

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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“It causes life...”

As James presented me (Rich) a 6-foot-long rough stick of expensive black palm, I could not help but notice how much James' English had improved from our first meeting in 2004. For years, I had to speak to him in the trade language for him to understand. Holding the stick, James stood and said, “I am presenting this Anumza (“God”) wood to you because it will never rot. It will last forever. Back in 2001-2004 I had only one thought, that I should do Bible Translation. Now that we have 14% left and probably 8 months [to finish], we want to present this so you can always be reminded of us. May the peace of God be between us, Phil 4:7. Many people say that Bible translation is a project. Ok, but now that we are near the end, I see it is true that it is a **project**, but I think Bible translation is **life**. I claim Bible translation causes life. **It causes life**. I want to thank you. God is with us.” (Rich’s note: Yes, God **has** been with us, but **please don’t stop praying!** That 8 months to finishing the Old Testament is for the team-checking. Then we go into many months of work such as finishing audio recording, editing spelling, and proof-reading the paper Scripture layouts.



Left Photo: James presenting the black palm* Anumza stick to Rich. **Bottom Photo:** The older man the team chose to carve the stick because of his skill carving black palm. As they told me about the woven rings they said, “They are orchids that only grow high in the trees. We save them to only put on our man-killing arrows or give them to leaders.

Woven Rings of orchid vines



*Black Palm, although often referred to as a hardwood, technically is not wood. Like bamboo, it is a grass, that takes 30 years to grow.

“Who’s this?”

November 13th, I had just run out the back door in the morning to open our translation office for Kossack and whoever else would be there that day to record the multiple shorter voice parts for books of Job and Esther in the Kamano-Kafe language. I asked Kossack, “Who’s this?” Kossack smiled and replied, “This is Bucky. God provided him. This morning I prayed that God would provide the right person [to record]. As I walked from my house to the main road, I noticed Bucky standing there on the side of the road. I asked him what he was doing. He told me, “I don’t know, I felt like I had to go to town today, so I got up early and washed [in the river] and now I’m ready.” Kossack told him about his need for a younger man’s voice to record a Bible part, and asked him, “Would you come with me to Rich’s house to record today?” Then pointing at Bucky, Kossack exclaimed, “**God provided for us again!**” As I typed this, God reminded me (Rich) about when the team was recording smaller parts in 1 Kings to 2 Chronicles. Two pastors independently traveled to Kainantu town the same day, both meeting and having the feeling they needed to find James in town. One of the pastors called James on his cell phone, telling him they both had felt they need to contact him. James shared about the need for more Kamano men to record Scripture. Both pastors were excited to come to record that day. (See back page for cell phone issues).

COVID and Christmas Camp Update

As of this writing, PNG has had 604 COVID-19 cases and seven deaths. People are still crowding and not physically distancing here. Kamano Christmas Camp is still scheduled; it is an hour and 45 minute drive away (including 8 kilometers of hard 4x4 driving). Because it is camp’s 20th anniversary, there will be no practical class sessions. I (Rich) have been asked to speak to the whole group on spiritual and physical health. The schedule is still not set, so pray that we can figure out how to bless the thousands who will attend.

MAIL & TRAVEL NOTICE!

Please hold your Christmas cards and letters for now. No international mail has arrived from the USA to us, or is being sent from PNG to the USA since COVID-19 shutdowns in early March. Joyce attempts each year to send personal “thank you” letters around Christmas to each of you who give and keep us serving. However, we are still not able to send mail, and personal mail is not supposed to go through other package companies. Also, International Travel is still very restricted, which means that only life-threatening medevacs are allowed, so medical help in Australia is not available. Please pray for us to stay healthy!

☝ **Praise the Lord** —on November 17, the **Kamano-Kafe team started translating Ezekiel 40** (future temple). One of the team members mentioned after chapter 2, “*Now we see inside the engine room of God!* **Please pray for wisdom as we translate.**

☝ **Please pray for the Lord of the harvest to give us more workers for Tyndale Bible Translators!** We need more **language advisors** (like what we do with Kamano-Kafe). Joyce would also appreciate someone with book-keeping skills to eventually join us on the field to help with the growing number of projects. The SIL-PNG Human Resource Department is especially excited about TBT being another route for workers to come to PNG to help in Bible translation, especially since Wycliffe Associates stopped recruiting and sending workers here.

☝ **PTL**—the Binumarien, Gadsup and Guhu-Samane languages are making progress and finishing their work assignments. Currently, we are paying for the **Binumarien and Gadsup consultants** from gifts given to support the Mattocks and Kamano-Kafe team. We now have accounts set up for these languages. Please pray for support of these two language translation programs.

☝ **Please pray for Joyce’s health.** She had an infection at the end of October, and continues to have stomach and other health issues. At this point it does not look like Joyce should attend Christmas Camp. **Pray for Rich’s travels and speaking at Kamano Christmas Camp.**

☝ **Pray for cell phone issues. Please pray that the phone network will consistently work!** Phone outages are getting worse, which makes it difficult to contact team members from the four language groups we are currently assisting. **Left photo:**



Marina Maimer, our second TBT missionary in PNG, sewed these phone pouches to help keep the team from frequently being pickpocketed on the crowded public motor vehicles (trucks/vans).

May the LORD be with you and yours this unusual Christamas season as we learn to reJoyce in whatever circumstances we experience. May we together continually remind ourselves to take joy in His blessings and eternal Riches.

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Moving?

Please send address changes either to us, or to Joyce’s sister:

Carol Holter
2767 Pleasant Valley Rd
Rice, WA 99167



☺ Christa’s Corner ☺

Praise the Lord with us that Christa scored well enough on her September 28th MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) that she can apply to MD programs, and might even have a chance at several free medical schools. She now needs to complete more hospital volunteering hours and get more clinical experience before applying to medical schools.

☺ **The Lord provided a job** for Christa as a full-time scribe at a medical clinic in Olympia, WA, where there are 7 other scribes. She started training Nov 5. The scribe training Christa is quitting to go to Physician’s Assistant school in early December.

☺ **Praise the Lord for providing Christa (through a partner’s help) a place to live** with a retired lady (who lost her husband a couple years ago). It is only a 12 minute drive from the clinic.

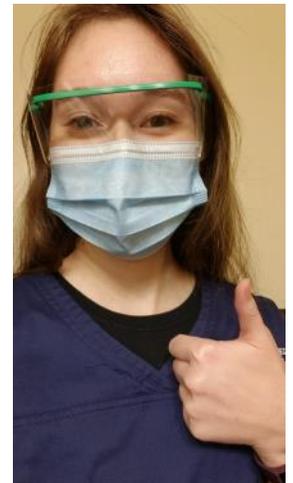
☺ Our family is so thankful for many of you who helped Christa during these transitions. **Thank you!**

☺ Christa’s goal is still to work with people in poverty somewhere in the world some day.

☺ Christa, now a working girl who grew up in the tropics wrote on Messenger to her parents who are in the tropics: “*We got done with clinic early today, so I actually get to see an hour of sunlight!!*”

Top Photo: Christa in her PNG “bilum” string bag hat rather than a Waldo hat.

Right: Christa in her work scrubs, mask and eye shields. Christa was thankful for the ability to quickly order warm long sleeve shirts to wear under her work scrubs. Please pray for Christa to learn her job well. She will be working with a new PA soon, so please pray for a good working relationship.



Giving Options for Financial Partnership:

TBT also has a very inexpensive and safe bank-to-bank transfer option!

1. For help, call Kim (TBT Office) at 971-231-4196.
2. **Online:** <https://tyndalebibletranslators.org/give/>
3. Or send a **check made out to Tyndale Bible Translators** with a **note attached** stating: “*for the ministry of Rich & Joyce Mattocks*” to:

Tyndale Bible Translators
6667 E 24th Drive
Everson WA 98247

