

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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“Rich, God helped us! We think it’s a miracle!”

In early May, Kossack told me (Rich) on the phone, *“We had power all day! The solar panel lights showed full charge even when it was overcast weather. This happened four days in a row while recording!...God helped us! We think it’s a miracle!”* Kossack and James finished audio-recording 2 Chronicles using Kossack’s village home solar panels and truck-size battery we had purchased four years ago. We switched the team to full-time audio recording when the Prime Minister issued his new rules in April after a two-week isolation period in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Sarah, our Tyndale translation intern trainee, arrived in Ukarumpa March 18, two days before international travel closures, and without flight changes! PNG announced its first case of COVID-19 on March 20th, and on March 23rd the PNG Parliament declared a State of Emergency (SOE) with a 2-week isolation period. The SIL Ukarumpa center (where we live) locked down and closed departments on March 23. Since Sarah’s classes at the SIL Training Center were cancelled until at least June, I reworked Sarah’s training and taught her outside on our covered patio, following the PNG SOE rules. With God’s help, Sarah learned the computer translation program, translation and Scripture-Use principles. After PNG national schools re-opened, we made photo-ID entrance passes for our team to get them on center. On May 13, we resumed team translation in Isaiah again, but this time on our patio. Sarah got six days of translation experience with us before she flew out May 21. In spite of the lock-down, Rich spent many extra hours on the phone keeping our Kamano team doing ministry: OT recording, installing water filters for needy families, etc.).

Since mid-May, after over 1000 COVID-19 tests, PNG has only had 8 diagnosed cases and no deaths, and two of the eight people were hospitalized. After the initial 2-week isolation period, PNG continued to enforce closed borders to outside travelers, but wisely opened up domestic travel and businesses on April 6. PNG colleges and other schools opened up by May 4. PNG Parliament

will vote again on the SOE on June 2. The Lord has graciously protected PNG! One worldwide study published May 10th stated that the lower-income nations (with 50% of the world’s population) had experienced only 2% of the COVID deaths! This *seems unbelievable*, but as both an expat missionary doctor (who picked up water filters from us for a PNG hospital he works at*), and a missionary nurse (who works in another PNG hospital), told us independently of each other in nearly the exact words: *“There are so many other health issues people in PNG have to deal with that are far worse than COVID-19.”* Christa confirmed this by pointing out that **malaria kills at least 417,000 people worldwide each year**, which is still more than the 2020 COVID-19 total at this late May writing). Lower-income nations like PNG also suffer from TB, typhoid, and hepatitis...to name a few. PNG people are much more fit than most western nations: they walk long distances daily and do hard physical labor in their gardens. They have a much younger population, with a life expectancy of 64 for men and 68 for women. There are few obese people here, and not as many with comorbid health problems (e.g. diabetes and heart conditions). There is also a

possibility that the coronavirus was introduced in PNG in late 2019 by Asian workers, starting the growth of “herd immunity” in PNG earlier. At the December 2019 Kamano Christmas Camp, Chinese road construction supervisors were building a road and bridge project next to the camp site. These men could have transferred the virus to people in villages near camp and to the thousands who attended camp. Some PNG hospital staff have told us that they noticed a spike in respiratory cases in January. Those of you who read our January email prayer update may remember that we (Rich and Joyce) were both sick with a flu after camp. We have not been tested for COVID-19, but our symptoms were similar. Thank you for praying for us!

Tyndale Bible Translators is the PNG NGO distributor for Sawyer water filters. All 350 water filters we have purchased so far, using TBT gifts and our NGO discount, are blessing many PNG families, two hospitals and two health clinics. We are now getting requests for filters from two provinces away! **Thank you for your gifts!*



Top Photo: January—the Kamano team in our home translation office. **Bottom: May 13th**—translating Isaiah, working OUTSIDE now on our patio next to our translation office, seated with social distancing around our rarely-used folding ping pong table that Rich built 18 years ago. (The round, green discs at top-left are the tops of our 2 water tanks which collect rain water from our roof.) **Sarah, our translation intern**, got in six days of translation before leaving Ukarumpa May 21st (she arrived safely in Missouri May 23rd).

- ☝ **Praise the Lord** that the **Kamano-Kafe team** was able to come back **May 13th** to continue translation (starting in Isaiah 11) after the Ukarumpa center COVID lock-down. While not allowed in Ukarumpa, the team was able to continue to record parts in 1 Kings through 2 Chronicles.
- ☝ **Please pray for wisdom to translate Isaiah and the major prophets in the OT now, which is very challenging (with lots of picture imagery) and going slower.**
- ☝ **PTL—PNG has only had 8 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and ZERO deaths as of May 25, 2020.** The Prime Minister is a Christian and called for a day of prayer and fasting during the Government 2-week isolation time (March 23-April 6). **Please pray for the Lord's continued favor in this country, and for wisdom for those in leadership making pandemic decisions.**
- ☝ Tyndale Bible Translators (TBT, a 501c3) will be **3 years old June 26**. We held a TBT Board Meeting via ZOOM for 5 hours May 22/23, where much was accomplished. We are so thankful for the TBT team God has brought together to impact people for His kingdom. (P.S. To clarify some confusion: Even though Rich is Director, as faith missionaries, we still depend on our partners' gifts. TBT pays us from these gifts a Board approved 'capped salary' to comply with IRS Director rules.)



Left Photo: Sarah, Rich and Joyce in our backyard (under the clothesline). We praise God that Sarah left 8 days later than planned (due to limited Int'l flights and new COVID restrictions), and was able to get translation experience with our Kamano-Kafe team!

Right: Rich teaching Sarah, our TBT language intern, translation software on our covered patio (during COVID isolation days). Classes sometimes were interrupted when rainstorms came in sideways. Sarah (25) hopes to coordinate a Bible translation team in the language where her parents serve as missionaries in Central America.



Left: Joyce and Jayson (Kamano-Kafe coffee canteen manager/sales-man) on back patio finishing up finance balancing. (Here, Joyce is handing money to Jayson.) Our folding ping pong table has gotten used more during COVID isolation than ever before!!

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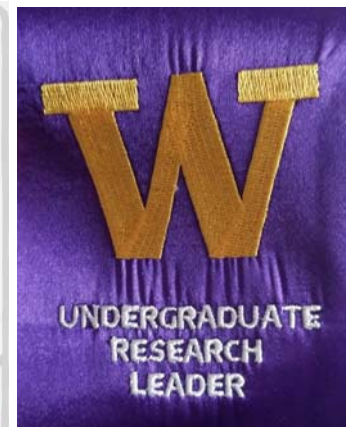
Moving?

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

Carol Holter
2767 Pleasant Valley Rd
Rice, WA 99167

☺ *Christa's Corner* ☺

- ☺ Christa gave her **malaria lab presentation** on May 7. You can watch her 3 minute "**Lightning Talk— Christa Mattocks**" on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOHuVkeJTL0&feature=youtu.be> Christa is nearly finished writing her undergraduate thesis paper.
- ☺ May 22nd (on Christa's 23rd birthday, during a WhatsApp call), Christa gave us good belly laugh: "*I played computer Pictionary today with some microbiology friends. I glanced quickly at my words to draw with my computer mouse. I thought it said 'Canadian monkey'.* Later, we all looked and it was supposed to be '**Canadian money**'! My friends all chipped in and bought me the game commemorative T-shirt that says: '**Canadian Money**'. [See Christa's Pictionary drawing below-left.]
- ☺ **Christa would appreciate your prayers for her post-graduation plans. On June 13th, she graduates (online) from the University of Washington (UW) with a BS in Microbiology and a minor in Global Health.** She plans to stay in Seattle to study for the MCAT and finish her required pre-med hospital volunteer program hours. In September, she hopes to take the MCAT, and after that apply to medical schools. Spring quarter she worked from home as a TA for a bio-chemistry class and also part-time in the malaria lab. Please pray for a job for her during this difficult time. (See the purple "**W**" photo below-right that Christa sent us with this comment: "*I have graduation cords but no gown.*")



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
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