

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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Does God have a bucket list?

It has been said, “Watch where God is working and join Him,” but rarely do we hear, “Look for which gap God wants filled and fill it.” So often those gaps are in hard places that it doesn’t feel like God is present because of the tenacity required to be in that gap. Often there is the feeling of, “Will it EVER end?” January 29th at 5am we arrived back in Papua New Guinea (PNG), and later that afternoon into Ukarumpa. It was the cheapest ticket through Doha, 54 hours of non-stop travel with 5 flights, three over 7 hours each, and a 12 hour layover sitting in the Singapore airport! February 11th we had a meeting with the Gadsup team, who have been making gratifying and steady progress audio recording their Gadsup language New Testament. The team told us about the test audio players with Gadsup recordings of the Gospels that were taken in the last few months to the different villages (and dialects); people listened to them and said the translation was clear. The team and we were both encouraged.

We talked about progress and things that need to be accomplished in the coming months. Finishing the New Testament (NT) recording and audio editing could possibly be finished around July or later; and the print version 4-6 months later. We discussed what their preferences were for how the text is to be laid out. I (Rich) had some phone calls with Cheryl, one of our newest Tyndale Bible Translator volunteers, who lives in the USA, whom the Lord allowed to take a typesetting course to lay out Bibles to be printed. I’d done that course for the Kamano-Kafe NT, and then the full Bible. However, with my cerebral palsy, the long hours of typesetting for 10 months concentrating on the computer screen, and less movement, nearly did me in. Cheryl has started to lay out the Gadsup Bible. It was great to have the team give their input on the look of their Bible.

The gap that needed filling and Gabi in Germany

Gabi served in PNG in literacy from 2014-2018. She also had done workshops among the Gadsup, the same language group we had been assigned to do Scripture Use work for SIL 2002-2004. The Lord had showed us the need for the Gadsup to get a retranslation of their New Testament due to translation and grammar errors. During her years in PNG, Gabi also discovered the same need and had met with us to get a fuller understanding of what it

would take to do a retranslation. By the time she was running workshops in the Gadsup area, we had completed the Kamano-Kafe New Testament and were the Regional Directors for SIL in the area where Gadsup is located. Gabi returned to Germany, but since then, she has been raising funds and sending finances to help a Gadsup translation team with equipment and translation stipends to keep them working. After we started Tyndale Bible Translators and returned to PNG in late 2019, we checked in to see how the Gadsup team was progressing. It was frustrating to hear how the stipend funding was constantly delayed and at that point had not gotten to the translators for nearly a year for multiple reasons, among them changes in mission policies. I called Gabi in Germany, and she begged me to allow Tyndale to handle her funding to ensure it got to the translation team. Instead, I (as Tyndale director) told her I needed to talk to the other PNG agency directors responsible for getting her funds to the Gadsup team. They agreed to try a different method of accountability. To make it work and fill the gap, however, Joyce has had to spend much time over the past five years supervising, mentoring, emailing

frequently, and managing the team’s timesheets to get the stipends to the Gadsup translators via the other agency. That has meant giving reminders like: “Do you have enough in the account?” or “Have you written Gabi that you don’t have the funds to pay the stipends?” Nearly every two weeks, Joyce has prepared the stipend sheets for payment, and printed them to be signed because the agency people just would not keep a consistent supply of ink in their printer. The stipends are the equivalent of \$1.14 an hour during the 3 days a week they work and can’t work in their gardens. Gabi and her partners, and Joyce’s tenaciousness (Nico and Marina when Joyce was on furlough) have been the driving forces to keep the translation going.

Joyce has also spent hundreds of hours at the translation table as the Gadsup translation advisor, checking the accuracy of thousands of Bible verses during team checking sessions of the New Testament. Tyndale has paid for the stipends and computers for the consultant checking team of four pastors. This has been a 3-decade bucket list that everyone who knew about the need has wished for, few thought even possible and fewer yet were willing to do it. It has taken a team! Please keep praying and challenge the younger Christians you know, that God has opportunities and adventures that they can join us in investing their lives for His Kingdom. **Thank you for praying and giving!**



Top Photo (Feb. 11): Rich with the Gadsup team, gathering NT layout preferences and looking at the way ahead.

Right Photo: Kennedy, their lead translator, with Gabi’s 8-yr. old *Think Pad* laptop, which is dying. Our amazing TBT IT volunteer, purchased, tested and loaded programs on two new laptops, and shipped them to Deer Park to pack in our luggage. We called Gabi on WhatsApp about having Kennedy use one of our new laptops, which she was happy about (as her funds are low). Kennedy needs to do spelling and many other edits before the Gadsup NT is ready to print.



- 👉 **Please pray for the TBT Melanesia Boat Project.** It is through the contract guidelines, steps and responsibility documents, and is ready for sign off with the boat builder and donor to start the build. Pray that the family foundation donor board chair will follow through on making his site visit to start the build. Delays have been frustrating.
- 👉 **PTL**—Nico and Elly, along with Kamano-Kafe team members, Kossack and James, kept ministry moving forward in PNG often via WhatsApp calls to us while we were on home assignment in America June 2024—January 26, 2025.
- 👉 **Nico and Elly go on furlough March 6 for 3 months to the Netherlands. Pray for Joyce as she has gradually taken back the finance work for the language work and the coffee project.** (She is learning the new SIL finance system as well.)
- 👉 **Please continue to pray for healing for Rich’s sore (wound) on his right ankle** (on his leg affected by Cerebral Palsy). The wound hasn’t closed since June when a cinder block scraped it; then it got infected in January. Rich was still on antibiotics in late February. The new Australian SIL Clinic missionary doctor taught one of the American nurses (using Rich’s leg to practice) how to abrade the wound (remove the callus) to get new skin to grow. Nurses in the USA don’t get to do these kinds of procedures. Pray for more nurses, and especially pray for the shortage of teachers at the missionary school.
- 👉 **PTL**—With the doubling of prices due to inflation, the sales of language items are impacted, but the Kamano-Kafe translation is well received. As a nurse was attending to Rich’s wound at the clinic, she said, “Remember the MegaVoice player I bought from you last year for my Kamano-Kafe village friends who adopted me? My village sister listens to your player ALL the time. They say she frequently tells her family what new thing she has learned from listening to the Bible. They call her MegaVoice player her constant friend.”
- 👉 **PTL**—Rich was able to do 15 hyperbaric treatments on furlough for his COVID shot injuries and ankle wound. This really helped his dizziness, which is nearly gone. The physical hard work of building some nights till 10:30 PM and living for 5 months in the RV trailer caused Rich to lose 27 and Joyce 20 pounds. Rich told friends, “This is either going to kill me or make me better.” What a blessing all that hard work was to build strength and endurance. With construction in Deer Park, along with Joyce doing both PNG and USA finance work and Rich the TBT Director work most days, we are sad that we did not get to visit many of you while we were in America.

For Personal Correspondence:

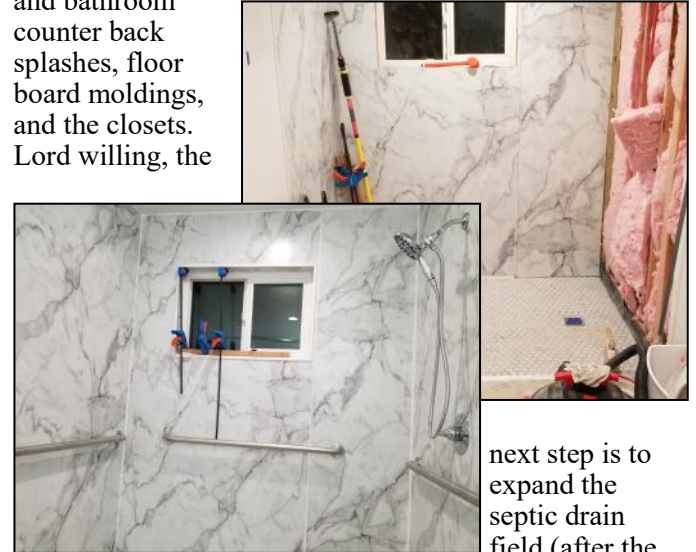
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Moving?

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

Carol Holter
2767 Pleasant Valley Rd
Rice, WA 99167

Deer Park pole barn house –PTL for occupancy approval October 18, 2024 for the down-stairs. Many generous people helped make it possible for us to live in the house from November 8th until we left for PNG the morning of January 26. We are also so grateful for volunteer help God provided *just* when we needed it! God enabled Rich to tick another item off his bucket list before leaving: to finish building a curbless shower that is wheel chair and walker accessible. He counted seven people who helped with parts of “the epic shower build” in the master bathroom. Thank you team! Finish work still needs to be done for the kitchen and bathroom counter back splashes, floor board moldings, and the closets. Lord willing, the



next step is to expand the septic drain field (after the ground thaws) so that the house can be expanded from 2 to 4 bedrooms. Then, we can apply for the unfinished second floor building permit. Most of the framing and some wiring is done upstairs, but no windows yet.

New TBT OFFICE address: Kim, our TBT office manager will be resigning in June because of family and health issues. Kim will be greatly missed as Rich’s right hand. She has been training Ramona to take her place. Please note the new TBT mailing address below. If you don’t get a receipt for your gift, please call or send your check to the new address below with a note stating your giving preference and need for a receipt.

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.
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:

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