that souls. He goes out to the farmers and helps them with their crops but I wonder how many he ever wins.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 5 December 1950

He spoke at a missionary meeting at First Baptist and at the Gospel Hall, and then to high school young people at Hutchinson.

> I gave them talks on the Q.T. Prayer, Personal Evangelism and on the will of God. Then last evening I showed the slides. The Lord blessed from the beginning to the end.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 11 December 1950

At Christmas he wrote to his campers. *"I've had some prayer cards prepared and I wanted each one of you to have one. … Right now I'm waiting on my passport and passage. As you know many of the ships are going to Korea."* His postscript: *"Enclosed is a little tract. Be sure to read it!"*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Looking Outward Together

Abilene and Chicago · December 1950

Before Mary Lou came to Kansas for Christmas, Ken had a plan for her visit.

> Be sure to bring your verses (Navigtor.) Also lets plan to each morning have our Quiet Time together and then tell each other what we get from the Lord.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 28 November 1950

They both used the Navigator memory verses. After she went home, they read Proverbs in step, a chapter a day, he in Kansas and she in Chicago, a couple of chapters behind. Proverbs 6 spoke to him about getting up early.

> Then in 6:9 I read about sleep and the Lord spoke to me again about getting up early to do my Quiet Time. Pray that I'll get blanket victory! The Word means more to me in the morning it seems.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 20 December 1950

In Proverbs 9 he found "the two calls," wisdom and folly, both crying from the high places of the city. Mary Lou wrote that the first chapters had blessed her "since doing it your way."

He copied a saying for her that they kept for the rest of their lives.

> “Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.” I believe for sometime you and I, darling, have been looking outward together.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, December 1950

Waiting was hard. He copied this for her too: *"You may move the hands of clock to suit you, but you do not change the time. … Leave all to Him. Hands down. Thy will, not mine."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

A House Burned in Thirty Minutes

Abilene · New Year's Eve, 1950

On the last night of 1950 Ken counted the year's blessings for Mary Lou.

> Just think - in it the Brook's ask me to help them, the draft board gave me their release and the Philippine government recommended my visa be granted.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 31 December 1950

That morning a man had come into the Sunday school hour with news of a fire. It was a fine house near Abilene, newly remodeled, where Ken and Mary Lou had stopped during her visit. In about thirty minutes it burned to the ground. The family had only the clothes they wore.

> Darling it's possible to spend a life time building something like that and then see it go up in 30 minutes. But M.L. those things we have “over there” moth nor rust can never touch. Pray sweetheart that we'll never put “things” first.
>
> the same letter

He thought of Mary Lou's sister Ginny, widowed that October. The *Bethany Star* had printed that on the night before her husband's homegoing, Ginny and George had promised the Lord that material things would not count in their lives, "but that bringing souls to Christ and making His Word known would be their goal."

Ken also named one of his failures of 1950.

> As I look back on 1950 one of my great failures has been with my memory work. Pray with me that I'll be able to buckle down on this.
>
> the same letter

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Not for a Million Dollars

Abilene, Kansas, to Albuquerque, New Mexico · January 1951

The new year opened with a big mail. On 2 January 1951 the passport came, and with it word about sailing.

> Many decisions to be made. I pray that He will guide. Certainly they are too much for me.
>
> Ken's journal, 2 January 1951

On 13 January the visa came by registered mail, the visa so many had prayed about for months. "What a day," he wrote. Two days later he had a sailing date: 16 February, from San Francisco.

The weeks in between filled up with meetings. "So it looks as though the time between now and sailing is filled," he wrote on 9 January. "Praise the Lord." He preached "Three Crosses" at Elm Springs and handed out prayer cards. He showed his Philippine slides to the Future Farmers of America and gave them tracts. He drove to Ponca City, Oklahoma, to speak to high school young people.

On 24 January the Elm Springs assembly gave him a farewell, with pie, coffee and cocoa downstairs, a poem, and a gift from the assembly. The next day he packed: two trunks, a file, his books and the mimeograph, twelve packages in all, weighing "almost a thousand pounds." His father and his brother Keith built the boxes.

On 26 January Ken and his parents started west by car: Wichita, Enid, Clinton, Amarillo. On Sunday the 28th they were in Albuquerque, and Ken went to the meeting on Fourth Street. That evening the brethren asked him to take the gospel meeting. He preached on the Wild Man of Gadara, the man in Mark 5 whom the Lord Jesus set free and sent home to tell his friends.

> Right after service, boy came up and wanted to be saved. … Seemed to make a decision. Praise the Lord. I wouldn't exchange a million dollars for this experience.
>
> Ken's journal, 28 January 1951

Then a man came up after the meeting with a word for him.

> Man came up after meeting and said to me, "If God be for us, what can be against us." Encouraging to me. Great encouragement on the way to the Philippines.
>
> the same day

The next morning they drove south past Elephant Butte, "then on to Engle, N.M.," a little desert town that carries the family name. Two weeks later, in California, a friend brought word that the boy was "coming along fine" (see "Up the Coast").

The Wild Man of Gadara stayed with Ken. He preached it in Los Angeles and at a mission near San Francisco, before breakfast, on his last week ashore, and in Manila in 1951 at the new work in Paco. In 1955 he wrote it out in Tagalog. On his last Sunday in the Philippines before his first furlough, 11 September 1955, he preached it once more: "Spoke on Wild Man in Tagalog."

> *Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*
>
> Mark 5:19

Sources: Ken Engle's journal, 2–29 January, 11–13 February and 12 August 1951; 22 July and 11 September 1955.

Up the Coast

California · February 1951

Ken's parents went with him as far as California. On Sunday 4 February he went to the Pomona meeting and then to dinner with forty or fifty Engles of the Upland area. *"They are really thick out here."* The next day he said goodbye to his parents. *"It's another step, like the one in Newton, in breaking the ties with those I love. … It was hard – harder then I expected. I do thank God for my parents."*

Then he spoke nearly every night: chapel at Upland College, a Christian school, then Colton, Glendale, Pasadena, Elm Springs, Long Beach and Castro Valley. At Elm Springs they asked for his favorite hymn, and he chose "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." At Pasadena he met Flora Barclay, a former missionary to China. A Chicago friend told him news from Albuquerque.

> Two were saved the week he was there. He said the little boy who professed when I was there is coming along fine. That really thrilled my heart.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, February 1951

At Long Beach he stayed with the Atkinsons, who had kept missionaries in their home for years. Neighbors had said their daughter was throwing herself away when she went to Mexico City. There she met a Christian man with the same vision, and when she came home to marry, the Lord supplied china and silver when both were hard to find.

In Los Angeles he visited Gospel Recordings, where Joy Ridderfoot gave him a tape recorder to carry to Dick Rowland at the Far East Broadcasting Company in Manila. The radio work was waiting for him before he ever got there.

> God is no man's debtor We're giving our lives to Him - whatever our need large or small - He sees - HE WILL NOT FAIL!
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, on the train to Oakland

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Dear Prayer Partners

Aboard the S.S. *California Bear*, San Francisco · 17 February 1951

The sailing kept slipping, and Ken had what looked like a week's work to do in two days. *"I took it to the Lord. Honestly I was really to the end of myself. He's stepped in and now at this moment everything is rated [crated] and down to the ship."*

His journal for 14 February tells the same day from the inside: "I saw my own weakness, yes, came to the end of myself today. I'm trusting Him to do it tomorrow, so much left." He added, "He does the impossible. He continues to meet financial needs from very unexpected places." The next morning his host, Dr. Nels Nelson, a veterinarian, offered him a car for the last errands.

On his last night ashore he wrote a letter from his stateroom to everyone who had prayed for him.

> Tomorrow, the Lord willing, I sail for the Philippines. This evening, in a few minutes of relaxation before sailing, I'd like to review with you the way the Lord has worked. May I say first, He has done exceeding abundantly about anything I ever ask or thought.
>
> Ken to his prayer partners, 17 February 1951

He listed the barriers the Lord had taken down: the physicals, the shots, the passport, the equipment, and the visa.

> The visa which we prayed about so long is now mine. There were times when it looked as though it would be refused but the Lord moved where we couldn't. … No matter what the enemy of souls may attempt in the future I know that greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.
>
> the same letter

He gave his address as "c/o Mr. Cyril H. Brooks, Box 2380, Manila." A few days later he told Mary Lou how it had been.

> For a while I thought sure He was sending in too much. But He knew the need ahead. … I had told my needs not to man but to Him and He had provided. Let's always do it that way, Darling.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 22 February 1951

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

The Backside of the Desert

The Pacific crossing · February–March 1951

Ken was the only passenger. He ate at the Captain's table. *"The food here is wonderful. … I am lonely though – no Christian fellowship yet. Pray that I'll be a testimony."* He signed that letter with Psalm 56:3.

Mary Lou had given him thirty numbered letters to open on the way. One held a sewing kit: "a bright shining needle, 2 buttons … 5 pins and 4 kinds of thread." He left her a verse of his own: *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."*

He got the Captain's permission and posted cards for a Sunday service on board. Three Sundays running, no one came. "The Lord showed me that this may be the back side of the desert experience," he wrote on 25 February. "I pray that I may know Him better and learn what He has for me in these days." So he left gospel tracts on the tables at noon, and gave tracts to the officers each Sunday.

> It's been a long lovely trip with no Christian fellowship. The Lord has been close beside though and made it a very profitable time. I believe it is the way He wanted it. Sometimes He takes us to the backside of the desert to speak to us.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, March 1951

At San Fernando the ship stayed in harbor at night "with so many sunken ships here," wrecks from the war. Two nights later it came into Manila Bay past Corregidor, an island he had bombed six years before.

> Almost all day long I could see Luzon. … Today as I looked out at Luzon I thought and prayed regarding the years ahead. I prayed that we might be able to reach out to those people in the out of the way places.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, Manila Bay, 16 March 1951

On the day the ship docked he wrote out Psalm 84:11, "Our verse," and noticed it had been one of George Müller's favorites.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Tents and Altars

Aboard the S.S. California Bear · February–March 1951

The *California Bear* left Pier 45 in San Francisco at about half past six on the morning of Sunday 18 February 1951. That evening, after a stop to take on cargo, she sailed out to sea, and Ken climbed up to the top of the bridge.

> I climbed up on top of bridge as we went under Golden Gate. Prayed for faithfulness in what the Lord had given me to do and protection from the enemy of souls. Resolved on this trip and in the future to know God as much as it's possible with my limitations.
>
> Ken's journal, 18 February 1951

He was the only passenger, and for three weeks he had no Christian fellowship. So he read. When a smoother sea came he asked for a deck chair and a pad: "That really makes a great place to study." He read C. H. Mackintosh on Genesis and the early years of Hudson Taylor. He finished both on 1 March: "Those two books have been of very great blessing. May the lessons learned be long remembered is my prayer."

In Genesis he watched two men. Abraham lived in a tent and built an altar wherever he went (Genesis 12:8). Lot looked toward the well-watered plain and "pitched his tent toward Sodom" (Genesis 13:12). On 27 February Ken made his choice.

> Made decision of tents and altars for the future as I see Lot contrasted with Abraham. The Lord can have all if I may but do His will.
>
> Ken's journal, 27 February 1951

Three days later he set himself a rule for every day, morning, noon and night.

> Decided to go back to reading Bible through
> in year.
> Morning - Q.T. - Prayer
> Noon - Verses - Prayer
> Night - Bible travels - chart - Prayer.
> May He help me to keep this up throughout life.
>
> Ken's journal, 2 March 1951

He kept a list of the books he finished on the voyage: Mackintosh's *Genesis*, *Hudson Taylor's Early Years*, McConkey's *The Three-Fold Secret of the Holy Spirit*, *Ambassadors for Christ* by Cable and French, the Inter-Varsity booklet *Quiet Time*, W. E. Vine's *A Guide to Missionary Service*, and Amy Carmichael's *God's Missionary*. He was partway through *Exodus*, Pierson's life of George Müller and G. Campbell Morgan on Acts.

On 11 March he read a summary of Müller's life. Müller had handled millions of dollars for the orphans, Ken noted, and died with a little over sixty pounds to his name. At the table that day the ship's officers were talking about insurance and money.

> A man who believed in putting it over there. …
> Makes me want to put every cent over there.
> Another reason, I believe He's coming soon. May I
> put this into practice.
>
> Ken's journal, 11 March 1951

As the islands drew near he prayed again, in words that sound like him.

> Prayer as I near Manila, may I be faithful in the
> days ahead and protected from satan, sin and salt.
>
> Ken's journal, 9 March 1951

On 12 March he thought about the long wait before Mary Lou could come, and saw it in a new light: "These years of waiting will be well spent, so much to do in preparation."

The next afternoon the first land came up, Babuyan Island, north of Luzon. He stayed up by the bridge a long time. It was 13 March, and he remembered where he had been on that date six years before, a tail gunner over these same islands.

> The Lord has been so good in bringing me to this place again. He's shown His power in my case.
>
> Ken's journal, 13 March 1951

Sources: Ken Engle's journal, 18 February – 13 March 1951, with his list of "Books or Booklets Completed during Trip."

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 First Lord's Day

San Juan, Rizal · 18–30 March 1951

Ken came ashore on Saturday 17 March 1951. The next morning was his first Lord's Day in the Philippines. He was up about six and read Isaiah 40, the chapter that begins "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people." Breakfast was at a quarter to seven. Then they went to San Juan Gospel Hall, and the first thing on the morning was a baptism.

Ken gave a short word on Acts 8:26–39, the story of Philip and the man from Ethiopia, who heard the gospel on a desert road and asked, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Mr. Brooks translated. Four believers were baptized.

Then came the remembrance meeting, the Breaking of Bread. It was mostly in Tagalog, and Ken could not follow the words.

> It's hard to explain but I could really feel Spirit there, it brought tears.
>
> Ken's journal, 18 March 1951

At half past four the assembly welcomed him and the Epplers, a new missionary couple, on Mrs. Dayton's lawn. Ruben Copico gave Ken's welcome and presented him with the Tagalog Bible he kept all his life. "What a thrill that was." Ken gave his testimony from his Quiet Time in Isaiah 30, on the will of God, "Filipino size," and he noticed how friendly the young people were.

> No homesickness. Brooks' make me feel right at home, come in and talk.
>
> the same day

The week went fast: alien registration, the scooter at customs, his first Tagalog lesson, his first grading for the Bible School of the Air, his first night at DZAS. On Thursday the boxes came up from the ship and he unpacked.

> Feel so much at home because this is what I've been looking forward to and planning on for so long. I feel the Lord has a real place for me over here. May I fill it faithfully is my prayer.
>
> Ken's journal, 22 March 1951

On Friday he sat down and wrote Mary Lou his first typed letter from the Philippines.

> Such a wonderful week just passed, so much beyond my dreams. All the glory goes to Him.
>
> Ken's journal, 23 March 1951

A week later a letter came from home that explained it. A woman named Mrs. Iler wrote that she and others had been praying for him on 17 March, the very day he landed.

> … surely He answered.
>
> Ken's journal, 30 March 1951

Sources: Ken Engle's journal, 17–30 March 1951.

Six Hours at the Mimeograph

San Juan, Rizal · March 1951

Cyril Brooks had fallen behind on the Bible School of the Air lessons while he settled Ken and the Epplers in. Ken took over the old mimeograph for about six hours, first the English lessons and then the Tagalog ones he could not yet read. *"I may not be able to speak it yet but I can mimeo it."*

> I just prayed as I worked today that the Lord would take those lessons and use them to the salvation souls. I never dreamed it would be so wonderful to work for the Lord over here. I just feel all the time that He just cut out this place for me.
>
> Ken to the folks, March 1951

The young people's work at San Juan was now his to lead. At four o'clock he and Cyril went visiting: a young man in the big tuberculosis hospital, reached by the radio, who was trying to win a scientist friend; then a man who wanted to be baptized. *"Just one room and not one piece of furniture. We sat on a trunk."*

Supper was usually eggs, bought every Monday out at Far East Broadcasting Co., and hot tea. Then came the Bible.

> After the meal we had a reading from “Daily Light.” Then we each take a verse from a promise or verse box. After reading the verse the others guess where it is. You'd be amazed at the way Cyril knows the references. He certainly know his Bible. … It's a challenge to work beside a man like that.
>
> Ken to the folks, 30 March 1951

The lessons had well over 2,000 students; within a week it was 2,400. One wrote, "I have born again through faith in Christ since studing this course."

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Easter at Canlubang

Manila and Laguna · Easter Sunday, 25 March 1951

Ken's first Easter on the field came eight days after he landed. It began with a sunrise service on the grounds of the psychopathic hospital. Cyril Brooks preached in Tagalog, and Ken was asked to lead in prayer. In the crowd was Phil Armstrong of the Far Eastern Gospel Crusade, an old friend from Chicago, who preached in English.

Then they drove south to Canlubang.

> After the service we drove to Canlubang. I gave a message there on the resurrection then Cyril interpreted. Had my first really Filipino meal.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 25 March 1951

Mrs. Calica served rice, fried chicken, pork and bananas.

On the drive home they tossed gospel tracts out of the car windows. "They really go for them." He was still doing it three weeks later: "They still scramble for them." In the afternoon they hired a launch to meet a missionary bound for Singapore, and Ken came back soaked. A missionary bound for Singapore gave him a verse that week: "Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thy self in the field; and afterwards build thine house." There was a Tagalog service at the hall at 4:30 and a cantata at 7:30.

> My how these people love to sing. I can almost see their eyes when they first hear Mary Lou play.
>
> the same letter

A week later Phil Armstrong's visit turned into a Moody reunion picnic at Far East Broadcasting Co., with a wiener roast and the old school song, "God Bless the School that Dwight L. Moody Founded."

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Isaiah 53 and a Red Scooter

San Juan · 26 March – 1 April 1951

Ken's first Monday was what he called "RED TAPE": import control, alien registration and the American Embassy, with Cyril beside him all morning. His scooter had to clear import control. At noon a cashier offered to take his payment during the lunch hour for five pesos "for the Red Cross."

> Well, I wasn't so sure the money would ever get to the Red Cross so I couldn't see it.
>
> Ken to the folks, 28 March 1951

It cleared that afternoon the regular way. *"I think it was Kipling who said something like this, 'Here lies the man who tried to hurry the East.'"* Marvin Hooge, a missionary's sixteen-year-old son, helped him put it together. *"It's a red one as bright as a fire engine. … I'm like a kid with a new toy with this scooter."*

On Sunday, 1 April, Gideon, a Filipino law student, preached at 9:15, and the Breaking of Bread followed.

> I gave a short meditation on Isa. 53 after breaking of bread. Bro. Mercado gave the translation – I was surprised because I hadn't expected it. Wish I could have understood Tagalog just then. He is a fine brother who really studys his Bible.
>
> Ken to Mary Lou, 1 April 1951

At 5:30 he spoke to the young people in English on "Young People God Used." After supper the Brookses and Ken prayed over the radio work, the San Juan work and the islands. *"As we prayed about new workers we mentioned my honey, Mary Lou."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

The Dunce of the Class

San Juan and Manila · 1951–1955

Ken had told his campers at Christmas to pray for him as he learned a new language called Tagalog. Two days after he landed, Mr. Brooks gave him his first lesson. The second came the next afternoon.

> My, but the Lord is going to have to help me in this. I'm not much of a linguist.
>
> Ken's journal, 20 March 1951

In April he and the Epplers found a teacher, Florita Mercado of Paco, a university student. She would come three afternoons a week. Ken asked her to be hard on them. She was.

> Looks like I'll be the dunce of the class.
>
> Ken's journal, 11 April 1951

He studied in the morning and again in the afternoon, between radio scripts and Bible School of the Air papers. Eleazar, a young Filipino co-worker, recorded readings in Tagalog for him to play back, and Ken found them "very helpful." On 27 April came his first grade: 99.44 percent. Still he wrote, "I'm catching on slowly. Very slowly."

There were lighter days. One assignment was to learn John 1:29 and write eight sentences on any subject.

> Well, there's only one subject to me so I wrote on Mary Lou.
>
> Ken's journal, 4 June 1951

At the children's class he asked the boys whether a pig was *baboy*. "They said, 'no, pig.' How can a fellow learn." In June Sandy Sutherland, a fellow missionary, gave him a Tagalog dictionary.

Little by little the words came. In August he followed the prayer meeting better "because I had outline in both Tagalog and English." On 19 September 1951 Cyril Brooks asked him to open the Wednesday prayer meeting in Tagalog.

> A new experience for me. The Lord helped, hope I can follow up. The folks liked it.
>
> Ken's journal, 19 September 1951

Four days later, at Canlubang, he gave his first verse in Tagalog. It was the same verse he had learned for class, John 1:29: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In October, opening the prayer meeting in Tagalog again, he wrote, "As the days pass more words mean something."

By 1955 he was writing out whole messages in Tagalog for the towns of Rizal province, with help in the wording. In February he tried something new: "Not reading this time, using more outline and keywords. Much better even in prep." On 27 March 1955, after his Sunday school class, he was asked without warning to preach in Tagalog. "Good I had message with me. Thanks to the Lord." In June he preached 1 Corinthians 3 in Tagalog at San Juan.

His last Tagalog lesson was on 26 August 1955, two weeks before the family flew home on furlough. Four and a half years before, he had told his teacher to be hard on him. Now he could stand up in the hall and preach.

> *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*
>
> John 1:29

Sources: Ken Engle's journal, 19 March – 10 October 1951; 19 February, 27 March, 12 June and 26 August 1955.

Mary Lou's Map

Chicago State Hospital · February–March 1951

While Ken crossed the Pacific, Mary Lou was finishing her psychiatric training at Chicago State Hospital and taking evening classes at Moody. Her instructor gave her a 1940 *National Geographic* with two chapters on the Philippines. On her wall she pinned a map and pictures, among them a sunset over Manila Bay.

> As I look up at this map on my wall and a few pictures I've pinned to it including a beautiful sunset over Manila Bay, I feel as though you'll not be so very far away.
>
> Mary Lou to Ken, February 1951

In missions class a Dr. Harris showed slides of almost the same route Ken was sailing: San Francisco, Hawaii, the Philippines. In occupational therapy she played the piano for a rhythm band of withdrawn men. She learned a lesson about witnessing.

> You know I've found that if I ask Him each morning to give a definite opportunity, and if I am expectantly awaiting one, He never fails to send one. But when I ask generally to make me a witness, my witness isn't very active.
>
> Mary Lou to Ken, March 1951

> I love to tell of Him, here, but still I yearn to be in a heathen country because they've NEVER heard. That's what makes me burdened for those dear natives so much. No matter where they are, Philippines, Africa, China.
>
> Mary Lou to Ken, March 1951

On Easter Sunday her little sister Betsy Jane was baptized in Canonsburg. On 22 March Mary Lou left the State Hospital: *"It was a wonderful missionary field & good experience though."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

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).

A Bottle of Pop for the Lord

Kansas · August 1951

A year after Ken taught at Kansas Bible Camp, his sister Eloise went. On the screen one evening were Ken's own slides of the Philippines. Richard had asked their mother if he could keep them to show.

> They showed the slides of yours and they really showed up nice on the screen. … They also took up an offering for you and got about $29 Richard said that he thought each one of us could give up a bottle of pop for the Lord.
>
> Eloise to Ken, 19 August 1951

"Aunt Mattie" from Osborne gave flannelgraph lessons, and Eloise won a twelve-volume New Testament for her notebook. *"We didnt get to sing any of the old camp songs of A.P. Gibbs and lots of the kids remembered your song book."* She had also sent a pair of Ken's socks to a Filipino pen pal, who wrote back to her.

On the same day Grant wrote about the harvest. It had been a wet year, the year of the great Kansas floods. They got about 2,000 bushels and bought a new self-propelled John Deere combine, and he had built 6,800 feet of terraces. *"We were quite thankful for the crop we got as many were not so fortunate."*

Ken Brooks would be in Abilene on 1–2 October with new pictures from the field. And Mary Lou's parents were coming to the farm. *"Will be looking forward to meeting the Leonards in a few days. What impression will they get of the Engle's."*

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

Religious but Lost

San Juan · March 1952

A year after he landed, Ken wrote home that "they are already kidding me about next October," when Mary Lou was to come. Gifts came by way of the magazine *The Fields*, and one of them stopped him.

> I still marvel at the way the Lord touches hearts and burdens them to give. There's a man in California by the name of Golds who has sent to me a couple times through Fields. I don't think I have ever met him - got a letter from him the other day and he tells me he is a deaf mute. When people like that give I feel it makes my responsibility just that much greater.
>
> Ken to the folks, 12 March 1952

The night before, he had visited a man who had shown interest in the gospel.

> My how confused he is. His wife is a devout Catholic prays early in the morning and at night. It touched my heart to think - RELIGIOUS BUT LOST! We need your prayers.
>
> the same letter

Ray Larson, "the other engaged fellow out here," had just met his fiancée at the ship. Ken would have to wait seven more months for his.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

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

Two Verses and Two Rings

San Juan Gospel Hall · 26 April 1953

Three weeks after the wedding Ken wrote to his friends at *The Fields* in New York.

> Brother Cyril Brooks gave the bride away. Ken Brooks was best man and Dale Brooks was ring bearer.
>
> Ken to friends at The Fields, 20 May 1953

It was a missionary's wedding: *"A number of unsaved folks were present at the wedding and a good clear gospel message was given."* A reception followed at the Cyril Brooks home.

At the rings, each of them gave a verse.

> As I placed the ring on Mary Lou's finger I quoted our testimony verse. “The Lord God is a sun and shield…” (Ps. 84:11) Then as Mary Lou placed my ring on she said, “Intreat me not to leave thee…” (Ruth 1:16).
>
> the same letter

Psalm 84:11 had been "our verse" since before Ken sailed. Both of them put it on their valentines in February 1951. Mary Lou wrote it at the top of her letters while he crossed the Pacific, and he wrote it out the day his ship reached the Philippines.

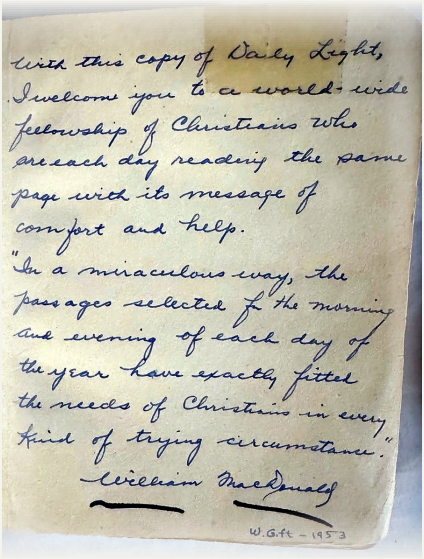
From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

The Wedding Day, 26 April 1953

Ken and Mary Lou Engle after their wedding, 26 April 1953, at the Cyril Brooks compound in San Juan, Rizal. Cyril Brooks gave the bride away, since Mary Lou's father was home in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. *More in the Photo Album*

Kevin Engle's collection

A Wedding Gift from Bill MacDonald



William MacDonald sent this copy of Daily Light to the Philippines as a wedding gift for Ken and Mary Lou, who were married at San Juan Gospel Hall on 26 April 1953. His words on the front page are on the next page.

Kevin Engle's collection

A World-Wide Fellowship

Inside the front cover, in blue ink, Bill MacDonald wrote:

> With this copy of *Daily Light*, I welcome you to a world-wide fellowship of Christians who are each day reading the same page with its message of comfort and help.
>
> "In a miraculous way, the passages selected for the morning and evening of each day of the year have exactly fitted the needs of Christians in every kind of trying circumstance."
>
> William MacDonald

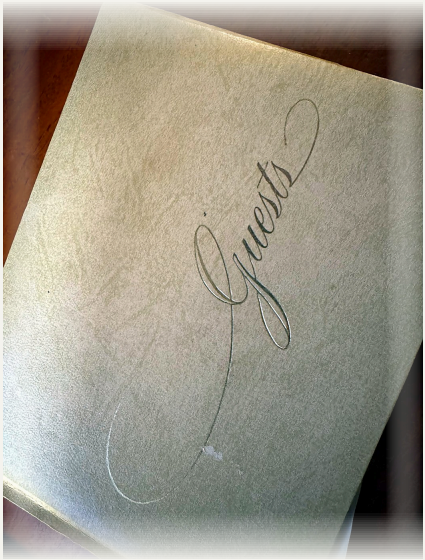
Below, in another hand, someone marked it "W. Gift – 1953": the wedding gift.

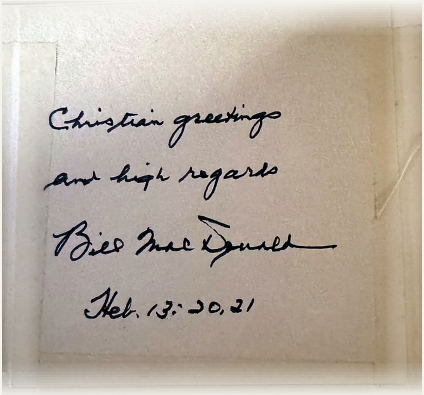
Daily Light is the old favorite of Scripture alone, a reading for every morning and evening of the year. Bill MacDonald was known for giving two things away: copies of *Daily Light*, and guest books, to encourage Christians to open their homes in hospitality. More about him on the William MacDonald page.

The Engles read *Daily Light* together as a family every single day. Read it free online, morning and evening for every day, at the Christian Classics Ethereal Library ↗, or download the whole book as a PDF ↗.

Photographs and transcription sent by Kevin Engle, 20 October 2026.

The Guest Book





With the Daily Light came Bill MacDonald's other well-known gift: a guest book, for Ken and Mary Lou to open at their wedding on 26 April 1953. Inside the cover he taped a small card:
Kevin Engle's collection

> Christian greetings and high regards
> Bill MacDonald · Heb. 13:20, 21

His verse, Hebrews 13:20–21: "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

PART THREE

The Philippine Years

1951–1967 · Manila · Binangonan

UPDATED 24 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).

A Record of God's Faithfulness

San Juan · 1955

Ken gave his 1955 diary a title on its first page: "1955 Record of God's Faithfulness." Under it he copied a saying from a promise card, with John 11:40.

> Faith is dead to doubts, dumb to discouragements, blind to impossibilities, and knows nothing but success!
>
> the first page of Ken's 1955 journal

His verse for the year was Philippians 3:13–14, "This one thing I do." And he wrote their prayer in a few words: "Our prayer = Fruit in '55."

All year he kept the record the title promised. In the middle of January a gift came by way of The Fields.

> The Lord teaching us a lesson. Give His share first and let the other things take care of themselves.
>
> Ken's journal, 14 January 1955

Five days later, with the Lord's share set aside first, he wrote, "By His help I want to stay ahead." That same day the mail brought twenty dollars.

> Surely He is no man's debtor.
>
> Ken's journal, 19 January 1955

The next day another gift came, and Mary Lou suggested they give more.

The Bible School of the Air was growing faster than ever, and so were the costs of lessons and postage.

On 1 April the missionaries met and talked it over. "Enrollments high and expenses great but have decided to forge forward. Trusting the Lord to supply."

On 18 April, before dawn, Karen Jeanne was born. Four days later a gift of $115 came from Austin Gospel Hall in Chicago.

> … more than covers hospital, needed it. Praise Him.
>
> Ken's journal, 22 April 1955

On 26 April, their second anniversary, he wrote: "Thank the Lord for two joyous years of marriage and two sweet kids."

That summer the family got ready for their first furlough. In July another large gift came from Austin "to come home." In August Ken had to sell the car. On a Wednesday a buyer made an offer. Ken asked Mary Lou, they prayed, and he told the man no. "Afterwards wondered." On Friday a better buyer came and the car was sold. After the car was gone the garage door fell in. The insurance on the car had run out the day before.

> Praise the Lord for guiding in all of it. Helping me say no on Wednesday. … All signs pointed to selling. … The Lord's timing is right!
>
> Ken's journal, 12 August 1955

In September the tickets cost less than he expected. "His plan ALWAYS best." On 14 September 1955 the whole family flew out of Manila, by way of Tokyo and Hawaii. Six days later they landed in California, and Ken's mother and father were waiting at Burbank.

> Great is His faithfulness.
>
> Ken's journal, 20 September 1955

Two months later, in Somerville, Massachusetts, among the people who had prayed for him since 1950, Ken spoke in the Sunday school at Beech Street "on God's faithfulness in the P.I." He had kept the record all year. Now he could tell it.

> *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*
>
> Lamentations 3:22–23

Sources: Ken Engle's journal for 1955: front page; 14–20 January, 1 and 18–26 April, 18 July, 10–12 August, 13–20 September and 20 November 1955.

Ships, Furloughs and Five Children

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

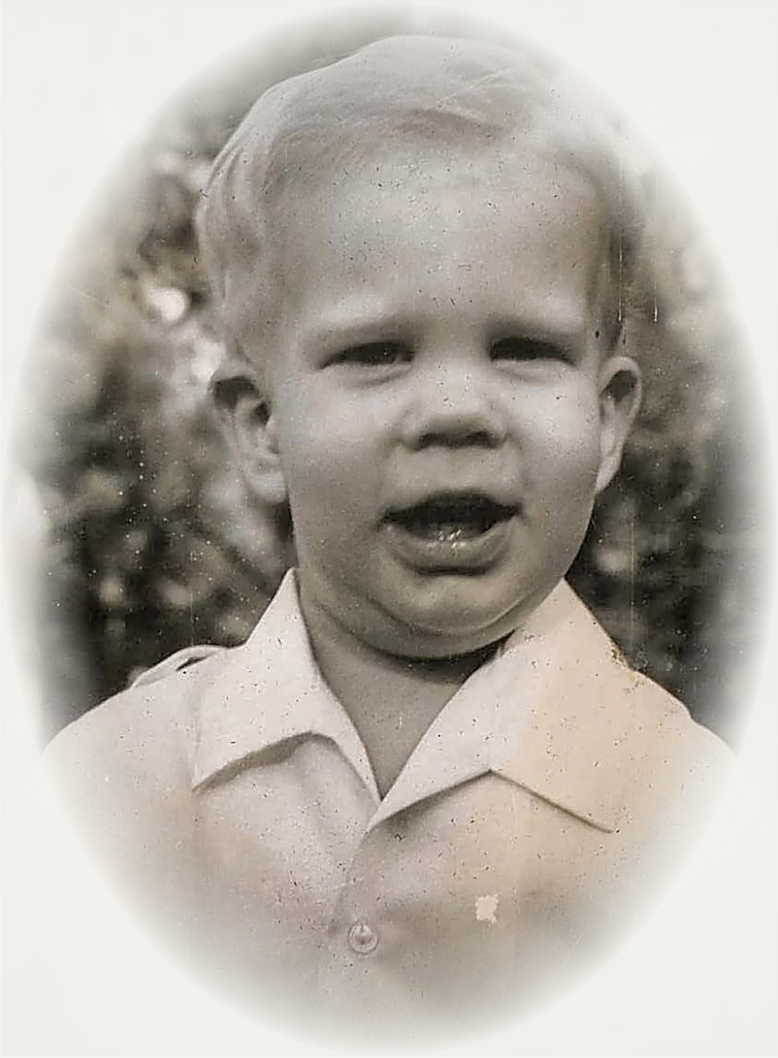
- **Becky** was born in 1954 and **Karen** in 1955, both in the Philippines.
- In December 1956 they sailed from San Francisco on the *City of Poona*. Mary Lou and Karen were seasick, and Ken prayed the prayer of Jabez. They reached Manila's Pier 13 on 10 January 1957.
- **Kevin** was born in Manila 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.

Kevin at About Three



Kevin at about three, about 1960, the year the family sailed home on the Orcades. He was named after Uncle Kevin Dyer. Kevin says it looks like he is already preaching. He grew up to be a lay preacher for twenty years. *A Preacher Like Dad* →

Kevin Engle's collection

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.

The Wife Who Came to the Gospel Hall

Mindanao and Binangonan · 1958

In 1958 Ken spent a week of meetings at an orphanage on Mindanao.

> Each morning I gave a message to the high school students on Bible Geography. Then in the evening I gave a gospel message. We praise the Lord there were some who professed salvation during the last days of the meeting.
>
> Ken to Bro. John Smart, The Fields, 15 July 1958

He sent along a photo of two boys enrolling in the Bible School of the Air.

Some months before, a brother at Binangonan had come to him after prayer meeting, troubled. His wife and her relatives had planned the Roman Catholic baptism of their youngest child. The two men prayed.

> In answer to prayer, the Lord overruled in the matter and when the day came for the baptism, due to special circumstances, they did not take the child to the Roman Catholic church. Instead, the mother and child came to the Gospel Hall.
>
> the same letter

She kept coming, and Ken believed she had been saved through her husband's quiet testimony. *"He is so happy these days and is one of the most faithful witnesses for the Lord in that area."*

It is the earliest Binangonan story in the letters.

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

A Thousand Radios

Manila · May 1959

In May 1959 Ken sent Bro. Smart a report on the Bible School of the Air. It now offered 27 courses. "What the Bible Teaches" was in Tagalog, Ilocano, Cebuano, Ilongo, Chinese, Spanish and English. In all, 328,799 had enrolled and 47,497 courses had been completed. Filipino staff did the work: Reny Garantuza, Luz Lazaro, Fe Ison and Letty, all in fellowship at San Juan Gospel Chapel. Luz had been there almost nine years.

On the weekly half hour at Far East Broadcasting Co. there was now a panel, "Forum Time," with Ken, Kenneth Brooks, Leonard Brooks and Milton Haack, newly arrived from Minneapolis. Ken copied one letter:

> I'm very happy to let you hear that I have been born again through accepting and trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour.
>
> a student, 1959

Another came from a Catholic student: "I am a true Roman Catholic, and nobody could convince me to a certain religion. … I am like a blind man lead by someone I do not know." After asking his question, he enrolled four other people in "What the Bible Teaches."

The U.S. Ambassador had just given President Garcia 1,000 transistor radios, part of 19,000 for the villages.

> This is a great day for radio work in the Philippines!
>
> Ken to Bro. Smart, May 1959

From the family letters, sent by Kevin Engle.

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).

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

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: 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).

Added 24 October 2026: Ken’s journals for 1950, 1951 and 1955, as typed by Doug Engle, and James Brown’s history of Austin Gospel Hall, about 1953.

About the Letter Pages

The pages marked "From the family letters" come from the Engle family letters of 1943 to 1959: 365 letters typed by the family in 2007 from the originals, and sent by Kevin Engle in October 2026. Most are Ken's letters home and the letters between Ken and Mary Lou. Others came from his friends in the service, his parents and sisters, Mr. Holloway, and the missionaries he prayed for.

Quotations keep the letters' own spelling. Where the typists could not read a word, the letters show asterisks, and so do these pages. The typists often wrote "Eagle" for "Engle."

Ken's handwritten letters from Manila after March 1951 have not yet been typed. When they are, they will add more to this volume and to Volume Seven, *Grace Christian High School and Paul Tan*.

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 13 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