

# Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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## Christmas Camp Kamano-Kafe Bible Celebration

We were a bit amused that our fellow missionaries who were not at the April 5, 2023 Kamano-Kafe full Bible dedication kept calling the Christmas Camp dedication the launching of the Bible. (We had already sold 522 Bibles before camp.) The Kamano-Kafe Christmas Camp leaders planned their own dedication December 27, so we invited our fellow missionaries to join us at camp that beautiful day.

Christmas morning, as I (Rich) pumped the gas pedal to keep my truck from sliding back down the steep, slick hill, I looked over the hood at about a dozen mostly-barefooted men straining on my tow rope to pull my truck to the top of the hill. I delivered Bibles and materials and spoke at Kamano-Kafe Christmas Camp 2023 three days. This was the second vehicle to ever be in this village, which I found out later is called *Kamano* village and considered by many to be at the heart of the language group. The New Testament dedication (Dec. 24, 2014) was held at Tevega village, which means “where the fire starts.” My failure to 4x4 to the top on that first trip was due to both the torrential rains and trees that blocked my view of the near vertical last 100 feet. The next two trips required accelerating across and out of the waist-high river (both directions), going as fast as possible to land at the top of the muddy hills on either side. That would have been fun if it weren't for dozens of people washing in the river and many more traversing up and down the narrow, slick hill on both sides of the river to get to camp. The crowds greatly reduced the margin of error and made what would have been fun, a tense, prayerful experience. On December 27th, we again dedicated the Kamano-Kafe full Bible at camp. As we drove into camp, I told those in the truck, “Hold on, keep your head away from the sides and don't say anything or scream because I need to hear Nathan (sitting in the truck) coaching me.” **Praise the Lord with us that God kept everyone safe in my six traverses through the river, and for the sales of 144 Bibles, 132 hymn-books, 119 MegaVoice players, and other literacy items sold that week.**

Since April 5, 2023, in spite of 100% inflation, 698 total Bibles have been sold (at 11% of the printing/shipping cost; and MegaVoices were sold for 16% of their cost).

**Thank you for your gifts to the TBT Bible Publishing and AVSM projects** that are making it possible for us to get God's complete Word to these dear people in their heart language at a price they can afford!

## *Please pray for our furlough transitions in June.*

After long deployments, soldiers experience re-entry adjustments to their home countries and with families/friends. Long-term, overseas missionaries have similar adjustments and “**reverse cultural shock**”. In June, we will have been overseas for two years, and have experienced stresses that have been especially wearing. Finishing the Kamano-Kafe Bible has been an amazing, 17-year team accomplishment, but totally draining physically and mentally. In September, 2022, the same month we sent the Bible to the printers, the 7.6 earthquake struck on 9/11 in Papua New Guinea (PNG), which caused long-term clean-up and stresses (several other missionary families left here permanently!). Three other major stressors we have experienced this term have been: (1) 100% inflation in PNG (causing more severe poverty and needs here); (2) trying to build a basic pole barn house 6000 miles away with many delays due to fewer young builders, and with building prices 2-3 times more than original quotes; (3) the radical American “cancel culture” and “woke” ideologies/behaviors that have become intolerant of Christianity and mission work, and have even impacted some of our relationships. We need a long enough time away from the draining PNG cultural demands to rest and recharge both physically and emotionally. During furlough, please also pray that we would have the energy and emotional strength we need to reenter our rapidly changing American and family cultures; and that all of us would give grace, charity and tolerance to each other.



Many of you have tithed for decades to keep us and our national team members serving God. **Thank you for your part, because we see the significance and God will reward you!** When we see photos like these at the Kamano-Kafe Bible dedication, we thank the Lord for those of you on our team who have been tenacious in giving and praying! You will get to meet many Papua New Guinea Christians in Heaven some future day!



**2024 FURLOUGH:** It has been a packed-out, 2-year field term in PNG! **We have airplane tickets to arrive in Spokane on May 30.** Lord willing, we are planning to return to PNG in January 2025 for a final couple years before transitioning to support ministry team members remotely from our Deer Park base in the USA. Depending on our health, after that, we hope to take short-term ministry trips to PNG as needed.

👉 **Pray for divine appointments for our Kamano-Kafe team to sell the Bibles** in this depressed economy. PTL that 698 Bibles have sold since April 2023! **Continue to pray for the current economic situation in PNG with 100% inflation, which is causing increasing social unrest.**

👉 **Thank you for praying for the four more languages in progress. Pray for the Gadsup and Fore teams as they record their New Testaments, for their pastor-consultants checking Scriptures, and those editing the books. The **Binumarien team** is progressing well with Tyndale people and James advisor-checking now in 1 Chronicles. The newly-formed **Benabena team** is almost done translating the first draft of Luke, their first New Testament book. **Pray for more godly team members.****

👉 **PTL—God is GRACIOUS!** I (Rich) have struggled with IBS-D since my early 20s, which got worse in PNG each time I took medicine to eradicate parasites. Since 2019, we have been following the Monash University FODMAP diet, which has helped with IBS. (Their \$9 phone app shows which foods are safe to eat via stoplight colors.) Since my COVID Astra Zeneca shot reaction in 2021, causing dizziness and loss of balance, and with our busy work schedule, the last several years have been miserable. This last year, I've been following doctor recommended protocols to deal with my vaccine injury, which have made my IBS about 95% better! It has been so fun to eat foods like onions, garlic, apples, cabbage and beans again! The vaccine's damage to my nerves and energy level is slowly improving. However, stairs without railings, walking and balancing (especially on loose rocks or uneven ground—practically everywhere in PNG) are still a problem, partly due to my Cerebral Palsy. If you or someone you know is suffering with either IBS or a shot reaction, let's talk when we get back to the USA!

👉 **Pray for us to balance our work load and have energy** to serve the MANY impromptu visits from nationals from different language groups during week days. They often come saying their phone is broken. We have had several Kamano-Kafe team members working from our home translation office who have helped with many visitors and questions, but when they are both working elsewhere on other Tyndale projects we are "it." Pray for discernment, and uninterrupted minutes to focus on our other Tyndale work. **We need more missionaries on the field!**

👉 **Please pray—Joyce has several siblings struggling with health issues.**

👉 There is a **PNG nation-wide fuel shortage and rationing of fuel in PNG**, which is especially impacting Jet A1 fuel and curtailing travel. **Pray that our 2003 Honda Pilot we stored at our Deer Park shed will start in May when friends un-mothball it.**



**Progress on our pole barn? —Thank you for praying!**

👉 **PTL for warmer El Niño winter weather to continue to build in Deer Park!** We are still under the cost of a 2-bedroom mobile home, plus we have both a garage/shop and unfinished second floor in this pole barn.

👉 **PTL! Cement was poured** and finished the first week of January for both the house and garage floor! **Framing for the living space was completed early February**, including stairs to the second floor (there will be 8 foot ceilings on both floors). We hope to install lights and some electrical upstairs, but the second floor will remain unfinished like an unfinished basement for the time being until we can afford second floor windows and the finish work. **Downstairs top-out plumbing is in progress, and then we'll buy the mini-spill heater, water heater and major appliances; then our friend can do the electrical work without multiple trips across the state.** After electrical, we think we will have enough money to install the fire wall between the house framing and garage wall. However, because of inflation, with every building step at least doubling in price [from what we had been told to expect], we will then need to stop building until we can save enough money to go forward. **We believe Biblical stewardship is not about ordering our finances in a way that we can spend whatever way we want; it's about ordering our life in a way so God can do what He wants.**

👉 **Pray that we can get the utility room finished before the end of May, as we are planning on living in the trailer in the garage for our June to January furlough.** We will continue some of our Tyndale work on furlough 4-7 hours on week days, including aiding our PNG team members (mostly in the evenings because of the time zone difference). Then as more funds are saved, we can finish first floor insulation and drywall, after which we can probably apply for the occupancy permit. Later comes taping, painting and cabinets. Spending time building is good for the body and actually "rest for the mind." I (Rich) built our PNG kitchen cabinets and some furniture (at about half the speed of guys with two normal hands. If I lived full time in the USA, I'd build the cabinets from scratch again, more slowly at my age, but being director of TBT and serving more needy languages, I don't have the time needed.

👉 **Some Furlough Needs.** If you have a big **table saw or any tools** you are aging out of and wanting to provide a loving new home to, please contact us. Joyce is also praying for an **88-key electric keyboard** to use on furlough, and later a piano. Joyce is an accomplished pianist and keeps in practice by playing after dinner daily. **If you want to help us build or paint or... then send us an email.**

👉 **We are so grateful for some unexpected financial gifts towards completing this building, from where we want to continue to support Bible translation.** If you desire to give any personal gifts (not tax deductible) specifically for this Deer Park house, you can make out your check to Rich or Joyce Mattocks and send it to Rich's mom (who is writing the checks for the house. Thank you Mom!). Contact Kim at Tyndale office for address details (see below). **Pray that God will honor Himself with this building.**

### **For Personal Correspondence:**

**Rich & Joyce Mattocks**  
SIL Box 1 (53)  
Ukarumpa, EHP 444  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

(More mail is getting to PNG now, some in 1-2 months now!)

**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

### **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

