

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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“Thank you, thank you! Without you being here, we would not have been able to do this.”

Corina spoke those words May 15 as Joyce and I (Rich) were driving Corina after dinner to the house where she was staying the few days she was in Ukarumpa. As I drove I prayed, “God, thank you for making every piece work.” A few weeks before, I had driven as fast as legally possible through thousands of potholes to get Corina’s Nomane recording team to meet the SIL helicopter 2.5 hours away. When we left Ukarumpa, the helicopter flew about 80 feet directly over our truck as I drove the team to meet it in Goroka. This is the stuff action movies are made out of, but the movie director would replace me with someone 30 years younger. The whole thing is still a head shaker, as **we all pushed the envelope for God as He, just in time**, took care of every detail.

Corina came to Papua New Guinea (PNG) originally in 2011. At that time I was the SIL Highlands Regional Director (RD) and shared with Corina the need of the Nomane language people and Bible translation work.

Corina accepted the challenge and also helped me by facilitating the Agarabi language Jesus Film recording. Because of COVID19, health and family issues, Corina was delayed returning to PNG until early 2022 (while Joyce and I were on a five month furlough). At that time, Corina visited our national team in Ukarumpa, thanking them for their sorcery movie and its impact on Nomane villagers. She heard about our hoped for future plans to train Kossack to record Jesus Films, so she asked Kossack to dub the movie into the Nomane language.

Corina arrived back in PNG this year, April 19; at the same time, her Nomane co-translators were hiking and fording rivers for days. When they got to a road, they took a “bus” (a flat bed truck) to Ukarumpa, arriving exhausted on April 21, to record the narrator and Jesus parts. A few days before, Kossack and I went to the SIL Highlands Office and discovered the thefts of recording studio and our village recording kit equipment I used to supervise for SIL. (The current SIL RD, in the USA, had asked me to go with Kossack and search for a reported missing laptop.) Fortunately, the small 110v generator and extension cords stored in the rooms were not stolen (we use 220v here). Kossack had previously used this equipment five times to record the sorcery movie in five other languages. Another missionary and we had tithed to buy that equipment to support Highlands village recording ministry. So, Kossack and I scrambled to find equipment for him to use to record

Nomane both in Ukarumpa and the village. (New equipment takes about six weeks to air mail to PNG.) God gave us **just enough** equipment! They recorded long days that weekend and early the next week. By Tuesday, several different missions had canceled Corina’s booked Thursday flight to the remote village airstrip. Aircraft flyovers reported that the grass was not cut and it lacked a windsock. When I called Corina Tuesday afternoon, she was in tears. We prayed. A few days before, I “**just happened**” to have talked to Tim (SIL helicopter pilot) who had “**just happened**” to call to ask Joyce to play the piano for the church service the next Sunday. Since Tim and I had previously been in SIL administration together, as Joyce came to the phone, we quickly updated each other on our current work. I mentioned Nomane and Tim told me that he was scheduled to do morning shuttles near Nomane area that week. After that call with Corina, I called Tim at home finding out the shuttles were the next morning. April 26, in the early morning mist, SIL aviation weighed Kossack, Corina, the three Nomane men, generator, recording equipment and my fuel drums with 40 liters of gas that I’d “**just hap-**

pended” to fill up a week before for our lawn mower and distribution motorcycle. It all “**just happened**” to **weigh exactly** the 440 maximum kilos the helicopter could take! By noon, we arrived at the Goroka airstrip **just as** Tim flew in from his last shuttle. **Praise the Lord that God provided a way into the Nomane village to record the rest of the voices!** As I got back in my truck and watched the helicopter take off, I prayed, “Lord this has got to be YOU. We can’t do this! You know how fast we were packing equipment after recording yesterday evening and this morning. Please help the equipment to keep working.” The villagers viewed the recorded (but not final edited) Nomane Jesus Film with great excitement, even the

young children sat still watching. The rest of our fuel was used to cut the airstrip, and Bruce Anderson donated a windsock. Then, on May 10, Corina and Kossack were able to catch the return flight that had taken Bruce to the Folopa village, which was far less expensive than using the helicopter. To legally land, they had to burn smoky fires at both ends of the grass airstrip. The weeks they were in the village were full of airstrip related emails and texts.

Pray for the Nomane Jesus Film to teach the people in the coming years as it is distributed. Kossack finished editing and has submitted his second recorded Jesus Film. Corina flew back to the USA May 19 to be on time for her scheduled lab tests on a growth in her throat. **Please pray for Corina’s health** and for God’s peace and mercy.



Photo: Pilot, Tim (left) taking measurements and photos of the Nomane airstrip to submit to reopen the closed airstrip. In the meantime Kossack was transferring petrol from flight-approved containers back into my containers.

PTL! July 2nd will mark 30 years since we arrived in PNG. Wycliffe mission administrators sent us for an initial two-year term because of Rich's Cerebral Palsy and Joyce's allergies. That's God's grace! **We are so thankful for the amazing, amazing, amazing families and church partners who have prayed and tithed to keep us serving in missions three decades!** This past few years have been especially hard for us to see friends and supporters graduate to Heaven because of old age. A couple have put us in their wills for gifts. Thank you! That is keeping us serving. (Rich just turned 61 May 19.)

Please PRAY for our PNG bank's malfunction! On Easter weekend, the new director of the largest bank in PNG implemented a major website "upgrade" with major glitches that are still not fixed! This has caused massive misery and incredibly long lines. Many other missionaries and people have spent 4-7 hours standing in the bank lines. Joyce and other people have shed tears. Joyce is able to occasionally do some work-arounds on our account sites to make some transfer payments to our co-workers and pay a few bills. At least our balances have thus far remained correct, as the news has said thousands withdrew more money than they had! These accounts are NECESSARY for Joyce to do TBT finance work to pay our bills and translators' stipends! In 2019-20, it took us 79 emails, 11 in-person trips to this bank to get our TBT mission account opened. They said that they could no longer get checks, so we were not issued hard copy checks, which we sure could use now! Rich's dad, a former engineer, says, "To error is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer." **Pray that this bank fixes its online banking SOON, as the chaos started at Easter!**

Pray that the literate people who want a Kamano-Kafe Bible will hear about it and be able to save their money to purchase a Bible. Pray for creativity, God-directed interactions and success as our team sells the Bibles.

PTL—the Government waved the import taxes on the Bibles of over \$8,000!

PTL—The Fore Team has finished advisor-checking the New Testament with Elly May 24. *Thank you for praying* as the team continues to resolve consultant-checking notes.

Pray for the Gadsup team as they begin to train and schedule voices to **record the book of Matthew**, and for one of their team members to speed up resolving consultant changes in other books.



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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

(Some mail is getting to PNG now, though months later!)

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

The Kamano-Kafe Bibles arrived March 24!

In PNG, many staples have increased significantly in cost in the past year (i.e. rice doubled in cost, and a bar of soap went from 23 cents to 52 cents). Inflation has caused families to tightly hold their money. April 5, the day we launched the full Bibles with a prayer dedication, it was wonderful to see the Kamano-Kafe church leaders excitedly ask for 280 copies to take to sell to the Kamano population. We have reports of 49 sold so far from just our team. The sales of the Kamano-Kafe Bibles have been steady, but slower for a Bible selling for \$5.80 (a day's wage is \$5.60). In late May, James said, "I got a call from a person in Hamena who wants a Bible. I will take four in case others want one." Minutes later, Franky (our motorbike distribution salesman), told Rich he was meeting a teacher at a school who had called him to bring a Bible to buy.

I've told our team about my (failed) experience early in college selling kitchen knife sets during the 1980 recession. We were instructed to get friend referrals from satisfied customers because we were selling an expensive item. I told the Kamano team not to expect the Bible to sell fast like a lower-priced impulse purchase would sell. We had discussed the economy last year and cut the price of the Bible in half as we prayed about what God wanted us to do. **With their families having far less money, we need to be patient and we appreciate your prayers for divine appointments!**

Right photo: Six pallets (5.25 actually) of Kamano Bibles arrived March 24 in Ukarumpa! Joyce, Rich, James, Nathan, Kossack and Jayson (not in photo) hustled for 6 hours to get the 495 boxes into storage. **We finished 15**



minutes before torrential rains started—PTL! (We smiled when we realized we had owned this same storage shed #5 from 1994-1999 (when we did not have a house), before SIL ruled that all home-owners had to sell their sheds so other missionaries without a house could rent storage. We are now able to rent it for \$17 a month to store most of the Bibles.) Rich and Jayson made trips driving the boxes from one full pallet to our house while Joyce numbered the other boxes being loaded into the shed.

Left Photo: Pastors and leaders praying over Kamano-Kafe Bibles at our April 5th prayer & Bible launching meeting.

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

