



Lord, Give Us This Mountain

VOLUME TWO • THE CALL TO
THE PHILIPPINES

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

Engle • Robson • Leonard • Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle • An Engle Family History

Volume Two: The Call to the Philippines

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

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PART ONE

The War Years

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

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

A Farm Boy and a Radio

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

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

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

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

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

as Ken remembered it, 1973

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

Tail Gunner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ken's diary, 3 December 2004

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

Pvt. Engle Reporting

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

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

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

Ken to Grandpa and Grandma, 22 September 1943

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

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

Ken to the folks, 5 October 1943

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

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

"What Ever Made You Want to Fly?"

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

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

Ken, 13 February 1944

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

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

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

Ken, 14 March 1944

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

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

"But Oh April 1st"

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

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

Ken to the folks, 1 April 1944

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

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

Ken, Harlingen, 22 April 1944

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

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

Crew #243

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

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

Ken, 11 August 1944

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

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

Ken, 28 September 1944

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

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

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

Ken to his mother, 7 November 1944

Island Hopping

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

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

Ken, 24 November 1944

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

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

Ken to his dad, 17 December 1944

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

"Hello from Jolly Rogers!"

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

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

Ken to his dad, 28 December 1944

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

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

Ken to Keith, 3 January 1945

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

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

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

Ken, 10 February 1945

Somewhere in the Philippines

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

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

Ken to Keith, 15 February 1945

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

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

Ken to his mother, 3 March 1945

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

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

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



PART TWO

Ken and Mary Lou

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

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

The Girl from Canonsburg

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

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

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

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

Mary Lou's timeline

Two months later Ken sailed for the Philippines without her.

From Mary Lou's own memoir and timeline.

The Prayer Meeting at Moody

1949 or 1950

When Ken was a student at Moody Bible Institute, he belonged to a prayer group that met to pray for China. At the same time he had been writing back and forth with Cyril Brooks in the Philippines, and he was praying about whether the Lord wanted him there.

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

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

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

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

Isaiah 65:24

From Kevin Engle's recollections

Meet You at Taps

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

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

Ken to Mary Lou, August 1950

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

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

Get your mind off Mary Lou, Mr. Engle.

the campers, Kansas Bible Camp, August 1950

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

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

Thanksgiving, 1950

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

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

Ken to Mary Lou, Thanksgiving, 23 November 1950

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

the same letter

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

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

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

Maganda

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

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

Ken to Mary Lou, San Juan, 20 March 1951

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

His airmail letter reached Chicago in four days.

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

Mary Lou to Ken, 19 March 1951

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

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

The Letter She Lost

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

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

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

Mary Lou, 10 May 1951

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

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

Mary Lou, 12 May 1951

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

Ken, 18 May 1951

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

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

Wilt Thou Go with This Man?

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

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

Genesis 24:58

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

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

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

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

San Juan Gospel Hall



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

Kevin Engle's collection

PART THREE

The Philippine Years

1951–1967 · Manila · Binangonan

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026



Karen and Patrick on Romblon

Manila and the Bible School of the Air

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

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

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

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

Ken, 1973

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

From Ken's 1973 testimony tape and his letters.



Eloise's Ten Dollars

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

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

Ken, Friday 18 June 1954

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

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

Ken, 18 June 1954

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

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

as Uncle Kevin Dyer remembers Eloise telling it

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

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

Ships, Furloughs and Five Children

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

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

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

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

John Leonard, 1964

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

Teach Others Also

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

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

Kevin & I worked on "Teach Others."

Ken, Friday 10 July 1959

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

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

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

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

Heaven Came Down

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

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

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

Ken, 23 March 1966

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

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

Ken to Bro. Smart, 24 March 1966

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

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

Kevin in a Calesa



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

Kevin Engle's collection and Kevin's memories

What He Carried

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

Checked on flutes. Wrote Alvin.

Ken, 14 March 1966

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

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

Ken, 1966

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

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

Black Thursday

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

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

Ken, 25 April 1967

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

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

Ken, 25 May 1967

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

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

– but see May 26!

Ken's diary

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

Companion Books

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

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

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

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

San Juan, Rizal · 1951–1996

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

Baguio City · 1968–2010

[Cheryl](#)

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

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

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

[Family Stories and Friends](#)

Friends of the work · family stories · family reference

[Kevin's Recollections](#)

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

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Sources

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

What Comes Next

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

Keep them for Jesus for eternity.

the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

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