BASAHIN SA TAGALOG →

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45 PAGES

Lord,

Give Us This Mountain

VOLUME FOUR · THE ABILENE YEARS

From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street Baguio City Philippines

Engle · Robson · Leonard · Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle · An Engle Family History

Volume Four: The Abilene Years

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

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PART ONE

Home to Abilene

1975–2009 · Abilene, Kansas

UPDATED 24 OCTOBER 2026

Karen and Patrick on Romblon

Abilene

Ken never really left the Philippines. From Abilene he kept recording for the radio until about 2000, more than a thousand messages in all. He preached in the area assemblies, spoke at Kansas Bible Camp, and visited the nursing homes with a chalkboard. *"When Mary Lou is able to go along and play, that is a real plus."*

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

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

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

> `Began by mentioning KLE in Navy, 2 in Air Force + KES in US Army Air Corps.`
>
> Ken, Memorial Day 1997

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

Down the Hall

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

> Took Kevin to school. to my music classes. He visited Karen's room.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, 20 February 1962

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

> Listening to Voice of America and recording as JOHN GLENN is supposed to go into orbit in an hour.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, 20 February 1962

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

> O Lord my life I give to Thee on the altar.
>
> Ken's desk diary, 20 February 1962

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

A Mirror from Japan

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

> First letter from Kevin in Japan! Happy! Says he's at Yokota AFB. Tokyo and will go to his ship.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, 5 January 1976

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

> Karen's 21st birthday. Had wonderful day.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Easter Sunday 1976

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

> Presents — Kevin E sent mirror from Japan.
>
> Ken's diary, Easter Sunday 1976

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

Saved Early Age

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

> Becky & Dave — Mathson work · baby coming / Karen — work, future plans / Kevin — Temptations, responsibilities · Education, HS, college or military / Stan — Job. Allergy. foot-toe. car / Gordon — maturing * GRIT / Douglas — saved early age
>
> Ken's 1976 diary

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

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

> CALL upon ME and I will answer thee and shew thee Great and Mighty things which thou knowest not. GMT Jer 33:3
>
> Ken, 29 December 1986

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

> ^ Baptized 14 Jun 87 So. Porcupine ON
>
> the same page

From Ken's diaries, 1976–87, in Gordon's "Saved Early Age." The whole story: "Born Again," p. 33.

The Wedding

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

> 108° today in shade.
>
> Mary Lou, Tuesday 26 July 1983

> So hot can't put body outside door. Kansas all dried up! Hope heaven is cool!
>
> Mary Lou, Thursday 28 July 1983

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

> Engles left for Chicago and Mark Dyer's wedding on 30th
>
> Mary Lou, Monday 25 July 1983

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

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

> Folks got home from Pross Hts.
>
> Ken, Sunday 31 July 1983

Prospect Heights. Home again. That was July.

Nine Grandsons

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

> G'ma Engle died today in Wichita.
>
> Mary Lou, 21 November 1983

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

> Corkills, Dyer children — to stay with us — Mark + Sue and Craig — good visit.
>
> Ken, Thanksgiving, 24 November 1983

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

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

> G'ma Engle's funeral! 9 grandsons carried her coffin. Beautiful day!
>
> Mary Lou, 25 November 1983

Listen: Mom's Piano

Newbern Cemetery

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

> It was impressive to see these young men, who owed so much to their grandma's prayers and counsel, carrying her to Newbern Cemetery. The Cemetery is on the corner of the Engle farm.
>
> Ken, Christmas letter, December 1983

Four months, one trip each way.

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

Spoke on Emmaus Road

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

> Dave talking to Doug + Christy. Dave filling baptismal tank — hot water.
>
> Ken, 13 June 1987

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

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

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

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

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

Kevin's Graduation

On Saturday 21 May 1988 Ken and Mary Lou sat in the shade at an outdoor ceremony in Dallas and watched Kevin, thirty, receive his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Dallas. Printed at the top of Ken's diary page for that day were the words **Armed Forces Day**.

The full story is now in Kevin's own book: Armed Forces Day.

In Dad's Own Words: Living by Faith (1997)

Abilene, Kansas · 18 February 1997

In February 1997, Dad and Mom wrote this report to the Missions Focus Group at Woodside Bible Chapel, the assembly that had commended them to the Philippines in the early 1950s. In Dad's own plain words, it tells why they never made appeals for themselves but trusted the Lord for their needs, and it describes the work that still filled their days in Kansas: the little country chapel, the radio broadcasts, the Emmaus courses and letters to the Philippines, and their service to the community.

Missionary Ministry Report · by Ken and Mary Lou Engle

Note: This report survives only as a faded scan, and some lines of it could not be read. Each place where words were lost is marked […]. The part of the report that listed personal finances has been left out.

Missionary Ministry Report from Ken & Mary Lou Engle

February 18, 1997

Dear Woodside Missions Focus Group,

Thank you for your recent letter. We are going to begin by answering question 8 of Part 2. It is the question as to our understanding of Scriptural principles as to giving and receiving financial support. We plan to quote the whole question here since we begin with it. Since that question to us seems basic to the whole matter of support, we feel we must begin with that.

[…]

… what you see as legitimate for those needs to be met.

Thank you for this question. As you well know, there are many ideas out there as to what is right in this area. First, what do we see in the Scriptures. It seems clear, that Paul and other writers in the New Testament did not appeal for themselves.

It is possible that Paul had a part in telling the believers at Antioch of the needs of the Christians in Judea. Then Barnabas and Paul delivered the needed help. (Acts 11:26-30) We do not feel there is evidence that he or other servants of the Lord made appeals for themselves. We remember the Lord Jesus when tax time came. Peter had been questioned by those collecting taxes whether his Master paid tribute. Peter said, "Yes." When Peter came to the Lord Jesus, the Lord asked him about the taxing of that time. It would seem it was rather selective. But in order not to offend the officials the Lord asked Peter to go and catch a fish and there would be in the mouth of the fish the needed amount for the Lord Jesus and Peter. (Matthew 17:24-27) I would make this comment and I am not trying to be funny. The Lord did not the next time He fed 5000 take up an offering for their taxes and needs. You are well aware that missionaries from many groups must get so much promised support on deputation. We are very much aware of this as many missionaries around us worked under those plans. Sometimes the money did not get promised or they got to the field and those promising were not able to send the promised amount. The "Faith Promise" system seems to be some improvement on this.

Here has been our experience in all of this and we do not say for one moment that everyone has to do it this way. I first attended Austin Gospel Hall in 1942-43. Then I went into the Army Air Corps. (1943-45) Among other places I served in the Philippines. I returned to Moody and Austin in the fall of 1946. I will never forget the welcome I received. Later I taught a Sunday School class of high school boys. I helped with developing a Christian Service Brigade with Chuck Christensen and Jack Barclay. Later we worked together on Adventure Time an outreach to boys and girls. I was commended to the work in the Philippines in 1950. I had met Mary Lou at Austin. She completed her nurses training at West Suburban Hospital in 1952 and was commended to the Philippines in that year. We were married in 1953 in …

[...]

… farewell was held at the Hall on Leamington.

The elders placed their hands on my head and shoulders as an expression of their support. They did not ask me the price of the ticket to the Philippines by freighter or about my needs. They did give me …

[…]

… trusting the Lord for support etc. But I understood some of it from my four years …

[…]

On the freighter from San Francisco to Manila I read the Bible, George Muller, Hudson Taylor and C. H. Mackintosh. George Muller cared for orphans and felt it better to tell the Lord his needs rather than to man. The Lord sent in enough for the orphans and more so that he could help Hudson Taylor. (China Inland Mission) This is now the O.M.F. (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) I understand that OMF even today does not make financial appeals etc.

Communicating Needs

We appreciate the way you asked this question as to communicating needs and …

[…]

In the early days we did not hear from either of these assemblies …

[…]

I was going to quote this from my journal later but think I will include it right here since … This is a journal quote from January 27, 1967:

[…]

"… we are living in the Manila area." "Near … bridge (I was hit by a truck) Driver went along to Paco with me … (paragraph) At …

[…]

… time the Lord has used a different … (July 1966, October 1966 and January 1967.) Praise Him!"

I just came across this in my journal and had forgotten the details.

[...]

... just sending out what comes in the offering. There is no debt to the home assembly. ... We all experience times when ...

[...]

For us this is the only way we would like to operate.

Part 1. Ministry Report

Please tell us about our ministry efforts and your investments in ... with you.

Grace & Truth Gospel Chapel

This is a real Chapel about ten miles south of Abilene with wheat fields on all sides. The work began around 1918. I grew up on a farm about 4 miles from there. There are 23 people attending including children. (6) We have two young couples and one is expecting so in April that should bring our numbers to 24, the Lord willing. Besides Sunday services, I try to go to the Chapel to work 1 or 2 times a week.

[...]

... can record and copy tapes both places. Workers Together in Wheaton has provided all three of my professional Ampex reel to reel recorders. (1970's and 1988) I visit some in the neighborhood. Sometimes people stop by and visit when they see my car there. Part of the year we clean the Chapel and also set up the Lord's ...

[...]

... felt I was getting older and that we had five qualified elders and there was no ...

[...]

I suppose we spend 25% of our time in the Chapel related work.

Radio

I began in radio at WMBI in 1946 when I returned from the war.

I was an announcer there for 4 years. Then in the Philippines we did radio work offering the Emmaus Correspondence courses over the Far East Broadcasting Co. stations in the Manila area. (Bible School of the Air) Later when we moved to Baguio, in the mountains, I developed two programs of my own for commercial stations there. I had broadcasts in the Philippines going out most of the years from 1951 to say 1991 or 40 years. The Children's Bible Hour of Grand Rapids, Michigan is still going out. We introduced that program and handled the mail for them for years. They just sent us the packet of mail for 1996. Here in Abilene we have one fifteen minute program over KABI, a commercial station. We have been on the air here most of the years since 1970. The program we release here is the Emmaus Bible Hour which we produce at the request of the Emmaus Bible College. The Salina Chapel also sponsors the Emmaus Bible Hour on a Christian FM station there. They also sponsor a one minute spot called A Moment To Remember From The Bible on that same FM station. This program was also on DZFE, a FM fine music station in Manila for a number of years. I correspond with others who use or have used the broadcasts. In recent days I wrote to a broadcaster in Fall River, MA. He has used the Emmaus series 2 or 3 times there. Also, I wrote to a broadcaster in Alabama recently that has used most of the series once. Then I should mention Mary Lou's series of tapes that I have used on the broadcasts. She has made three cassettes based on Hymns of Worship and Remembrance. Our son and his wife in Oklahoma handle most of the sending out of tapes from there. We basically just record the master tapes here. We have just learned that they have sent out well over 3000 cassettes. Our son does it as a ministry and does not seek to make very much profit. I would estimate that 35% of our time is taken up with radio and recording work.

Correspondence

We grade Emmaus courses here at home and correspond with believers in the Philippines. We also get outdated Sunday School materials from Scripture Press, Wheaton. We send these materials to four Chapels in the Philippines. There is an overlapping in some of this as you can understand with the Emmaus courses.

We have done a small work with the local jail and correspondence courses. I would suppose we spend 20% of our time with correspondence. (USA & Philippines)

Community

When we returned to live in Abilene in 1975 I took a course here offered by Kansas State University on Educational TV. It was taught at the local Library. When it was over a number of us were offered a channel by the local cable company. It was called Public Access TV. We had Channel 8. We were able to develop children's programs, oral history, informational programming for the community and weekly Bible Study programs. I continued in this work for about ten years on a voluntary basis. Mary Lou volunteers at the Library and has just completed a major project. She also is a volunteer at the Historical Society. She teaches piano in our home. Mary Lou is a registered nurse. She has done some nursing since we have lived here and has kept up her credentials. She has had a ministry with the piano teachers and nurses of the area. I have served as a volunteer chaplain in the local hospital. I retired from that in 1994. We also go to the nursing homes here on a regular schedule with other ministers. I would say we spend 20% of our time in this community work.

Encouragements

[...]

We hear regularly from one of the men that was ...

[...]

In this section I will mention a Methodist lady who phones ...

[...]

... that was in our original Christian Service Brigade ...

Rudy became the first Herald of Christ outside of North America in the early days of ...

[...]

We were 15 years in the Manila area and then about 10 years in the Baguio City work. We have just heard from Robert Padilla, a Sunday School boy of those days who says …

[…]

… now missionaries in Ifugao. It is higher up in the mountains than Baguio and rather …

[…]

… Brigade work there and they are now graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

[…]

… going to Harvard and being … Stott to come to Harvard for … he is headmaster and chaplain … at Austin.

Then in closing … phones every Sunday to tell us how …

[…]

… for one of their Bible studies. We thank the Lord for … the radio program. … We thank the Lord for the encouragements He has given us.

3. Challenges in the Days Ahead

… right now in the radio work is a series of 36 broadcasts on the Gospel of Mark. It is a series I have never used on the air here …

[…]

Well, we could go on and we …

4. Fellow Workers

[…]

… teaching a lesson last Sunday told of how hard it was on his family when his mother died and he was 5 years old. He expressed thanks to the support of the believers at …

[…]

One of them as I recall had been reached at Kansas University by Paul Little. … number of years they met with us in this rural area. It just about filled our …

[…]

Pray for the Salina work. … developing well. A man grew up in the …

[…]

Part 2. Financial Support

… the answer on page one states what we feel Scripture teaches. … I guess our stand is "What He orders He pays for."

Ken and Mary Lou Engle to the Missions Focus Group of Woodside Bible Chapel, 18 February 1997, from a faded scan in the family files. Lines that could not be read are marked […], and the part about personal finances is left out.

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

She Keeps Saying She Will Take the Bus

> He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
>
> Psalm 91:4 (KJV)

Karen and Aunt Betsy · Kansas City and Abilene · March 2001

Let's be honest: most of the kind things people do for each other never get written down. Somebody drives somebody somewhere, a kettle goes on, a door opens, and it's gone. Unless your mother keeps a diary. And your father keeps one too.

In the summer of 1990 Karen was getting ready to go out to the Philippines, back to the islands where she was born, with a letter of commendation from the Bible Chapel in Overland Park. On the second of August a gift was sent for her from Vancouver, through a missionary office in Toronto.

A Verse About Hope

At the foot of the remittance slip that reached Abilene, the office in Toronto had printed a verse:

> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
>
> Romans 15:13 NIV, printed on the remittance slip, 24 August 1990

A month later the thank-you went back to Toronto:

> We received the gift for Karen (our daughter) by way of the Armerdings in Vancouver. We have passed this on to Karen. Karen arrived in Manila, Philippines on Tuesday, September 11th by Philippine Airlines.
>
> Letter from Abilene to the Missionary Service Committee, 23 September 1990

Keep that one in your pocket. An aunt in Vancouver, a niece on her way across the world, and a little money sent on ahead so she would land with something in hand. Ten and a half years later, it went the other way.

Six Inches of Snow

Thursday, the fourteenth of December, 2000. Six inches of snow in Abilene. Aunt Betsy had phoned from England that morning, and Mom wrote back to her sister before lunch:

> Thank you for your phone call...You really spoil me with those calls...and it is like you are just a mile away...so clear...all the way from Oxford!!!!! … We would probably drive you to Karens on sunday the 11th after church...It is really not that far...a 3 hour or less drive.
>
> Mary Lou to Betsy, Thursday 11:30 a.m., 14 December 2000

And in the same hour she wrote to Karen, with the plan:

> Had a phone call from Aunt Betsy this morning, and she was asking about a date to come to Kansas City and here..... We are suggesting the date of: Sunday March 4....arrive at Kansas City be with you Monday, put her on the bus on Tuesday for Abilene.
>
> Mary Lou to Karen, Thursday noon, 14 December 2000

The Bus

Then the line this story is named for:

> How does this look to you? she keeps saying she will take the bus,and I think whe wants to do that to come to Abilene...but we would drive her back to you.
>
> Mary Lou to Karen, 14 December 2000

If you have ever had an aunt like Betsy, you know what "she keeps saying she will take the bus" means. It means: now don't you go to any trouble for me. Mom didn't argue with her sister. She just wrote it down… and sent it to Karen.

The winter of 2001 was a hard one in Kansas: snow, then sleet, then ice on the gravel road out to the chapel. But by the first of March the diary was looking ahead:

> Letters from Betsy - We are really looking for ward to her visit & Carl later in the week.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Thursday 1 March 2001

> Cleaning rooms & changing all sheets & covers.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Friday 2 March 2001

Comes Here Monday

And on Saturday the third of March, a day ahead of the plan, the telephone rang:

> Betsy arrived safely in K. City & called from Karen's! So exciting!
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Saturday 3 March 2001

> ML got phone call from Betsy in KC safely — comes here Mon.
>
> Ken's diary, Saturday 3 March 2001

Comes here Monday. Not Tuesday. And not, as it turned out, on the bus.

Monday, the fifth of March, 2001. Two o'clock in the afternoon. Both diaries have it, and Mom drew a green circle around hers:

> Karen & Betsy arrived about 2 p.m.! Wonderful visit & supper at 5.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Monday 5 March 2001

> Betsy & Karen here at 2pm. So good to see them. ML had chicken casserole Karen went home by way of Polish store & bought more items She & Betsy stopped on the way here.
>
> Ken's diary, Monday 5 March 2001

Fetched

Karen brought her. Three hours or less, Mom had said; three hours out across the Flint Hills, an afternoon at the table, chicken casserole and supper at five. Then Mom drew a second green circle:

> `Karen left for K City about 7. we of course talked Til very late. So much To catch up on.`
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Monday 5 March 2001

Do the arithmetic. Something close to six hours behind the wheel, on a Monday in March, so that an aunt would not have to ride a bus. Nobody wrote down whose idea it was. Nobody wrote a word about the drive. They wrote down who came through the door at two o'clock, and that it was wonderful. On the way out the two of them had stopped at a Polish store, and Karen liked it well enough to stop again on the way home.

There is a particular grace in being fetched. Anybody can be invited. Not everybody gets collected and carried the last three hours.

The Sisters' Week

The next morning Mom went to town, and among the pharmacy errands there was this:

> `Found a Peter Rabbit 24.00 on sale at $5.00 for Karen.`
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Tuesday 6 March 2001

She was still thinking about the daughter who had driven home in the dark.

The rest of the week belonged to the two sisters. On Wednesday Stan and Fiona and their children came by for a visit, and Mom wrote:

> `Betsy & I looked over Mother's boxes`
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Wednesday 7 March 2001

Third and Pine

On Thursday Betsy took them out to supper at the Kirby House, and Dad called the chicken-fried steak the best he had ever had. On the way home, at Third and Pine, something happened that both of them wrote up:

> Right vent window blew out - awful crashing sound - Betsy in seat by it but not hurt - very thankful! TTL
>
> Ken's diary, Thursday 8 March 2001

> Dodge van back window exploded & flew all over the place! Wierd! Never heard of such a thing!
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Thursday 8 March 2001

TTL was Dad's shorthand: Thank The Lord. The next afternoon the Ford garage had a new window in, all covered by the warranty.

Psalm 91

On Friday night Carl arrived. He had flown from London to Chicago to Kansas City, picked up a rental car, and driven into Abilene about half past eight. Mom told Becky afterwards why they had booked the two of them a motel room:

> since they had not seen each other for 7 weeks, and he would be having jet lag from the time difference...we thought it would be nice for them
>
> Mary Lou to Dave and Becky, Thursday 15 March 2001

On Saturday Carl sat down with his laptop to get ready for Sunday, and Dad wrote down what he chose:

> Carl prepared message on Ps 91 on his laptop computer. Gordon Fee suggest of our use of it during WW II - Mother, Eloise & I
>
> Ken's diary, Saturday 10 March 2001

Psalm 91. The psalm the Engles had memorized during the war, when Dad was flying with the bombers. Mom put it in her own words on Sunday:

> Carl message Psalm 91! Gordon Fee had told him to preach on that! 1) Engles had memorized in in W. WAR 2
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Sunday 11 March 2001

Under His Wings

> He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
>
> Psalm 91:1–2 (KJV), the psalm Carl preached that Sunday

Three days after a window blew out beside Betsy's seat, her husband stood up in the chapel out in the country and preached on the God who covers his own. Neither diary puts the two together. They just sit three days apart on the page.

But something has been held back, and it's the best part.

Go back to Mom's plan in December. The last night of the visit was always going to be at Karen's: "we would drive her to your place That Sunday." Here is how that Sunday ended:

> Carl & Betsy to K. City. Lamb dinner at Karen & Patricks!!
>
> Mary Lou's diary, Sunday 11 March 2001

> Home here & Carl & Bets on to O Park
>
> Ken's diary, Sunday 11 March 2001

Lamb Dinner at Karen's

O Park was Overland Park: Karen and Patrick's. Betsy's Kansas week began with a telephone call from Karen's house, and it ended at Karen's table, with two exclamation marks. And on Monday morning, after Carl and Betsy had gone to the airport, Dad wrote one more line:

> `Karen called talked to ML - good visit there w/ C & Betsy.`
>
> Ken's diary, Monday 12 March 2001

Ten and a half years earlier, a gift had gone from Vancouver "for Karen," with a verse about hope printed underneath. In March of 2001 the niece did the carrying: the first phone call, the six-hour Monday, the lamb dinner on the last night, and the call afterwards to say it had been good.

So if you have an aunt who keeps saying she'll take the bus… you go and get her.

Lots of Tea

Three days later Mom sat down to write to Becky and Dave. The snow was finally going, and she had this to say about her sister's visit:

> Aunt Betsy and I had a wonderful week last week,just talking and talking....and drinking tea.....she likes her tea!!!!lots of tea!!!!!and lots of times!!!!!! She is a really neat person and I got to know her very well. … It had been a wonderful week, and one long to remember!
>
> Mary Lou to Dave and Becky, Thursday 15 March 2001

When an aunt keeps saying she'll take the bus, she is not talking about the bus.

From Ken's and Mary Lou's diaries for March 2001, Mary Lou's letters of 14 December 2000 and 15 March 2001, the Missionary Service Committee remittance slip of August 1990 and the family's letter of 23 September 1990, in Gordon's story "She Keeps Saying She Will Take the Bus" (31 Oct 2026). Gordon's email has 45 family photos (Karen and Dad by the U-Haul in 1990, Aunt Betsy at the airport gates, Mom and Aunt Betsy on the plaid sofa, Uncle Carl preaching at the chapel); they are not in the book yet.

Born Again

> Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
>
> John 3:3 (KJV)

Doug, with Ken and Mary Lou · Abilene · 1976–2002

Some weeks a diary page holds more than its owner knows. In November 1976, the week the youngest of the six was born, Ken wrote two words across the top of his page in capital letters. Then:

> DOUGLAS KENT … Word from Dr it's a boy — 6lbs at 12:07 … Home — Read Ps 92:14
>
> Ken's diary, November 1976

Ken was fifty-one. When he finally got home from the hospital that night, this was the verse he turned to:

Fat and Flourishing

> They shall still bring forth fruit in old age;
> they shall be fat and flourishing.
>
> Psalm 92:14 (KJV), the verse in Ken's diary that night

Now watch what Ken did with the rest of that week. With his birthday money he bought a book called *Born Again*. The next day he gave it to the doctor to read. And on Friday, with Mary Lou and the baby still in the hospital, he sat down to get ready for Sunday:

> Did M/M about Douglas Kent — then on "Born Again" for Sunday.
>
> Ken's diary, that Friday

A radio program about his new son, and a Sunday message called "Born Again." Both in the same line, the same afternoon. Ken couldn't have known how those two things would come together. But the Lord did.

A Brand-New Start

“Except a man be born again.” That’s the heart of the gospel, and Jesus said it to a grown man, a teacher and religious leader named Nicodemus, a man who knew all the right things and still needed a brand-new start. Being born the first time makes you part of a family. Being born again makes you part of God’s family. Nobody can do it for you. Not your dad, not your mom, not your church. You come to Jesus yourself, and you ask.

So Ken and Mary Lou prayed for exactly that. In the back of his diary for 1977, in his list of what to pray for each of the children, Ken wrote beside the baby’s name:

> `Douglas — saved at early age — will of God`
>
> Ken’s prayer list, 1977 Daily Reminder

It was the prayer he had first written a few weeks after Doug was born (see “Saved Early Age”). Then six and a half years went by.

I Know That One

In the hot August of 1983 there is a little conversation in Mary Lou's diary. She and Doug had driven over to Detroit, the little town east of Abilene, to buy cantaloupe:

> Doug said "God guides us to do everything doesn't He? … I said Prov 3:5-6 & started to quote. Doug said I know that one.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, 8 August 1983

> Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
>
> Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV), the verse Doug knew

A six-year-old in a car, thinking out loud about God and cantaloupe.

Clean His Heart

Four days later, on Friday the twelfth, there is a red star at the top of Mary Lou's page and a red circle around the date, and she wrote this:

> Doug was born again! Asked Jesus to clean his ♡ & come & live in it!
>
> Mary Lou's diary, 12 August 1983

She drew the heart. She didn't write the word; she drew it.

Asked Jesus to clean his heart and come and live in it. That's the whole gospel, in the words of a six-year-old, written down by his mother. Every one of us has a heart that needs cleaning. Not improving. Cleaning. And Jesus doesn't just clean it and leave. He comes and lives in it. That's what "born again" means.

Douglas — saved at early age. The prayer Ken wrote the year Doug was one had been answered at six.

Mary Lou didn't forget the day, either. A year later, across the top of her August page, she wrote:

> Doug has been saved 1 year Aug 12th.
>
> Mary Lou's diary, August 1984

In June 1987, when Doug was ten, the family drove all the way to Becky and Dave's in northern Ontario, and Dave baptized him in the chapel there. Ken wrote:

> They told how they were saved.
>
> Ken's diary, June 1987

But something has been held back, and it's the best part.

A Sermon from a 22-Year-Old

Jump ahead to November 1998. Doug had just turned twenty-two. Ken and Mary Lou had come through one of the hardest days of their lives, and the next morning they started telephoning the children. At 8:30 they called Doug.

And then, at nine o'clock that night, the phone rang again. It was Doug.

> `9:00 pm Doug called … (a sermon from a 22 yr old (KEE)`
>
> Ken's diary, 11 November 1998

> `Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.`
>
> 1 Peter 5:7 (KJV), the verse Doug gave his mother

A sermon from a twenty-two-year-old. That is the preacher's own review, signed with his own initials. Ken Engle had preached more sermons than anybody could count. And that night he wrote down his youngest son's sermon, because it was the one his wife needed to hear.

Trust and Obey

The little boy who said “I know that one” in the car had grown up into a young man who could hand the verse back to his mother on one of the hardest days of her life. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. Casting all your care upon Him. He knew that one.

One more line. Four years later, on a Sunday evening in November 2002, Ken and Mary Lou were at the Brown Home at seven. Doug turned up, so Ken called on him to pray. And Mary Lou wrote what they sang:

> `Doug appeared so Ken called on him to pray and we did piano-organ duet Trust & Obey`
>
> Mary Lou’s diary, 24 November 2002

Trust and obey. That’s what being born again looks like when you’re fifty. You keep coming back to the One who cleaned your heart, and you let Him go on living in it.

If you’ve never asked Him, you can ask today. You can use a six-year-old’s words. They worked for Doug.

From Ken’s and Mary Lou’s diaries for 1976, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1998 and 2002 and Ken’s prayer list in his 1977 Daily Reminder, in Gordon’s story “Born Again” (8 Nov 2026). Gordon’s email had 70 family photographs; they are not in the book yet.

PART TWO

Homegoings

2003 · 2009 · and the family that carries it on

UPDATED 12 OCTOBER 2026

Karen and Patrick on Romblon

Cheryl's Music

Two Homegoings

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

> Next is Doug. You will enjoy him!! … He is the son of our "old age."
>
> Ken, in a letter of 22 August 2003

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

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

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

> Gordon, enjoy the journey.
>
> Ken

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

Listen: Mom's Piano

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

Added 24 October 2026: Ken and Mary Lou’s report to the Woodside Missions Focus Group, 18 February 1997.

Added 1 November 2026: Gordon’s story “She Keeps Saying She Will Take the Bus” (31 Oct 2026): Ken’s and Mary Lou’s diaries for March 2001, Mary Lou’s letters of 14 December 2000 and 15 March 2001, and the Missionary Service Committee remittance slip and letter of August–September 1990.

Added 9 November 2026: Gordon’s story “Born Again” (8 Nov 2026): Ken’s and Mary Lou’s diaries for 1976, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1998 and 2002, and Ken’s prayer list in his 1977 Daily Reminder.

What Comes Next

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

> Keep them for Jesus for eternity.
>
> the prayer behind KEE Philippine Missions

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

Listen: Moments to Remember