

# Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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Rich & Joyce Mattocks; Mailing address: 30818 N Austin Road Deer Park WA 99006

## A “sprinkler” accommodation to start our 8th furlough after 31 years of missionary service!

We arrived in Spokane May 29 for a 6.5 month home assignment; we hope to return to PNG mid-January. **Find our new USA cell phone numbers on the bottom of page 2, and our new prayer magnet card is pictured here.** On May 30, we started dry-camping in the 2009 Sprinter trailer that came with our Deer Park property. Friends parked the trailer in our pole barn garage in April. After we hooked it up, it had enough water and sewage leaks to be a **sprinkler!** This newsletter is late because of a myriad of refugee-like set-up issues, and answering a lot of spiritual questions from the young builder who worked on our utility room till June 10. Our contractor had promised to finish the utility room before we arrived, but we had to wait an extra week to have a working shower, toilet, sink, washer and dryer. We have painted the first undercoat so far. It took two years for builders and volunteers to get us to this stage in **building our pole barn house. Thank you each of you who have helped us!!**

A special thank you to Wendy, who has helped with our Deer Park property (i.e. by taking pictures and cleaning up after sub-contractors). She told us, **“You will never lack for projects on this property!”** This made me (Rich) reflect on one of my heroes, Everett Martin (now in heaven), who had survived WWII tank machine gun fire and bouts of cancer. Everett and Vi hosted us in their Spokane basement apartment for two of our eight furloughs. When Everett was in his 80s, he was often gone building a new cabin in Idaho, along with building an electric power station on the property (which provided power for his cabin and a local utility). One time after they returned to their Spokane home, we heard scraping upstairs. We found Everett on his knees installing a new tile floor. When we mentioned how hard he was working, he responded with his usual cheerful countenance, **“If I stop moving, I’ll die. I have to keep moving!”** We thank the Lord for the great mentors and friends God has put in our lives. There is a method to our madness with this property, especially with the amount of computer/desk work we do. Doing construction clean-up and building is better exercise for Rich’s Cerebral Palsy than any weight room/gym.

Please come visit us and roll your eyes at **our many opportunities to keep moving.** We hope the exercise will extend our Kingdom service. However, **what we need most now is more prayer support!!** A number of our partners, friends and dear saints who prayed fervently on our behalf have graduated to heaven during the last few years. This last field term, as we finished the full Kamano-Kafe Bible and opened translation work in other needy languages, we experienced a lot more spiritual attack and have really felt the loss of their prayer support. **Never discount your partnership in prayer!!!**

**What is a working director?** Most foreign missions the size of TBT (14 missionaries) have a USA-based director who is *not* actively involved in daily field activities. These past two field terms, we have striven to empower our national team members to work towards sustainability, so this 6.5 month home assignment is partly a continued effort at field sustainability. We’ve had a very demanding field term and are looking forward to seeing family/friends again, and reporting back to our sending partners! Because I (Rich) am the TBT director, and Joyce is my assistant and PNG finance manager, we will still be taking care of many TBT duties while in the USA. While we *are* handing off as much as we can, there is a Melanesian cultural problem: people in PNG push the hard things upward or ignore them in order to keep relationships peaceful. I have spent years teaching nationals that responsibility to act and the authority to make

decisions need to be with the same person. One interim solution I’ve told my team members for years is: **“I’m giving you both my ‘yes’ and my ‘no,’ if some one asks you to do something you need to say ‘no’ to, just say, ‘Rich said ‘No’, so just blame me.”**

We heard a preacher recently say, **“If you are not getting resistance, you are probably not in the will of God.”** Building God’s Kingdom these past two-years in PNG has been hard and exhausting, yet rewarding. The full Kamano-Kafe Bible was completed, dedicated and

distributed; and people have been saved. However, our tears have also run often with the immense road blocks, *constant* challenges and flack we’ve faced the last three years.

**‘Secret sauce’ in missions?** Many of today’s young people want to do significant things with their lives, yet don’t want to do hard, repetitive or risky tasks. We have found that *faithfully* doing insignificant things to a painful, repetitious ad nauseam is what leads to significant accomplishments. From 2005 to 2022, our team’s tenaciousness led to completing the **Kamano-Kafe Bible. Worldwide, it was in the first 105 languages fully audio-recorded and in use out of 6,800 spoken languages, an amazing accomplishment!** Many mission organizations today are trying to get attention by waving their plans around to generate interest as if the plans are already accomplished. The Christian community is not noticing the many plans and promises that missions abandon or never start. After almost 31 years on the mission field, we see the lack of results from many abandoned plans that lacked both God’s input and/or tenacity to implement them. Being a rare director also working on the field, we have taken flack for not advertising flashy ideas and spending more time hobnobbing with other mission directors in conference hotel meetings, often in exotic locations. Please pray that our decision to forego conferences and stay with the national teams bears fruit. **Also pray for Tyndale to be able to recruit young Christians willing to invest their lives sacrificially in overseas missions;** ones who will be tenacious in doing hard or humanly insignificant things that lead to eternal results for Jesus.



Thank you for praying for the **Fore and Gadsup language groups recording their New Testaments**. Also pray for their pastor-consultants checking and editing their translated Scriptures. The **Binumarien** team is progressing well, with James advisor-checking in 2 Chronicles. The **newly-formed Benabena team** has completed translating Luke and is starting to draft the New Testament. **Pray for more godly team members** (they are choosing team members slowly and carefully, which is important).

PTL—When we left Ukarumpa May 27 to fly to the USA for furlough, four TBT language teams were attending a CRU Jesus Film script-fitting and translation workshop with Kossack leading them for recording sessions later this year. God allowed long-range plans to come together for these teams. PTL—the **Fore, Gadsup, Benabena and Guhu-Samane have finished the book of Luke**. A 5th language, **Tok Pisin** (PNG trade language) was being retranslated for the upcoming Jesus Film dubbing, with James Aseo as team leader. CRU asked Rich and Kossack to select the national trade language translation team. Because the CRU workers live in New Zealand (instead of on the field), this has meant lots of extra work for Rich while in PNG. **Pray for mission workers to come serve and live on the field long-term!!**

Continue to pray for the current economic situation in PNG with 100% inflation, which is causing increasing social unrest and roadside robberies, making it less safe for team member to travel.

Please pray for the Enga people who suffered the landslide in May. The Enga New Testaments just came from the print-shop and will have multiple dedications in the next few weeks.

PTL—the Awa Jesus Film was finished and approved mid-May. Getting the video showing equipment back to a remote location like Awa was a risky venture (the men had to walk over mountain ranges for 3 days with risks of being held up by criminals). They made it and are very excited to start showings!

Praise the Lord that our 2003 Honda Pilot started! We had stored it in the old horse pole barn with chicken coop on our Deer Park property for the past two years. The car also collected a lot of mice droppings and odors! We also stored Bruce Anderson's work vehicles for a year until he sold them while in the USA last year.

PTL! In June, a partner gave Joyce an electric keyboard to use on furlough. The offer of a piano will wait until we have the house approved for occupancy—insulation, walls, heaters).



Left: Suzie (our PNG cat) watching Joyce playing piano during our Thursday night Bible study singing time. Amy took this photo and emailed it to us with this subject title: "Piano Lessons".

Below: Sometimes Suzie jumps up on the piano and relaxes as Joyce plays the piano after dinner.



Progress on our pole barn house and future office — Thank you for praying and giving!!

PTL! Framing inside the metal shell was completed early February. Top-out plumbing (above the cement) was barely started in mid-February with trenches dug in a window of great weather, but then the plumber left for almost 3 months to do other jobs! We lost 8.5 months of work due to delays from plumbers over the two years! The plumber restarted the last day of April. Our General Contractor noticed a violation of a newer code in the utility room which requires 36 inches width in the walkway between doors. (None of our other builders or inspectors who approved our house plans had caught that!) He made a quick decision to move the shower to under the stairs in order to give a 36" wide path to the exterior door. To proceed with building, Rich filed the required plan revisions that needed to be approved the afternoon before we left PNG! We dry-camped in the trailer (hauling water in/out) for 9 days until the utility room had a utility sink, shower, toilet, washer and dryer installed. Dry walling was completed June 7, and we painted the first under coat the next day. Dry-camping was partially caused by the young man we allowed to stay in the trailer in 2022 for a few months. When he was offered a room in someone's house during winter months, he left without telling us or Wendy and failed to re-winterize it again. (He has since been disciplined by his church for other behaviors and has disappeared.) So we came home to our Sprinter "Sprinkler" instead of Sprinter Select. PTL a retired elder from Foothills Community Church (who had RV experience) volunteered 3 days to trace and repair the leaks, replaced the kitchen sink and bathroom faucets and toilet valve. We have (cold) running water (in the correct places now), and hot water in the utility room in the garage.

PTL—We were so grateful for our retired, volunteer electrician friend, who did an amazing job in April. He has been a great encouragement and mentor for Rich. (Working with contractors from 6000 miles and not being on the property in-person is a bit similar to being blind.) Jim's electrical work went fast, on schedule, and was less than half the price it could have been. We are also grateful for a group of Foothills Community Church volunteers who came and helped several days with digging and filling in trenches. Thank you all!

We are currently waiting for a worker to install our heating and cooling system. Then comes framing and mechanical inspections, We won't have much money left after those steps because of doubled top-out plumbing and other costs. PTL—a church will help us with insulation costs, which we need to get done before winter!! Since we've only had 2 days of vacation during the last 2 years, we plan to take vacation days to do as much of the work ourselves (want to help?). We hope to start some drywall before returning to PNG.

**Furlough Needs:** If you want to help us insulate, paint, or dry-wall (etc.), please email or call us (see cell phone #s below left).

We are so grateful for some financial gifts towards completing this building, which we hope to use to continue to support Tyndale Bible Translators mission work. If you desire to give any personal gifts (not tax deductible) for this Deer Park house, you can make out a check to Rich or Joyce Mattocks and send it to our Deer Park address.

#### Giving Options for Financial Partnership:

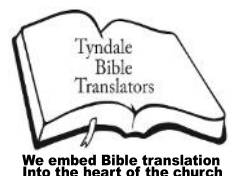
TBT has a very inexpensive and safe bank-to-bank transfer option!

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



#### For Personal Correspondence & Visits:

Rich & Joyce Mattocks  
30818 N. Austin Road  
Deer Park, WA 99006-9320

#### USA Cell phones:

Rich: 509-868-1869  
Joyce: 509-868-3086

[RichJoyce@Tyndalebt.org](mailto: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