

# Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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## **“I want to hear about the boat”...Thanks for asking...we NOW have a God-sized answer!**

Over the last five years, at times we have wearied of praying and staying the course, and believing that this God-sized Melanesia Boat Project was of God. I (Rich), as TBT director, dealt with doubts and flack from nearly all sides, but God knew the right time. **Praise the Lord with us: a wealthy Christian family has now funded the building of this boat**, which will probably cost about 7.8 million USD. The first aluminum cutting is scheduled for January (2025), which will hopefully start the estimated 14 month build. We are so thankful to the Lord for funding for this first boat. Other bigger agencies also see the need for this open-ocean, 16-person ministry-sized boat. It can travel across shallow reefs to go places the bigger ministry ships cannot, and make the bigger ministry ships even more effective. Other agencies have all said they will be watching our sea trials and ministry to possibly build their own boats. Please pray with us that God will use this ministry tool like he has used the 35 Kodiak airplanes serving in missions. These vessels will hopefully help save lives and encourage the younger generation to serve in missions and trust God to provide their needs as they serve.

## **Awa Video Update**

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), on August 26, the Awa language group’s video showing team reported **61 salvations in four villages** after showings of both the **Jesus Film and Ples i Bagarap sorcery reconciliation movie!** In a fifth village, where there is no church, the entire village stood to receive Christ! There was also high interest in listening to Awa Scripture recordings on audio players. In PNG, we worked to train and place the projection equipment with leadership. However, we ran into issues of despotism and greed with two of the five pastors, mostly due to the projector and showing equipment being extremely highly prized. Both Kossack and I had to have some really strong, intense talks with multiple pastors and villagers, after months of things previously going well. About the time we left for furlough at the end of May, there were weeks we feared the village showings would not happen. Kossack has continued to supervise the Awa video project in our absence, insisting on the rules we had all agreed to follow. We also removed two of the pastors from leadership of the showing equipment. At times, as I prayed, I asked God, “Was I too strong?” I took comfort from having known Dick and Aretta Loving (now

in Heaven) who had translated the Awa New Testament for this extremely remote people group. The Lovings told us stories of how they had to be very firm and direct with the Awa on many occasions. Thank you for praying for this long-term project which exhausted us before we left PNG.

**Yet another answer by God—with the Gadsup New Testament revision work in PNG.** The Gadsup translation team work was stalled before we started Tyndale and they asked us to help them complete a re-translation of the Gadsup New Testament (and some Old Testament). When they started audio-recording the Gospels, one of the Gadsup Tyndale-trained pastor-consultants found a frequently used connecting phrase was missing. The team wanted to revise again, which would slow down the recording work by months. They wanted my counsel and vote. After decades of watching the first Gadsup New Testament get rejected by the people (mostly due to expat missionaries controlling the writing system), my vote was “*Yes, do what it takes to get it right.*” In August, the first recordings (of the Gospels) on audio players were ready and sold to villagers. September 3rd, Kossack wrote on WhatsApp:



Joyce and Rich (center) with Gina, Nikki, Colton and James Nie in front of the 30 inch boat model on an August Sunday morning in Vancouver, WA. We announced for the first time that God had provided funds for this first boat in church!

*“Esther came in with a big smile on her face and shared some great news. [See her photo on page 2.] She successfully sold two copies of the MegaVoice players that I sent with her. She also brought in the payment for*

*another player. The feedback on the MegaVoice [Scripture recordings] has been positive. Most of the people who listened to it say it's clear and natural, even though it's in a different dialect. **Word about the revised version is spreading and there is growing interest as people are starting to ask for it.**” Praise the Lord!*

**Furlough Cultural Trivia.** Since being back in America, I (Rich) felt like Yauko (a Kamano team member). A few years ago, I watched Yauko as he picked up a can and puzzled over its contents. He then asked me what was in the can. I answered, “*Those are shelled peanuts.*” Yauko, who had eaten peanuts all his life, looked surprised and asked, “*You can buy peanuts already shelled?*” He’d never seen that in PNG! Since we have been home on furlough, experiencing new things after two years away, I especially have been so grateful for those patiently coaching me on the newer building technologies and codes in America!

**We hope to return to PNG mid-January. Our new USA cell phone numbers are on the bottom of page 2.**

PTL—the **Awa Jesus Film** and “**Ples i Bagarap**” sorcery movies are being shown in villages and producing fruit!

The **Gadsup** retranslation of the Gospels on audio players are being well-received so far! (See stories on page 1.) Right photo is Esther returning sales money from the first 3 Gadsup players sold.



PTL—Nico and Elly, along with Kamano-Kafe team members, Kossack and James, are keeping ministry moving forward in PNG while we are on home assignment in America until mid-January, 2025.

Pray for **new missionaries to come serve with Tyndale and live on the field long-term!!** Nico and Elly will be retiring in a few years (back to the Netherlands), and we will serve one more field term. Attrition in missions, with a lot fewer younger Christians serving in missions, is a huge challenge today!

Please pray for **physical healing for both of us.** (1) **Joyce** developed painful tendonitis in her right hand from days of repetitive tasks like painting, etc. (She finished the areas Rich needed painted i.e. the heat pump heads, kitchen and bathroom walls, but has had to stop painting.) **Pray for more volunteer painters to come help us (and electrical help).** (2) In July, Rich severely strained his back, but it has improved a lot with some rest and certain exercises. (3) **Rich’s left knee** (which he injured May 2022). He had an MRI and doctor consult in August and found out he has bone-on-bone with arthritis causing pain in the knee.

PTL and thank you to many friends who have come to Deer Park and helped us on our pole barn construction!...



**Above Photos:** Left: Bill & LaVonne made 3 trips to help with electrical, generator, painting and clean-up at our pole barn! Middle: Rich and Bill installed 4 Mr Cool heating/cooling computerized ceiling heads. Right: Rich placed metal over the wood foundation skirting before our 86-yr.-old neighbor, Joe, used his tractor to scoop excavated dirt and dump it against 3 sides of our pole barn to meet an occupancy elevation water run-off requirement. He and another friend helped mow down weeds also.

**Progress on our pole barn house and future office**

After our next field term (starting January 2025), we hope to continue serving from our pole barn office; then make shorter trips to PNG as long as we can. We have experienced God’s amazing provisions in the last few months since we landed in Deer Park May 30. We are so grateful for prayers, personal gifts, advice and volunteer help on our pole barn. **THANK YOU for sharing your prayers, talents, time and generous gifts with us!!**

Soon after we sent our June newsletter, we passed three inspections: framing, mechanical and “top out” plumbing (in the framing). At that point, we did not have the money to do insulation or continue the next steps, but God provided a series of miraculously timed gifts. A church paid for insulation (July), and friends paid for drywall, more plumbing and even paint (July/August). Because of tripled costs, we thought we were probably going live in the RV in the garage until January (when we head back to PNG), and only complete some insulation and no drywall. We passed insulation inspection in July, lived through “being dry walled” (being TP’s or taped is a piece of cake!), and had our cement door pads finished recently. We are now racing to complete the last requirements for final inspection: fire doors, enclose the stairs to the second “unfinished” floor and install a hand railing, electrical switches and lights, and build a working kitchen (cabinets are due from Home Depot late September). After these and other items are completed, we will apply for final inspection to hopefully get an occupancy permit to live in the house (downstairs).

**Furlough Needs:**

- If you can help us paint or do some electrical or other construction work, please call us. (See our USA cell phone #s below, left). Volunteer helpers have been so encouraging to us. (See photos below of some of the many friends who have helped us so far.)
- We need to move our permanent address to Deer Park and need someone close enough who would be willing to care for our mail while we are in PNG (pick it up, scan important papers and email them to us).



**Above Photos:** Left: Wendy helped paint. Middle: Pastor Justin refilled a trench in June, burying plumbing pipes 4-ft. deep from the utility room in building to the well head. Right: Kim helped install the attic hatch, 2 fire doors and, and more plumbing. We are so grateful for volunteer help God provided just when we needed it!

If you are unable to attend one of our presentations, and would like to hear Rich’s sermon report on the last two years, the following is a link that has the sermon and the power points imbedded in the video: [https://youtu.be/Z\\_UuR9xFA9c](https://youtu.be/Z_UuR9xFA9c) Start at the 11-minute, 30 second mark. Thank you to the tech team at Community Bible Fellowship in Kettle Falls for this recording.

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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

**Giving Options for Financial Partnership:**

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

1. For help, call or text Kim (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 922  
Blackfoot, ID 83221

