

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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That was a Thanksgiving to remember!

Praise the Lord with us, we hosted five of Joyce's six siblings and their spouses (and Christa) for Thanksgiving lunch at our pole barn house. Back in June, we had only hoped and prayed for that really remote possibility that we could host Thanksgiving in our house (under construction). That evening, after everyone left, I (Rich) put the silicone on the sinks to seat them in the master bathroom counter top. I also received several WhatsApp messages from Papua New Guinea (PNG). James wrote the following. *"Hi Rich, Fore [language] consultant Orexen has finished the Revelation checking, praise God. Report from the "Ples i Bagarap" [sorcery movie]: Kagu village broke into two groups for sorcery killings and they were going to start the fight, but Orexen and his team went in and showed them the Ples i Bagarap video, and now the fight stopped."* Praise God, the sorcery reconciliation movie just saved between 2-20 more lives from more revenge killings! The dramatized movie moves through strained relationships, a fight, and a peace ceremony with the Gospel message. It is such a great teaching tool for the PNG culture and God chose to use it again. This news was a great end to my Thanksgiving evening! We often get late night messages from PNG due to the time difference.

We apologize for not calling you or visiting many of you. Thank you for your understanding!

During our home assignment, we continued some PNG field work along with Tyndale Director work. Joyce also continues her finance work. (Being PNG field director has meant impromptu calls for me, like in September when I was in a building store in the evening and stopped to have a 30 minute WhatsApp video call from Papua New Guinea while leaning on a display kitchen counter top.) We have visited and reported back to a number of our supporting churches, and have connected with family, but not as many of our partners as we had hoped. These past five months we have also poured many hours into building!

We hope to return to PNG in later January. If you would like to chat, call us soon (calling after 8 pm PST works best). Or if you are nearby, come for a short visit. (If we had a double bed for our guest bedroom, you could even stay overnight.) Our Deer Park address and cell phone numbers are on the bottom left of page 2.

Did you get the occupancy permit allowing you to live in your pole barn house yet?

Rich has a friend who loves reminding us: **"But God."** We would add, **"But God, in His timing, did it."** How Great

is our God! He is like no other! Praise Him with us! (I, Rich, was fist pumping and crying tears of joy!) Our house occupancy permit was approved October 18, but we waited until flooring was installed over the cement slab before moving into the house November 8-9. It has been amazing and amazingly HARD! I lost 21 lbs. working late evenings, and Joyce stopped weighing herself after she lost 10 lbs. It was really trying living over five months in the trailer in the garage while multi-tasking: working, building, and traveling to speak at churches. Using tiny tables in cramped quarters, I did Tyndale Director work while Joyce did finance work 4-6 hrs. per day for PNG language teams. We are SO THANKFUL to now be in our house office that has more space to be organized, and carpet on the floor. Two days before Thanksgiving, we finished laminating (with

rubber cement) the second kitchen counter (and the master bathroom counter). We are breathing a sigh of relief, knowing that we passed the codes required for occupancy of the downstairs house (codes change frequently, causing even the professionals to have trouble keeping up). I continue to do finish work (i.e. trim work). Our septic drain field is approved for only a two bedroom house, so it needs to be expanded and approved before we submit plans for finishing the future upstairs rooms. After our next field term we hope to continue serving from our pole barn house/office, and make shorter trips to PNG as long as we are able. We have experienced God's AMAZING provisions in the last few months since we landed in Deer Park

May 30 (when we were stepping through the 2x4 open framed walls). We are so grateful for your prayers, personal gifts, advice and volunteer help on our pole barn!

THANK YOU for sharing your prayers, talents, time and generous gifts with us!!

We learned something about God. In 1998, God blessed us in PNG when we built an extension on our Ukarumpa house. He gave us a kina currency devaluation allowing us to buy materials at 1/3 the previous price. We have done 27 years of ministry from that PNG house and translation office. We wondered what God would do as we built in Deer Park as prices tripled. God blessed this time in reverse, showing His power through skyrocketing building prices. We all did it together, and most amazingly with no loan or mortgage during a really difficult economic time period. We learned that God is not hindered by inflation. If He wants it done, it's going to be done. When God is on the move, we need to roll up our sleeves, work and hang on for the adventure. We think God also takes pleasure in all of us blessing each other, and do we ever have some fun stories of how you have blessed us!



Rich, Christa & Joyce: after hosting 8 family members for Thanksgiving lunch at our pole barn house. On November 9, we purchased this table with 6 chairs at Habitat for Humanity (shortly after they were put out for sale at a great bargain).

- ☞ **PTL! The TBT Melanesia boat** is nearly through the contract guidelines, steps and responsibility documents, and near the sign off with the boat builder and donor to start the build.
- ☞ **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 late January, 2025. **Pray for all of us to have the time to communicate, especially before Nico and Elly go on furlough in early March.**
- ☞ **Pray for us booking return flights to Papua New Guinea late January, along with travel mercies—no cancelled flights, connecting to SIL flight into Ukarumpa smoothly.** (There is a shortage of pilots and mechanics, as well as fuel rationing.)
- ☞ **PTL**—(1) **Joyce's tendonitis in her right hand has healed well** (after days of repetitive tasks like painting). Both of us had back issues from sleeping and living in the RV for 5 months, which are now nearly gone after sleeping on our memory foam mattress and having more room to navigate. (2) **Rich's Covid shot reactions have improved** with rigorous physical labor from our Deer Park construction this furlough.
- ☞ **Please pray for healing for Rich's sore (wound) on his right ankle** (his Cerebral Palsy affected leg), which hasn't closed since June when a cinder block scraped it. Months of continued bumping, crawling and dragging the leg around have continued to re-injure it. It is down to about the size of a quarter, but is not going away. Rich is taking hyperbaric chamber sessions to attempt to get it healed before the end of January when we plan to leave for the tropics.
- **PTL—a family less than a mile down the road from in us agreed to look after our mail while we are in PNG!** We had to move our permanent address to Deer Park in November (see address box below).
- ☞ **PTL and thank you to many friends and church volunteers who have come to Deer Park and helped us on our pole barn construction!!**

May God Richly bless you this Christmas season as we celebrate and reJoyce in His redemption for us, and in the joy that comes when we serve our King as his willing slaves, rather than his servants.

For Personal Correspondence & Visits:

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USA Cell phones:

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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

Pole Barn House –PTL for occupancy approval October 18. We moved into the house November 8-9! (See page 1 for more details.)

We are so grateful for volunteer help God provided *just* when we needed it! Rich also benefited from days of teaching from retired men like Kurt and Leland (a retired cabinet maker), who taught Rich a lot of better ideas as they helped install our kitchen cabinets and range hood-fan (Right photo: Leland cutting first kitchen counter that Rich laminated and installed, along with sink.)



Kurt, Joe and his son Jack and Dennis, graciously moved this excellent piano that Ann gifted us. They also moved a 5 ft. inherited lathe. Rich is enjoying Joyce playing the piano after dinner.



If you were unable to attend one of our presentations, and would like to hear Rich's sermon field 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 Start at the 11- minute, 30 second mark. Thank you to the tech team at Community Bible Fellowship in Kettle Falls for this recording.

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
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