BASAHIN SA TAGALOG →

UPDATED 15 OCTOBER 2026



Lord,

Give Us This Mountain

VOLUME SEVEN · GRACE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL AND PAUL TAN

From Lancaster County PA to Malvar Street Baguio City Philippines

Engle · Robson · Leonard · Haines

Ken and Mary Lou Engle · An Engle Family History

Grace Christian High School and Paul Tan

Manila and Quezon City · 1949–2026

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VOLUME SEVEN

Grace Christian High School and Paul Tan

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Paul Tan and Grace: A Chronology

Grace Christian High School and Paul Lee Tan at a glance, from Ken's diaries and letters and the school's own history.

1949	Julia L. Tan begins meeting with others in her house on Tanduay Street, praying for a Christian school.
29 May 1950	Work begins on a three-storey building on Nagtahan Street.
5 Jul 1950	Grace Christian High School opens with 186 students.
17 Mar 1951	Ken Engle arrives in Manila.
21 May 1951	Ken is offered a new course to teach at Grace: "How wonderful the Lord is."
5 Jul 1951	Ken is asked to coach the boys. An earthquake shakes the school while he is there.
Jul 1951	Saturday gym classes begin, with stories of Christian athletes and missionaries between the drills.
25 Aug 1951	Ken's diary: "Gym classes at Grace. Paul Tan in these classes."
13 Sep 1951	Ken speaks at Grace on Gideon. A gift of P1,000 meets the school's need.
Sep 1951	Ken teaches the boys good sportsmanship.
3 Oct 1951	Ken speaks in Cyril Brooks' place: "Triumph Over Temptation."

Paul Tan and Grace: A Chronology (continued)

12 Oct 1951	Ken and Cyril judge the public speaking contest.
1951–52	Ken teaches gym "for a time" while the Brigade starts in San Juan.
10 Sep 1966	The new campus in Grace Village, Quezon City, is inaugurated.
27 Oct 1968	Grace Christian Church is inaugurated, with Paul Lee Tan as first senior pastor.
7 Mar 1983	Ken writes to Paul: "I even taught gym for a time in 1951-2. Were you in that class??"
26 Oct 2008	Dr. Stephen G. Tan, Paul's son, becomes second senior pastor; Paul becomes pastor emeritus.
2017	Paul receives the John F. Walvoord Prophecy Award.
11 Aug 2019	Paul writes that his life story, *Experiencing God's Grace*, is finished.
May 2020	Dr. Christine Joy Tan, Paul's eldest, becomes president of Grace Christian College.
Later	Paul Lee Tan goes home to be with the Lord, at 86.
2026	Grace Christian College teaches more than 2,600 students. Kevin Engle plans a visit.

A House on Tanduay Street

The story of Grace begins with a woman and a vision. In 1949 a Chinese educator in Manila, **Julia L. Tan**, began meeting with others in her small house on Tanduay Street. She longed for a school that would give young people a first-rate education and the Word of God, side by side.

Two American missionaries carried the same burden. **Rev. Edwin Spahr** and his wife, **Helen**, had been sent out in 1945 by the First Baptist Church of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. In Manila they ministered to American servicemen and pastored the Filipino congregation of First Baptist Church of Manila.

The two visions became one plan: a Christian school for the city.

One Hundred Eighty-Six Students

Friends opened the way. Don Alfonso Sycip and his sons, John and Paul, let the school build on their lots on Nagtahan Street. George Dee Sekiat, president of China Banking Corporation, approved a ₱90,000 building loan with no collateral but Mrs. Tan's signature.

Work began on 29 May 1950. Five weeks later, on 5 July 1950, 186 students walked into a new three-storey building: Grace Christian High School. Thirty Christian teachers taught classes in English and Chinese, and twelve American missionaries worked beside Filipino and Chinese believers.

Four more buildings went up within seven years. By 1961 about 1,400 students filled the classrooms, and the school was turning families away.

Gym Class at Grace

Ken Engle reached Manila on Saturday 17 March 1951 and moved in with Cyril and Anna Brooks in San Juan. The school on Nagtahan Street was not yet a year old.

By July he was teaching gym to the boys at Grace Christian High School. Kevin remembers his father leading them in calisthenics, and Ken's 1951 diary fills in the rest: exercises, games, and stories of Christian athletes and missionaries, told between the drills.

It was a natural fit. Ken was a Kansas farm boy who had come through Army Air Forces training and flown sixteen combat missions as a B-24 tail gunner. Now he stood before a field of schoolboys in the Manila heat, counting out the exercises and telling them about Jesus.

An Offer in May

Two months after he landed, Ken had a hard day. He wrote it down, and then he wrote down what came next.

> A bit discouraged by events. The Lord encouraged me, offer to teach new course at Grace Christian High School, offer to take Missionary Mail Bag on DZAS and fellowship. How wonderful the Lord is.
>
> Ken, Monday 21 May 1951

In July the school asked for something more physical.

> Then to Grace School. I've been asked to coach the boys and give them exercises. An opportunity to give the gospel as well as get out myself. I need more exercise. The Lord looks out for every detail. Earthquake while at Grace.
>
> Ken, Thursday 5 July 1951

That Saturday the classes began.

> Went back with Ed Spahr. Waited at the school for gym classes, 7:00-9:30. Had good time with the boys but it wore me out. I'll have to use discipline.
>
> Ken, Saturday 7 July 1951

Stories Between the Drills

From then on, Saturday mornings belonged to the boys at Grace. Ken rode over on his scooter, ran two classes, and between the exercises he told a story.

> Rode my scooter to Grace. Had two good classes with the fellows. Told them of Harrison Dillard (Heb. 12:1,2). Really got myself a sunburn.
>
> Ken, Saturday 14 July 1951

Harrison Dillard was the American runner who won the Olympic 100 meters in London in 1948. Hebrews 12 is the race set before us.

> Had gym classes. Told them story of Keith-Falconer, the man that rode the boneshaker.
>
> Ken, Saturday 21 July 1951

Ion Keith-Falconer was a Scottish champion cyclist of the high-wheel days who gave his life as a missionary in Arabia. Other Saturdays it was the torch bearers and the wolfpack. When a typhoon came through, Ken took a taxi and a bus:

> Rains and typhoon. Took taxi and bus to school. Had classes inside. Played Rats & Rabbits, Snake Walk, etc. Gave story of ya-ha-wee-hi-oh.
>
> Ken, Saturday 11 August 1951

Paul Tan in These Classes

On the last Saturday of August 1951 Ken wrote down a name.

> Gym classes at Grace. Paul Tan in these classes.
>
> Ken, Saturday 25 August 1951

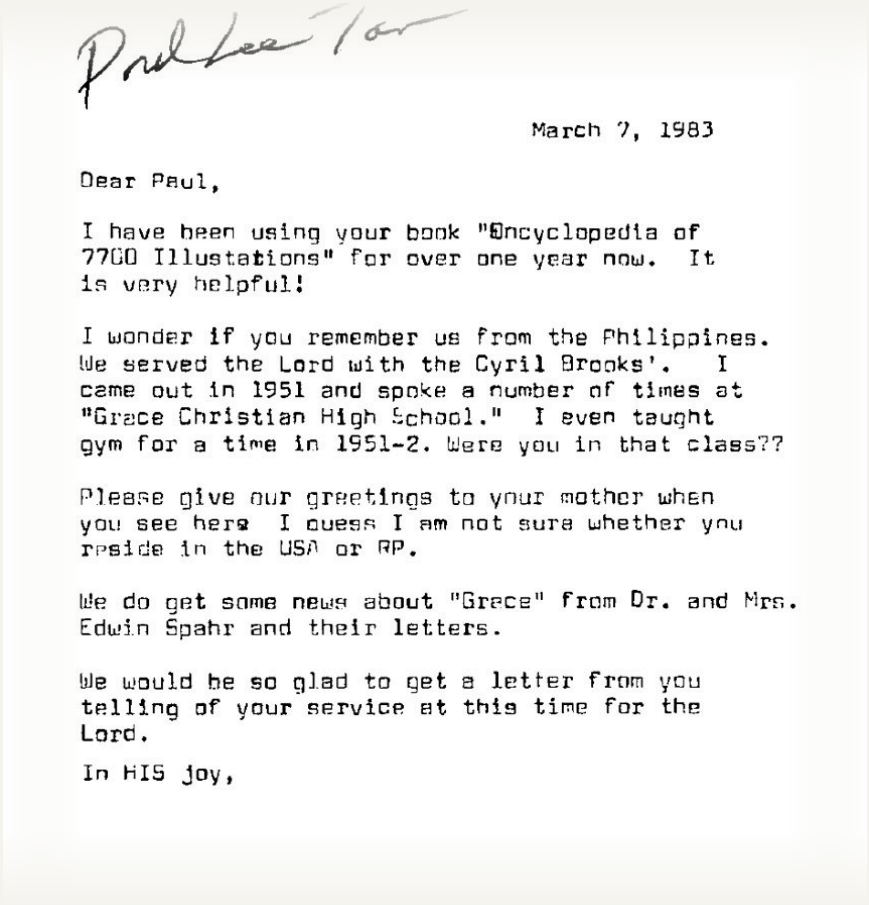
Paul Lee Tan, the son of Mrs. Julia Tan, who had founded the school, was one of the boys counting out the exercises with the young missionary from Kansas.

Thirty-two years later Ken was in Kansas, using a big book of sermon illustrations, and he noticed who had written it. On 7 March 1983 he wrote to the author, and asked a question his own diary had already answered.

> I came out in 1951 and spoke a number of times at "Grace Christian High School." I even taught gym for a time in 1951-2. Were you in that class??
>
> Ken to Paul Tan, 7 March 1983

He was. Ken's diary had said so all along.

Dear Paul



Paul Lee Tan

March 7, 1983

Dear Paul,

I have been using your book "Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustations" for over one year now. It is very helpful!

I wonder if you remember us from the Philippines. We served the Lord with the Cyril Brooks'. I came out in 1951 and spoke a number of times at "Grace Christian High School." I even taught gym for a time in 1951-2. Were you in that class??

Please give our greetings to your mother when you see her. I guess I am not sure whether you reside in the USA or RP.

We do get some news about "Grace" from Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Spahr and their letters.

We would be so glad to get a letter from you telling of your service at this time for the Lord.

In HIS joy,

Ken's letter to Paul Lee Tan, 7 March 1983, from the copy Ken kept, with Paul's name written across the top. He asks Paul to give his greetings to his mother, and says news of Grace still comes from Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Spahr.

Ken Engle's letters · Kevin Engle's collection

Gideon at Grace

The school asked Ken to speak, too. In September Ed Spahr drove him over.

> He then drove me to Grace. I spoke on Gideon. Ed told me of their experience, need at school, man kept thinking of Grace C.H.S. and came, gave P1000. Woman had check ready last month but didn't give it, as a result one teacher had to wait. Later the woman gave.
>
> Ken, Thursday 13 September 1951

A school that began with a building loan signed for by Mrs. Tan was still living by faith, one gift at a time. Three weeks later Ken spoke again, standing in for Cyril Brooks.

> Spoke at Grace in Cyril's place. He was at conference at DZAS. The Lord gave liberty, spoke on 'Triumph Over Temptation'.
>
> Ken, Wednesday 3 October 1951

In October he and Cyril were among the judges of the school's public speaking contest.

> Judged public speaking at Grace. Very close.
>
> Ken, Friday 12 October 1951

Good Sportsmanship

Gym at Grace was a real class, with grades.

> Gym classes. Gave them test of basket shooting to help get grades.
>
> Ken, Saturday 8 September 1951

> At Grace C.H.S. Had game between freshmen and older fellows. The older ones showed up very well but the younger got a bit unhappy over being defeated. Not good sportsmanship.
>
> Ken, Saturday 15 September 1951

> Had gym classes, I tried to stress good sportsmanship, because of last week's incident.
>
> Ken, Saturday 22 September 1951

> Hot day. I was pretty easy on fellows in gym classes. Got along better with younger group. Let them play 3 on a side.
>
> Ken, Saturday 6 October 1951

> Tested fellows at Grace as the term drew to a close.
>
> Ken, Saturday 20 October 1951

He went on with the boys *"for a time in 1951-2,"* as he put it later, while the Brigade was getting started in San Juan.

Step by Step

What Ken began with the boys at Grace grew into something more. That fall he started talking about a club of his own.

> Talked to Steve about Brigade. Later talked to Noel. I'm very encouraged, step by step as He leads.
>
> Ken, Sunday 30 September 1951

The club became the **Christian Service Brigade** in the Philippines, with its motto, *Bright and Keen for Christ*. It grew to twenty-two clubs across the Philippines. Its first Herald of Christ was a San Juan boy named Rudy Ponce de Leon, whose story is told in the companion book *Herald of Christ*.

The calisthenics on the field at Grace came first.

Paul

Mrs. Tan had a son, **Paul Lee Tan**, born in the late 1930s. He was a boy in Manila while his mother was building Grace.

Paul went to America to study. He earned his master's degree at Dallas Theological Seminary and his doctorate at Grace Seminary in Indiana. In 1967 he came home to Manila to serve as the first minister of Grace Christian Church, which had been meeting inside the school. When the church was inaugurated on 27 October 1968, Paul was installed as its first senior pastor. He served until he became pastor emeritus in 2008.

He taught Bible prophecy for more than fifty years and led many tours to Israel. Pastors around the world know his *Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations*. In 2017 he received the John F. Walvoord Prophecy Award.

> FROM HIS MEMOIR Paul tells his life story in his own words in *Experiencing God's Grace*. How to get a copy.

Paul's Own Story

Paul told the whole story of his life himself. In 2019, at eighty, he finished *Experiencing God's Grace: An 80-Year Journey*, about six hundred pages long. Wherever you meet Paul in this volume, the fuller story is in his own book.

THE BOOK

Experiencing God's Grace: An 80-Year Journey

by Dr. Paul Lee Tan · 2019 · about 600 pages · in English

It is not online and not sold as an e-book. To read it, get a printed copy.

How to get a copy →

Experiencing God's Grace © Dr. Paul Lee Tan. Nothing from the book is reproduced here.

How to Get a Copy

The book is not online, so a printed copy is the way to read it. Links open in a new window.

1. Write to Paul's ministry, Paul Lee Tan Prophetic Ministries, which mailed the book to friends in 2019.

> United States: P.O. Box 250468, Plano, TX 75025
>
> Philippines: P.O. Box 2669, Manila 1000 · 0917-582-7070
>
> Email: PTPM@tanbible.com · Website: tanbible.com

2. Ask a bookstore. In 2019 Paul named two Texas stores that sold it. Call first, since stock changes.

> Herald Christian Bookstore, 1108 W. Parker Rd. #108, Plano, TX 75075 · 972-422-8229
>
> Christian Communications, Ltd., 9600 Bellaire Blvd. #210, Houston, TX 77036 · 713-778-1144

From Paul Tan's letter of 11 August 2019 and tanbible.com. Addresses may have changed since.
Experiencing God's Grace © Dr. Paul Lee Tan.

Letters from Dallas

Paul and his wife, **Helen**, made their home in Dallas, where his ministry, Paul Lee Tan Prophetic Ministries, kept its American office. For years his letters came to Kevin and Cheryl: Sunday reflections, *Grace Notes*, Easter and Christmas greetings, each one opening the Bible.

In August 2019 he wrote to say he had finished the story of his life, *Experiencing God's Grace: An 80-Year Journey*, six hundred pages long, and that a copy was on its way to them. He began that letter the way he began so many:

> `I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.`
>
> Philippians 1:3, in Paul Tan's letter of 11 August 2019

Paul Lee Tan went home to be with the Lord at the age of eighty-six.

> FROM HIS MEMOIR The book is not online. How to get a copy of *Experiencing God's Grace*.

Grace Village

By the early 1960s the school had outgrown Nagtahan Street. Mrs. Tan found a rice field in the north of Quezon City and bargained for it. Then she invited five businessmen to form a company to sell homes around it. She pictured a Christian school town: a school at the center, a church beside it, and Christian families all around. It became **Grace Village**.

The new campus was inaugurated on 10 September 1966. The Nagtahan building went to Grace Bible Church for its Christian Academy of Manila. Over the years the school gave birth to three churches: Grace Bible Church, Grace Gospel Church, and Grace Christian Church.

Mrs. Tan put it simply. The church would be the school's spiritual home, and the school would be the church's mission field.

> FROM HIS MEMOIR For the Tan family's own account, read Paul's memoir, *Experiencing God's Grace*.

What Paul Passed Down

Paul and Helen Tan had three children, Christine, Stephen and Samuel, and all three serve the Lord.

Dr. Christine Joy Tan, the eldest, has been president of Grace Christian College since May 2020, leading the school her grandmother founded. She studied at Southern Methodist University and Dallas Theological Seminary, and holds doctorates in Bible exposition and in higher education.

Dr. Stephen G. Tan was installed on 26 October 2008 as the second senior pastor of Grace Christian Church of the Philippines, the church his father served first. More than two thousand adults and children gather there each week.

Samuel Tan lives in Dallas and studied at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Today Grace Christian College teaches more than 2,600 students, from pre-nursery through college.

> FROM HIS MEMOIR Paul's own account of his life and ministry is in *Experiencing God's Grace*.

Back to Grace

Seventy-five years after Ken first led the boys at Grace through their exercises, his son Kevin plans to visit Grace Christian College in Quezon City and sit down with Dr. Christine Joy Tan.

Ken's part in the Grace story was small: a young missionary's first months, some calisthenics, and stories told between the drills. But the school is still standing, and it still opens the Bible to every class that comes through its doors.

Ken's own words from his 1951 diary, and his 1983 letter to Paul, are now in this volume. Still to come: his 1951–52 letters home, Paul Tan's memories from Experiencing God's Grace, and photographs and stories from Kevin's visit.

Visit Grace Today

Grace is still at work today. Each link opens in a new window, so you can come right back to this page.

Paul Tan's memoir: how to get a copy
Experiencing God's Grace: An 80-Year Journey, his own life story, 2019.

Grace Christian College ↗
The school Julia L. Tan founded in 1950 as Grace Christian High School, now in Grace Village, Quezon City.

Grace Christian College: its history ↗
The school's own account of its founding on Nagtahan Street and its move to Grace Village.

Grace Christian College: the president ↗
Dr. Christine Joy Tan, Paul Tan's eldest, president since May 2020.

Grace Christian Church of the Philippines ↗
The church in Grace Village that Paul Tan served as its first senior pastor.

Grace Christian Church: Our Story ↗
The church's own history, from Mrs. Tan's house on Tanduay Street to today.

Paul Lee Tan Prophetic Ministries ↗
Paul Tan's Bible prophecy ministry, based in Dallas and Manila.

Dallas Theological Seminary ↗
Where Paul Tan, Christine Joy Tan and Samuel Tan studied.

A tribute to Paul Lee Tan ↗
The Pre-Trib Study Group's 2024 tribute to Paul Lee Tan.

Sources

This volume draws on Ken's 1951 diary (from the typed transcription in the family papers, also used in *Herald of Christ*), Ken's letter to Paul Lee Tan of 7 March 1983, Kevin's recollections (13 October 2026), Paul Lee Tan's letters to Kevin and Cheryl (2015–2019), the histories published by Grace Christian College and Grace Christian Church of the Philippines, the college's president's page, and the Pre-Trib Study Group's 2024 tribute to Paul Lee Tan. Photographs will be added.

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

"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

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

> **Faithful Men: A Library of Christian Classics**, from PlymouthBrethren.org: Brethren writers and missionary lives, searchable by author, Scripture and topic. Open the library ↗

The Table of Contents for the whole series →

Every link in the series, in one place →

What Comes Next

This is Volume Seven of *Lord, Give Us This Mountain*. The Table of Contents lists every book in the series.

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

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