

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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A Tribute

My (Rich's) dad, Don Mattocks, entered his heavenly reward the day before Easter (Easter morning here in PNG) at age 91 (1933-2025). My dad prayed, tithed and also printed envelope labels for about 120 of these Mattocks Missionary Mosaic newsletters. He was part of our team to keep us ministering in PNG for almost 32 years (since July 1993).

Don Mattocks was born in Oklahoma into a non-Christian family. Dad came to know Jesus as his Savior shortly after I was born (the youngest of his three children). Unlike many in today's generation who practice "cancel culture", Dad did his very best to be respectful and visit his parents, even though his mom had severe depression before medication was available. Because both of his parents were extremely difficult people, we children were coached how to respond before grandparent visits. One of many such incidents I remember is when my grandfather did not hide his displeasure and refused to take me to the hardware store with my older brother Dave because he was ashamed of my limp. That was an early lesson in human nature to "consider the source". When I was in college, working on a social work degree, my oldest sibling/sister Cheryl told me, "Given the abusive background Dad grew up in, we are very fortunate that he did not abuse any of us, and he is faithful to mom." We attributed that to God changing Dad, and our mother's patience.

During my dad's college years, he changed from training to be a doctor to electrical engineering. He was drafted during the Korean War, serving at bases in California. After that, he was employed as an engineer by Boeing for 33 years, moving the family from Wichita to Bellevue. He worked first on the 727, then for decades on the team that continued to improve the guidance system for the SRAM 1 (Short Range Attack Missile, a nuclear missile that was never used). Dad disliked his 2-hour commute to work and many of his 33 years at Boeing, but he knew that staying in his good-paying job blessed his family. The engineering team he worked with helped with some of the calculations for several Apollo missions. It was his generation that also put a man on the moon using slide rules! His work helped keep the world safe and free for people like me to share the Gospel overseas, and allowed him to do more ministry in service and tithing. As a young father, he built much of our Bellevue house after work. His job enabled his three children to benefit from excellent health care. For me, that included orthodontics and the best care available for Cerebral Palsy (which I was born with). He loved his family to the best that he could considering that he grew up without good parenting examples. He served his community by donating blood for many years to both the yearly and lifetime limits. Even as an introvert, he served as a deacon and then as an elder in at least four churches he attended. He also served on the King County (then Washington State) Child Evangelism Fellowship boards, assisting with board training. A

number of those who served on boards with Dad told me how much they appreciated Dad's board work and insights. Shortly after retiring from Boeing in 1993, Dad and Mom moved to Warrenton, MO to volunteer full-time at the CEF headquarters, where he served as the overseas missions department bookkeeper for ten years. He rebuilt and maintained the CEF database spreadsheet of mailing addresses for Bible Studies by Mail in the days when it broke by exceeding the 100,000 record limit. After retiring again, my parents moved to Mead, WA and paid for an addition to be built onto an existing house where Cheryl and family still live. As a skilled builder, Dad completed much of the molding and trim work on the addition. Like many in his generation, Dad expected tools borrowed from him to be returned promptly and in good condition so he could use them without having to clean them up. His children and grandchildren who followed his wishes never had issues being allowed to use his tools.

When Dad came to visit us in Papua New Guinea for a week, we drove to some villages (see photo). Each time we drove out of a village, Dad quickly utilized a tiny bottle of hand sanitizer (after shaking many hands in each village). I told him, "*One of the hardest things for me to get used to in PNG is people pulling their finger out of a nostril and immediately shaking my hand. I only use sanitizer before I touch my face or eat. We probably have a hundred more hands before we get home today.*" Dad nodded slightly and tucked his hand sanitizer away till we ate our peanut butter sandwiches.



After moving to Mead, Dad volunteered as both the newsletter writer and bookkeeper for NW Trinity Project (which builds tricycle, hand-pedaled "Freedom Carts" for disabled people in developing nations). This has given mobility to thousands of poor people who previously had to drag themselves on the ground). Dad's newsletters helped bring in thousands of dollars in gifts over the years. These funds enabled the NW Trinity Project volunteers (mostly retired) to build these carts. Here is a plug: if you are reasonable at writing newsletters, and are interested in any volunteer role with the Trinity newsletter and mailings (or can cut wood, metal etc.), please contact me, and I will get you in contact with the right people.

Besides serving with the NW Trinity Project, Dad also prepared lessons and led a men's Saturday morning Bible study group in a restaurant (and since COVID, via Zoom). Dad and Mom had to move houses in November 2024. Shortly after the move, dad broke his hip, and the two hip surgeries seemed to put his dementia into overdrive, causing his death. Dad loved Jesus, and was faithful, steady and diligent in serving Him. He knew and lived one of life's secrets, that fulfillment in life comes from serving others, and he impacted thousands of lives. My prayer is that those of us still here will gain strength and use our gifts to live our lives to the fullest like my Dad did.

Thank you for praying for healing for Rich's wound on his right ankle (on his leg affected by Cerebral Palsy). The wound took 10 months and 4 rounds of antibiotics before it healed. **PTL—The nurse declared it “closed” and healed on April 2nd.** Nurses abraded it weekly for 8 weeks, (removed any unproductive skin to get new skin to grow), and alternated compression socks and tight cast-like wraps, Rich also used his “Tim’s unit” with its electric pads and God heard your prayers! We suspect that 2 of Rich’s 3 childhood foot surgeries, whose incisions were inches away from the wound, contributed to the venous insufficiency. Those surgeries stabilized his foot and ankle, and have kept Rich walking today. **Thank you for praying!**

Please pray for Joyce’ health! Since arriving back in PNG, Joyce has continued to lose much more weight and has developed painful neuropathy in both hands and feet. Recent blood tests taken here all are fine so far; her blood was also sent to Australia for more lab testing. Please pray for her to gain weight and get relief from both nerve and muscle pain. She is trying supplements and to eat as much as she can, but food options are more limited here.

PTL— The Gadsup language team has completed 70% of their revised New Testament (NT) audio recordings. All of us are looking forward to getting the NT on newly-purchased audio players. When they finish recording, they will work on spelling checks for the printed NT book.

Please pray for the Fore language team. The husband and wife who are the leaders of this team also run a passenger-carrying flat bed truck, which was in a fatality accident May 12, causing the loss of 3 lives. In previous weeks we had had several meetings to discuss solutions to make more steady progress on the NT audio recording.

The Benabena language team has made wonderful progress building a team of people while recording the Jesus Film and sorcery movie. Pray for several weeks of affordable housing in Ukarumpa each time we need to team and advisor check their Bible verses.

Please note: If you receive our newsletters via email, and have not received a our magnet prayer card yet, please send us an email or write Carol Holter at the address below with your updated physical address. Many of the magnets Carol has mailed have been returned because we haven’t received your new physical address change information.

Also, TBT has a new bookkeeper. If you don’t get a receipt for your gift, please call or send your check to the new address (Spokane Valley bottom right box) with a note stating your giving preference and need for a receipt.

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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

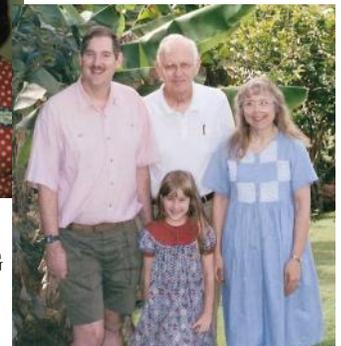
Is Rich coming home for a memorial service for his father to be with family? —No.

I, Rich, talked about it in separate conversations last fall while in the USA with my Dad, and again with my mom after Dad went to heaven. Both felt the family situation is not currently conducive to a memorial service.

Several of our PNG team members asked questions and made cultural comments like: *“If it were us, the entire village would descend on us and we could get physically hurt for not hosting a party to remember our dads. Things are starting to change here in PNG with just doing a party for only several days [not weeks], but we would still be in trouble, especially if we or a relative did not come and show up after the death...they could be accused of doing sorcery, causing the death.”* I explained that, *“I’m the youngest sibling, and going against my older siblings and my Mom’s wishes would get me in trouble; and no one is going to accuse me of killing my Dad by not showing up after he died...but not spending time when someone is alive is shameful in my culture. While I was in the USA I visited or called my father sometimes several times a week from June to January while he was alive.”* My mom called Christa during dad’s final week. Christa was there for one of his last coherent conversations before he died the day before Easter.



Above Left Photo: Dad, Rich and Mom in June 1980 at Rich’s high school graduation church dinner.



Right Bottom Photo: Don Mattocks (Rich’s dad) in PNG with Rich, Christa and Joyce (July 2004).

Giving Options for Financial Partnership:

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

1. For help, call or text (TBT Office) at 971-231-4196.

2. Online: <https://tyndalebibletranslators.org/give/Office@tyndalebt.org>

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
PO Box 14003
Spokane Valley, WA 99214

