

# Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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## Back to Papua New Guinea June 7th

These 4.5 months we have been in America have been **unique!** We have gotten some rest between the busyness. We wish we had had more time to visit or phone many of you, but with the amount we had to accomplish in such a short time, it just was not possible.

At the end of every furlough, we traditionally share some of the cultural changes we see in the USA. These last few months, we have been able to visit 12 churches, most of which Rich preached the sermon. We have come away very encouraged at the way these churches are all **pulsing with life and purpose**, and most have more young families with children and growing youth groups! God is clearly on the move. We have felt the people in attendance are more serious about building God's community in the midst of brokenness. The darkness and light are more pronounced in America, giving us Christians greater contrast to shine Christ's light. We have also noticed the exponential growth of, for lack of a better term, a subtle, modern cult worship that replaces our societies' need to fear God with the fear of damaging the planet earth. That fear is leading to cultural despair rather than hope that only a fear of God can bring.

Has anyone else noticed that the arctic sea ice this year is thicker than any time in the past 30 years? As we put metal siding on two old, weather-beaten OSB clad buildings in frigid April and May, we wondered if we had accidentally bought property on one of the polar ice caps!

Ever feel like God is leading you in crazy ways? It sure felt like it these last six months. Thank you for praying! The housing market has been discouraging as we watched housing prices rise 16-20% each of the last 3 years while we were overseas! Before we got married, we had made a commitment to do everything possible to save and to live without debt or a mortgage. With the increase in prices, it meant we could not afford anything we could host people in. We wanted enough space to be able to help other missionaries and any family in need with whatever the Lord allowed us to purchase. March 25, your tropical missionaries bought a flat 5.2 acre piece of property in Deer Park, 16 minutes from North Spokane, and the coldest place in this area. Our Christian real estate agent heard another agent mention the property and got us connected before it was listed. To avoid a bidding war, the property came with a 2009 RV trailer (which had been a full-time living space for most of its life). It has a well, power, septic and drain field already

on the property, which supported a mobile home that was removed four years ago by previous owners. It also has four outbuildings on the property: a small "well house," a 8x12 ft. tool shed, a 20x27 ft. pole barn, and a 10x20 ft. almost new storage shed. (**Thank you** to the families that stored our belongings in various barns these past 29 years!) Joyce carefully saved the equivalent of the storage locker rental fees over the years as part of our attempt to purchase a home after we can no longer minister overseas. The old pole barn, with a dirt floor and horse sod, has been 1/3 chicken coop and 2/3 horse stable. We are going to attempt to mothball our Honda Pilot in the pole barn and pray that the vermin find tasty things elsewhere to chew on while we are overseas for about the next 2 years (we don't know exactly how long).

So what's next? Since a 1,500 sq. ft. house would cost around \$425,000, we toured five mobile home dealers, all of which have more than doubled in cost. By the time we would get a mobile pit set (pit setting avoids stairs), it would cost well over \$300,000, with delivery at least 12-18

months out. A metal pole barn garage with a living space on the main floor was the next lower-price option, then a trailer or a yurt. God connected us with a pole barn-house builder. We have agreed on plans, and have enough money saved for him to build a pole barn shell with doors and windows to make it lockable. We are currently #8 on his list, so hopefully he and his team will build between November and next March, and then a friend will back the trailer into it. While in PNG, we hope to be able to save enough to add plumbing, then a cement floor. Later, as the Lord provides, we want to build a living space inside one end with no stairs (all wheelchair accessible).

Since the land has no house yet, our taxes are much lower. Pray that God will get the glory and enable us to continue to build without a mortgage. We are thankful for your prayers and help in this adventure! The possibility of church short-term mission trips did cross our minds. Please also pray for Wendy, who has agreed to be our "general contractor" while we are in PNG.

What happened with the **sorcery movie in the Gadsup language**, which we wrote about in March? The stories continue to return from team members. God seems to be using the movie beyond our hopes to challenge villages, some of which had already seen the movie in the trade language. **Thank you for continuing to pray for the Gadsup language people**, who have experienced the devastating impact of village wars and sorcery accusations over this last decade.



In May, Rich turned 60 and Christa 25. Above, Christa is opening presents in a restaurant. It was good to get some family time together after over two years. As his birthday present, Rich invited the prayer warriors from Joyce's family to have a chance to see the property, so we hosted them in our 35-foot trailer. Rich was also given several extra cards that had been "returned to sender" from PNG during the pandemic!

- ☞ **Christa asked us to pray for the Lord's guidance in direction for her next employment and education steps.** She is currently doing virtual medical scribing and living in a studio apartment in a safer area of Spokane.
- ☞ **Pray for the Kamano-Kafe team to finish their final read-through editing this summer, and for Rich to be able to resolve some Kamano-Kafe spelling errors in 4 widely misspelled words that were propagated across the text by a computer error.** Then Rich can finish the typesetting and get the full Bible to the publishers.
- ☞ **Give praise with us that Joyce's passport visa typo was resolved by getting her a PNG visa extension in mid-May, allowing us to buy tickets to return to PNG June 7! Please pray that our next three-year work permits will be approved quickly without more stress and hours of documentation.**
- ☞ **Pray for safe travels June 7-10th to PNG. Pray for negative results on the required PCR COVID test 72 hours before we fly. This trip will again be 52 hours, with 5 flights and over 20 hours of layovers going the long way around the globe; then up into the PNG Highlands on a SIL Kodiak plane on Friday, June 10.**
- ☞ **Praise the Lord! Tyndale now has 12 adult missionaries.** However, it does increase our work load. Our Tyndale Board has had discussions about when it will be possible for us to step back from full time language team work to devote more director time to growing Tyndale. After Rich's vaccine reaction, he dropped from working 60-70 hours a week down to 45-50. **Please pray for more new missionaries on the foreign field to help us with translation team advisor work and financial and government paperwork.**
- ☞ **Thank the Lord with us that all of our medical-dental-eye needs have been accomplished.** We are grateful for missionary housing and finding a used car to purchase at a good price during our short 4.5 month furlough in Washington state.
- ☞ **Praise that we were able to purchase a 5.2 acre property in Deer Park (north of Spokane).** We were able to withdraw our life savings just before the stock market's downturn to purchase the land! The property currently has storage sheds and a 35-ft. RV-trailer (no house). (See page 1 for the story.)

July 2nd we celebrate 30 years  
of God's faithfulness  
since we arrived in  
Papua New Guinea.

#### For Personal Correspondence:

**Rich & Joyce Mattocks**  
**January 11-June 6:**  
 c/o 7127 E Day Mt Spokane Rd  
 Mead, WA 99021-9042  
 Rich's USA cell: 509-414-3007  
 Joyce's cell: 509-414-3960  
**After June 6th: Email!**  
 (No postal service in PNG yet)  
**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

#### Goodbye to our special pet, Cinnamon.

In PNG, when Christa was 11, we as a family agreed to get a female cat. Christa selected Cinnamon because she was licking her siblings.

**Cinnamon, born April 15, 2008, died March 18th, 2022 at nearly 14 years old.** The average

life span of a cat in PNG seems to be between 6 and 12 months. She was mother to many litters of kittens that we gave to other missionary families and village families to kill rats. When an infected uterus nearly killed her in 2017, God provided 5 missionary veterinarians on a short term mission trip to perform surgery on Cinnamon. Afterwards, she could not have kittens, but continued to kill big rats, and became adept at stealing and hiding the kittens from our other mother cat we kept from her 10th litter. Just as the pandemic started, February 2020, she broke her right front leg by fighting off several dogs. We had watched her face-off and outsmart many large individual dogs in the previous 13 years. That



broken leg made her become an inside cat during the pandemic. Cinnamon was smart and sweet, truly one of God's amazing creations! Even with a broken leg she purred a lot during her last 2 years, giving great emotional support during the pandemic. She reflected her Creator and fulfilled her God given job in amazing ways. Cinnamon was sitting in the window watching us as we departed January 7th to the USA, and we knew she might not survive before we returned, but it is still hard saying goodbye to a great pet and friend!

November, 2019, we adopted a new kitten, **Butterfly**, to be our outside rat catcher and produce more kittens. She preferred to be petted before eating! January 20, 2022, she died from kidney failure (maybe from eating a poisoned rat). She had stopped nursing her 5th litter of 3 kittens

just before they were 6 weeks old. Fortunately, the kittens were eating food by then, and survived. One of her kittens, "Ai Pas" (blind) was born without eyes. The village family that adopted him has reported that he has

already killed 2 rats! **David**, a single missionary, graciously stayed in our house these past 4.5 months. We asked him to keep the one female, Suzie, from Butterfly's last litter. David is a sensitive guy, and burying 2 of our cats has been hard for us all!



#### 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

