

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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“God, how can this ever happen?”

In 2014, while in the **Awa village** of Mobuta for two days (via helicopter), two pastors asked me (Rich) about dubbing the **Jesus Film** into the Awa language. I was in their village to get audio Scripture players distributed. The SIL Awa language translators, Ed and Aretta Loving, had revised the New Testament (NT). In their older years, they returned to Papua New Guinea (PNG) to help with the NT audio recording. However, they were not in good enough health to do this audio recording distribution. Later, a single lady, Liz, was assigned to Awa, but was unable to return to PNG. So, as the SIL Highlands Region Director, I headed up the distribution. I told the two pastors, “I can’t make any promises that the Jesus Film will be possible in Awa, but let’s pray. As the helicopter lifted off back to Ukarumpa, I prayed, **“God how can this ever happen?”**

Almost ten years later, this November (2023), because of a recent, unexpected Tyndale financial gift and because we have helped Kossack (our Kamano-Kafe audio-video team member) get certified this year by JAARS and CRU to record the Jesus Film, we were able to start the Awa on this project. We have been working extra hard to make this happen, getting pastors involved, organizing housing, food and logistics, and Joyce doing finances. Lord willing, I will get to tick off my bucket list yet another near impossibility. Because of our Tyndale requirement, we were able to recruit five Awa pastors from four different denominations, who spent weeks together in Awa translating two movies: **“Ples i Bagarap” sorcery**

movie and the Jesus Film. Representation from different churches will make it more likely that ownership and use of these movies will happen across the ten Awa villages and churches among the 4,000 Awa people group. (Some other agencies continue to attempt this with as few as one translator, who may or may not be a committed Christian.) My national team members and I continue to teach and exhort the revolving leaders from other agencies (who often serve just a couple years) to carefully choose who is involved and the potential loss of fruit.

Our days are full of many impromptu visits from nationals from different language groups. For example, Atiko (a Fore translator), came at eight one morning to get team

documents printed. She said, *“Sorry ‘Ritz’, we are going slower on the [NT] recording. We are playing the recording at the end of the day to Fore villagers, who are really enjoying coming to listen to the Bible chapters. Sometimes they give us better ways to phrase things, so we check if they are right and then we go back and change the text in Paratext, and then re-record it.”* I smiled and replied, *“Excellent work, Atiko. Keep doing that.”* As I walked away, I reminded myself, *“Ministry first, don’t follow your speed-driven culture. Good thing you told them to decide and they are in control, otherwise they could miss this opportunity for discipleship and Scripture text improvement.”*

Some numbers to praise the Lord for in 2023:

✿ From our step of faith to start Tyndale Bible Translators (TBT), in July, **2017. Joyce and I were the first two TBT missionaries**, after resigning from Wycliffe.

✿ **Fourteen (14)** Tyndale missionaries now serve **5 countries**. Lord willing, that will increase to **16 missionaries** and **6 countries** in December.

✿ **A \$2.5 million matching gift was pledged in October for the Melanesia Boat Project.** (Please share this matching pledge with those you know who care about the isolated people who need medical and other ministry on many Melanesia islands. We need advocates! Perhaps God will use you to help us get this boat built and into service).

✿ Since March 25, after the shipment of **2000 Kamano-Kafe Bibles** arrived in Ukarumpa, **490 have been sold**, in spite of a depressed economy with 100% inflation.

✿ We worked with **5 PNG translation teams** regularly,

and did **audio-visual recording projects in 3 more languages**. Teams have checked **209 chapters of translated Scriptures** and recorded **73 chapters this year**.

✿ **Two (2) Jesus Films** were completed (**Kamano-Kafe and Nomane**), and are being shown in their villages.

✿ **One (1) sorcery “Ples i Bagarap” movie was dubbed/recorded (Benabena)** and is being shown in villages.

✿ About **400 water filters** and **141 children’s school literacy kits** are with needy families.

✿ James and Rich **installed 5 solar and computer kits in 5 villages** to power computers and give light to draft and check Bible verses in 2 PNG languages.



An Awa team of five pastors in Ukarumpa hard at work typing their hand-written village translation of the sorcery movie into the computer. After I snapped this shot (Nov. 8th), I noticed a well-used Awa language New Testament (NT) on the table. Joyce and I were the village support team for the SIL Awa translators, Ed and Aretta Loving, from 1994 to 1998 while they spent several years revising and reprinting the Awa NT. We also coordinated their NT dedication 25 years ago (visitors’ helicopter flights and lodging, NT shipments, supplies, etc. into their remote village).

- ☞ **Pray for divine appointments for our team to sell the Bibles** in this depressed economy.
- ☞ **Pray for the current economic situation, which has caused increasing land disputes and village fights over land in PNG.** Several of our **team members** are currently suffering from these village and family-wide disputes.
- ☞ **PTL—the Benabena sorcery movie** is out in the community being shown. **Please pray that these showings will draw needed, quality Christians to join the NT translation team.**
- ☞ **Pray for both the Gadsup and Fore teams as they record their New Testaments, and for their pastor-consultants checking and those editing the books.**
- ☞ **PTL—the Binumarien team** is doing well with Tyndale people and James advisor-checking now in 1 Kings.
- ☞ For those who asked for an update about **Christa**, she is working for a homeschool website doing website maintenance, typesetting out-of-print textbooks, and doing some of the book illustrations for a science curriculum series.
- ☞ **PTL for Cliff (Joyce's brother) taking Wendy's place helping with our Deer Park pole barn building project** (e.g. he turned on the heater in the well pump house and took photos). **Wendy is still in a lot pain after knee surgery (Sept. 19). Pray for better sleep for Wendy.**
- ☞ **Pray for Carol (Joyce's oldest sibling, who sends out this newsletter).** She had lung cancer surgery in October and needs to start treatments soon. She depends on 2-hour rides to Spokane for many doctor appointments.

Note on our September Newsletter: we probably miscommunicated using "Retirement house" in our last newsletter. While God knows the future, **our intention is to continue to support God's work from Deer Park as long as our health and family needs allow.** With Rich's Covid shot injury, he has a lot more difficulty walking and needs railing on stairs. We feel this is God's leading to have a house to return to (without stairs) when we are in the USA. **We are hoping to take a 6-month furlough starting June/July 2024, and hope the house will be ready enough to live in by then.** Since Rich is still the Director of Tyndale and fewer younger missionaries are serving oversees these days, we are "planning" to return to PNG (where much of the TBT work is happening), for at least one more 2-yr. term before transitioning to shorter trips. (In 2021, several Tyndale board members had wanted us to stay in America so Rich could speak on missions and spend more time building TBT like directors of other missions).

This Christmas may you reJoyce as you celebrate our King's Advent, and as we together long for His return to Richly reign over His Kingdom!

For Personal Correspondence:

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Ukarumpa, EHP 444
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

(More mail is getting to PNG now, though 3-5 months later still!)

RichJoyce@Tyndalebt.org

Moving?

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

Carol Holter
2767 Pleasant Valley Rd
Rice, WA 99167

God's answers from our September newsletter!

Thank you praying!

- ☑ **PTL! God provided unexpected and humbling financial gifts** for our Deer Park house to make up for the doubling and tripling of building costs due to sudden inflation! *Thank you!*
 - ☑ **The septic and under cement floor plumbing are both inspected and complete.** Nothing could proceed without the residential permit, so completion was delayed.
 - ☑ Our pole-barn builder and general contractor had told us it was impossible to get a **residential building permit** without us returning to USA. Since we had already been misled, we decided to attempt to apply from PNG. The 20 plus detailed documents were not for the faint-of-heart to do without experience. The **residential permit was awarded October 17 PTL!** Crazy/miraculous things happened such as the HVAC forms required a licensed HVAC tech. We found a tech who knew how to fill in the Spokane County forms, but his supplier gave him the wrong model number which the county questioned, requiring us to re-contact the HVAC guy who amazingly called Rich as he was 4-wheeling over a ridge into a remote village. God enabled a clear call from the HVAC guy, who apologized and gave a new model number. (International calls like this just don't happen. Was God flipping switches?)
 - ☑ **PTL for warmer weather! Please continue to pray that cement work can be finished before freezing weather.** Our cement contractor started work Nov 21, and says he can use heaters while pouring cement inside the building in late November. Framing can start in December. (He will pour the outside door pads next spring).
 - ☑ Another **awesome answer to prayer:** while Rich was looking for a better cement contractor, Rich was referred to a bi-vocational pastor and general contractor who can frame and build inside the pole barn shell. He helped Rich with the final two undecipherable permit documents by visiting the office of the employee assigned to our permit, as he and Rich could not get ahold of her on the phone. He already knew her, as she had previously helped him with a problem on one of his previous permits.
 - ☑ Our licensed **electrician** friend saved us at least \$2,500 (according to our septic contractor). He took a 4-day trip to Deer Park to wire the septic controls and get them **inspected** by Spokane County. PTL for his volunteering mission work for us so we can serve in PNG.
- ☞ Please pray that God gets the glory in this project and in the 7 remaining **inspections to get occupancy permission.**

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

