

# Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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## “Should I ask that question?”

It was a day we have prayed about and worked toward for over a decade. The goal: to give the Gadsup and Binumarien people groups a chance to learn to consultant-check Old Testament translations and to revise their New Testaments. Earlier that week James said, “*Rich, as I walked to your house to translate this morning, I cried when I saw your truck drive on the dirt road towards the old training center. This is so good that these languages now have the same chance that we have had in Kamano. God is with us! I felt God saying he was happy as I watched you go.*” As I (Rich) drove, I felt slightly tired and was praying God would continue to empower us to pull this training off. August 10-21st we trained seven church leaders in these two languages to take on the responsibility to check each verse of their New Testament revisions and drafted Old Testament Scriptures. This consultant-checking job is normally done by missionaries, and now a few nationals, who are not native speakers of the language. Our Kamano-Kafe team has seen a dramatic improvement in our Bible translation by training pastors who are native speakers to do this checking. Getting these pastors involved also builds needed church ownership of the Bible translation, and provides long-term discipleship for these pastors. These language groups have requested that TBT expand what God is doing in the Kamano-Kafe to them.

After days of teaching the pastors what to check for in the Bible text, we all gathered around a 30-year-old, massive plywood table in the \*old “Round House” training center (with a cement floor and wind drafts blowing through the high overhead openings in the barn-like building). Working in Joshua 1, I heard a verse that had been translated by the Gadsup translators many months ago orally translated out loud by the pastors, who were also seeing it for the first time. Everything in the verse sounded complete, but I also heard in the trade language the equivalent of, “*I’d like to give you this land.*” Knowing that people in this culture often make promises, but don’t follow through, I asked, “*Is your Gadsup word used here for giving the land something God will do or would like to do?*” After about 15 seconds of discussion, the pastors answered, “*Yes, you could use this word here for a wish or for what can become an empty promise. We have a better word we want to have the translators substitute here, where there is no doubt God will give the Israelites this land.*” Then one of the pastors said, “*This*



August—Korry (Kamano consultant) leading TBT’s first consultant-checking workshop for Gadsup and Binumarien language church leaders/pastors.

*word in this verse is a plural in the English Bible and the translation back to English from Gadsup, but in this Gadsup verse we are reading, the spelling actually needs to change from singular to plural.*” I thought, “Yes, this is a catch that would have been nearly impossible to find without an educated native speaker doing the checking. These pastors are seeing needed changes and learning key checking skills! Thank you Lord!” **Will you pray with us for the Lord of the harvest to send us laborers? Pray for God to send us missionaries to help nationals with English vocabulary and grammar, and those who can coordinate teams and do necessary finances.** Marina (our second TBT missionary in PNG) and Joyce split up the team advisor checking role for the Kamano-Kafe team translating Jeremiah, while I worked with Korry on this TBT Own Language Consultant-Training Course. (We facilitated Korry’s training with SIL so he could qualify as a full Bible translation consultant to check other languages. Korry prepared the curriculum and led most of the teaching for this workshop. He agrees that native speakers need to check and approve their own language translations.

**Praise the Lord** —“The PNG Highlands Provincial Governor has committed to financially support showing the “Ples i Bagarap” sorcery movie across the Highlands as part of an awareness program to save lives [after COVID restrictions lift]. Pastor Nehemiah presented a T-shirt to us and said, “*You Westerners always mix your cultures when you help us make movies, but this movie is all about our culture and what really happens here. It really*

*makes us think and change.*” **Praise the Lord that God is using this movie as His tool in remarkable ways to save lives! This is beyond what our small team could even dream would happen!** After Pastor Nehemiah presented the T-Shirt, he picked up the Kamano-Kafe New Testament off the ping-pong table, (where before his arrival, the team had been translating Jeremiah) and said, “*I bought one of these for my wife and each of my children. It will be so good to get the whole Bible in our language.*” Then he read a verse and kissed the book. **Praise God with us for the long-term impact translating His Word is having!** (See photos page 2.)

\*The newer SIL Training Center buildings have been shut down since March until at least January because of COVID-19. Who would have thought that the dilapidated, old “Round House” with its drafts and occasional rain blowing in from the high overhead open windows is actually an advantage (safer) during COVID-19!

- ☞ **Praise the Lord** —on August 4th, the **Kamano-Kafe team completed translating the book of Isaiah and started team-checking Jeremiah.** Please pray for wisdom as we translate the OT major prophets now, which is *very challenging* (which has lots of harder picture imagery and poetry), and translation checking is going slower.
- ☞ **PTL—PNG** has only had 323 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 3 deaths as of mid-August. **Please pray for the Lord's continued favor in this country, and for wisdom for those in leadership making pandemic decisions.**
- ☞ **Please pray for the Lord of the harvest to give us more overseas workers for Tyndale Bible Translators!** Joyce would especially appreciate someone with book-keeping skills to join us on the field to help with the growing number of projects. We also need more language advisors (like what we do with Kamano-Kafe). The SIL-PNG Human Resource Department is especially excited about TBT being another route for workers to come to PNG to help in Bible translation, especially since Wycliffe Associates stopped recruiting and sending workers here.
- ☞ **Please pray for a job for Christa starting in October;** for God's blessing and leading for her unknown future with hopes to go to med school.



**Above photo:** August 5th—Pastor Nehemiah (front center) presented the Kamano-Kafe translation team and Rich with a red “VASRAK” T-shirt (see insert: Voice Against Sorcery-Related Accusations & Killings). He is part of a campaign team with the governor's financial support showing our 2017 “Ples i Bagarap” sorcery movie all around the Highlands. **Please pray for the Holy Spirit to give his team success and to move in people's hearts to continue to change this destructive practice of sorcery and bring people to Jesus!**

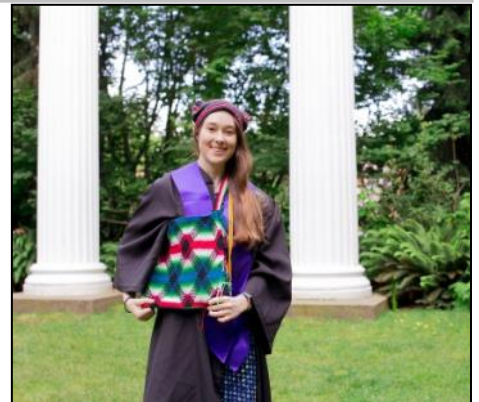


## ☺ Christa's Corner ☺

- ☺ Christa graduated from the UW June 13th with a BS in Microbiology. She has been studying for the MCAT (scheduled in Spokane September 28th) and continuing to work on volunteer hospital hours (pre-med requirement) in Seattle. (See her virtual graduation slides below. Unfortunately, her parents' PNG internet was down for most of both of her UW online ZOOM ceremonies!)
- ☺ On August 19, Christa moved from Seattle to Rice (north of Spokane) to help take care of her Aunt Carol, who had foot surgery August 12. (Carol has sent out our newsletters for 27 years now, and is a widow.) After taking the MCAT test, Christa will start applying for jobs, and she hopes to also start applying to medical schools. **Please pray for this time of transition and unknowns for Christa!**

**Right:** Christa in graduation gown with PNG “bilum” string bag and hat.

**Bottom Photo:** Christa standing by the UW Faith pillar after her graduation ceremonies.

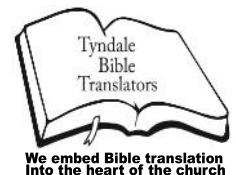


### Giving Options for Financial Partnership:

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

1. For help, call Kim (TBT Office) at 971-231-4196.
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  
6667 E 24th Drive  
Everson WA 98247



### For Personal Correspondence:

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### Moving?

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

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