

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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“I cried, the movie is so true. This will help my people.”

Kossack and I had been trying for weeks to contact people in two language groups—the **Kanite** and the **Tairora**. After weeks of failed phone calls and missed connections, Kossack had returned from the capital city where he’d been recording the *Jesus Film* in several other languages. He was able to make a phone call and connect to the man who had translated the **Kanite sorcery reconciliation movie** script and asked if the Kanite team could come the very next day. (The cultures we serve are often very impromptu!) They said yes, and estimated they could reach Ukarumpa around 3:00 pm.

At 6:10 pm, Joyce and I had just sat down to dinner after a long day, when the five Kanite men, hot and sweaty from traveling most of the day, walked up to our door. They apologized that their phones had been lost, broken, or stolen, making it nearly impossible to coordinate their arrival and the recording of the sorcery movie. Joyce quickly took them to the rented house next door and got them settled for the night while I tried to contact Kossack. The cell network wasn’t working (which is common), so I ended up sending a text letting him know the team had arrived safely.

Throughout the week, I made multiple trips to Kainantu (the nearest town) to collect the next groups of five to seven Kanite people. Early Saturday morning, after dropping one group off, I drove back and pulled up next to James, who was walking with his youngest son. Kossack had asked if this boy could speak the child’s role in the Kanite recording—the part his older brother had played in the Kamano video. He agreed and they jumped in. It took more coaching since the boy spoke Kamano-Kafe naturally instead of Kanite. But with only a few lines, it worked.

Stuck in Translation – Part 1

In May, while Joyce advisor-checked verses in 1 Corinthians with the **Benabena team**, she came to passages about “sexual immorality” where the translators had substituted vague phrases like *“not a good action.”* Osopha (the elderly team leader) objected: “That would be too inappropriate to put that in our Bible. We can’t say that.” Joyce responded: “Yes, it’s hard to read words like that. but even Jesus said things that offend us and (He) confronts us about our sins so we know the truth. If you do not translate this accurately, your people will read it in English and Tok Pisin and reject the Benabena Bible because it does not accurately say what Paul and Jesus actually said.” Joyce showed them the Greek and English translations,

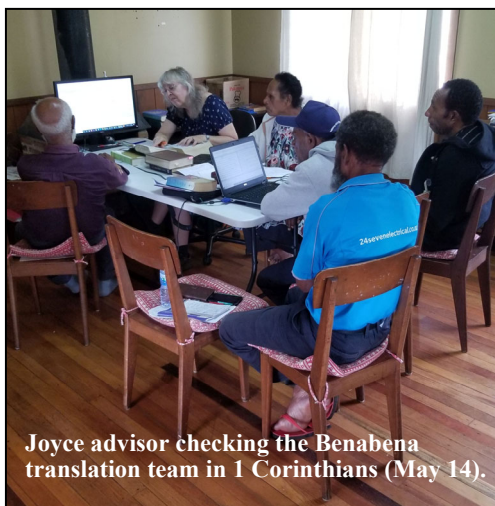
and they still took 15 minutes to discuss if they were going to translate it accurately! Then they asked, “Is it in the original (Greek)?” Joyce again showed them on the monitor, and finally the team agreed. They chose the correct Benabena word, and then had to correct it many more times in following verses. The Benabena language has a much more limited vocabulary than other languages we have worked with. Joyce often reminds them to update their “Key Terms” list when they find words (i.e. gift, envy, proud).

Stuck in Translation – Part 2

In April, Joyce was working with the **Gadsup language team** in one of the old, brick 8 X 10 ft. translation cubicles in Ukarumpa. Decades ago, these cubicles were full of translation teams, but now most sit empty due to the lack of missionaries to help language groups translate Bibles! *(Please pray that God would ignite a passion in our churches and their young people for Bible translation, so every language can have access to God’s Word in their heart language.)*

The Gadsup team had already translated and recorded their New Testament in cubicle #30 in December, and Joyce was now checking Habakkuk with them. When it was time to leave, she discovered the door would not

open—the lock was stuck in the door frame! Joyce tried calling me, but the mobile network was down. So they called out to Kennedy in the next cubicle, but he couldn’t force the door open either. Fortunately, when he called Rich from his phone, he got a hold of Rich in our home office. He exclaimed, “Joyce is stuck. People are locked inside cubicle 30. The door won’t open!” Since the building belongs to SIL, I immediately called their Construction and Maintenance Department and asked if John—a former pilot who now does locksmith work—was available. He wasn’t in the office, but once they understood that six translators were literally trapped, they got him quickly. John’s tools didn’t work, so he ended up hammering the door open, freeing everyone inside. We do not have enough Tyndale missionary translation advisors for the Gadsup language group to continue translating Old Testament (OT) passages very often. When Joyce or James have had a week available, they have traded off checking Genesis in April. However, it is a priority for James to check the Binumarien OT Scriptures two weeks at a time when the team comes to Ukarumpa; Joyce and Elly check the Benabena team for two weeks when they come to Ukarumpa from near Goroka. Please pray for new Tyndale missionary translation advisors to help the teams who desire to continue translating the OT.



Joyce advisor checking the Benabena translation team in 1 Corinthians (May 14).

👉 **Pray for financial support for our 7 (adult) TBT missionaries raising support to serve in PNG. Pray also for the 7 work permit applications being submitted to the new PNG government website to be approved soon!** (The quickest any other mission got them was 52 days). **One of these families, Lemuel and Bethanny Davy** (from Jamaica and Pennsylvania), are in the process of **raising support** to hopefully arrive in PNG in early August to train to take over some of the coordination of our language team translation projects.

👉 **Please pray with us for an idea to support future missionaries.** Rich has been considering: partners who want to leave a legacy could sponsor a language group Bible project and a portion of a missionary's monthly support as long as that missionary worked with that language group on Bible translation. Faith Academy was given a gift from which missionaries teachers with low support can apply for additional support assistance each year. Could TBT bless language groups with an "endowed chair" type of giving? Adoniram Judson advised new missionaries not to become weary and take on teaching and pastoral roles that take them off the front line. We are seeing this in other missions as a lot missionaries who start with language groups leave translation for more "suitable" positions.

👉 **Pray! We have more language groups waiting for help to check their Bible verses.** AI is giving first drafts more quickly now that team members can revise, **but we desperately need more translation advisors** to do what Joyce, Elly and James do (see the front page with these language teams). Rich has reached out to several skilled, former Kamano-Kafe team members to help advisor check and supervise teams, but one is serving as a church district overseer for the next 5 years, and another is on an SIL paid project to do a Greek/Tok Pisin translation help.

👉 **Please continue to pray for Joyce's neuropathy** (stinging in her right hand and feet). She tried a new medicine that didn't help, and recently started a new one. Since her 2022 cataract surgery, her eyes are still painful (they feel like sand is in them and blur over a lot).

👉 Rich has found a talented PNG lady who can replace Joyce to do PNG TBT finances. But her joining TBT is dependent on her triplets being accepted in the Ukarumpa school (we will know at the beginning of June) and TBT being able to pay for her family housing and kids' school fees. If her kids are accepted, Rich is planning on putting her family on the TBT website to give to her ministry.

👉 Please continue to pray for Lofi (Benabena, who is still in hiding) and Manasseh (Gadsup). The Gadsup clan fights flared up again in April; houses were burned and Manasseh's brother was killed.

👉 **PTL—for the translated Bible verses completed, and that the Kanite language sorcery reconciliation movie is finished!**



Fore language team members finishing final NT audio editing in early May.



Kanite men waving goodbye after recording their voices for the sorcery movie.

"You are free to cover."

PTL! At the end of April, the inspector passed our Deer Park upstairs plumbing and gave permission to proceed to drywall, paint and flooring. He wants a reinspection of insulation at final...we are betting it's because the attic insulation is hard to access with the newly required foam block access "panels" that take some wrestling to access the ceiling. These foam blocks have replaced the folding attic ladders (no longer allowed in Spokane Co. new construction). Its been good to have a renter downstairs who has been able to open the garage and point contactors in the right direction and answer questions. At this point, we are hopeful of getting the drywall in before we return in late January 2027 after 2 years in PNG.

Last furlough, Rich really enjoyed the help and fellowship of different church friends who helped us with the kitchen cabinet and counter top installation, doors, and the finish plumbing work. Rich is kind of sad he's in PNG now when the fun work could start. People ask, "What are you planning to do with the upstairs? We still don't know what God has planned, but we are praying and trusting that God will use it for His glory in the future. In the past, in PNG, Rich built a folding ping pong table that was rarely used for ping pong, but got used to pack school kits and during COVID for doing thousands of Bible translation verses outside (socially distanced). We'd love to host missionary training and traveling missionaries or aging family members.

Family members have been telling Rich he needs a pickup truck in **February 2027 when we relocate our ministry and the TBT Director job to the USA from PNG.** (Hopefully with shorter trips to PNG). **We are NOT planning on retiring for years yet!!** However, Rich thinks a van (with all wheel drive and a high roof) would work better for our needs. He could install handles in a van to pull himself in, much easier than climbing in a pickup bed (with his Cerebral Palsy). We are praying about the solution of a cargo van where Rich could get exercise building a removable bed frame and sink for trips to visit friends and supporters (many of whom have moved into smaller living arrangements). We also hope it could be used for trips to speak in college classes about missions. Would you pray with us for a suitable van when we return to the USA? Our 2003 Honda Pilot is not a good option to do trips across the USA.

Giving Options for Financial Partnership:

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

1. For help, call or text (TBT Office) at 971-231-4196. Or email: Office@tyndalebt.org

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
PO Box 14003
Spokane Valley, WA 99214



For Personal Correspondence:

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Moving?

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

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