

Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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“Not eating?”

James smiled, and said, “*I sold three Bibles at the meeting in Port Moresby. The lady who bought them came back and said her mother was so excited and interested in reading her new Kamano-Kafe Bible that she hardly ate for the next three days!*” The Kamano-Kafe full Bibles arrived March 24. From past sales, we had expected to have sold about 500 of the 2,000 printed Bibles by now. However, because of 100% inflation in PNG on staples like soap, rice and cooking oil, people are putting what they call a “pause” on buying non-essentials. **Praise the Lord that 233 Kamano-Kafe Bibles have sold to date**, which is good given the depressed economy.

I forgot about that befuddled look...As I (Rich) got in the drivers seat, I looked out the passenger window as the Awa language pastor and his wife were outside, clearly confused how to open the truck doors. (That happened again later when they tried to get out.) In previous years, I’ve seen that befuddled behavior entering and exiting vehicles by people who have no road access to their villages. This happens partly because when they do catch a “bus” on a main road, they sit in the back of a flat-bed truck; or if the bus is a van, the driver or assistant (“boss crew”) opens and closes the doors to make the doors last longer. The ten Awa villages are located in a remote, very steep, multi-canyon location near fast rivers, where the only way to get there is either by helicopter, or by a very strenuous 12- hour hike from any road. I have flown into Awa three times and spent 11 days there in former years. It took nearly two months to get a message to the Awa pastor to come see us in Ukarumpa. I spent two days teaching this pastor how to translate the sorcery movie, then how to use his Awa language Bible to find texts for the Jesus Film printed script. (The pastor had seen the trade language version of the sorcery movie when he gathered with a crowd around a TV at a town bookstore.) People here can now watch movies on their phones and charge their phones on makeshift solar panels in their villages.

I have been working hard to train our PNG Kamano-Kafe team members to do as much of my job as possible, including mentoring other language translators. James was gone at a Highlands church meeting where he was asked to teach, while other team members were busy roasting coffee, and Kossack was in a two-week Zoom training session in our translation office to get approval to record other Bible videos. The Gospel of John movie is Kossack's

class assignment to dub into Kamano-Kafe. So I met with the Awa pastor and his wife in our living room. It was great to see that they are using their Awa Bible. (Joyce and I were the support team for the Awa translators, Ed and Ar-etta Loving, when they helped the Awa people revise their New Testament around 1996-97. Years later, they came to me for advice on getting it recorded in 2009).

When James returned, He told me, “Rich, thank you for paying my PMV [bus] fares to minister. I spoke several times over two days, including showing my Israel Power-Point as part of my testimony. God did something, and people were crying. Friday, when I was waiting on the road for a PMV truck to return, I got a text from the head pastor saying they had **counted 41 new decisions to accept Jesus.**

We all have never seen anything like that happen. God did something!” Interestingly, five days before, James gave up his family right to a piece of land that another relative and clan were ready to fight his clan over. Pray with me that James’ remaining land will produce abundantly.

The Tok Pisin (trade language) version of the Kamano-Kafe sorcery movie is posted on YouTube, and

now has 102,000 views! Kossack’s next project is to go to a Benabena village and finish recording voice parts for their sorcery movie. This will be the 6th language into which the movie will be translated and recorded since the Kamano was filmed in 2017. Hopefully, Kossack will also be able to get the Benabena started on the Jesus Film.

Please pray that these films will draw needed, quality Christians to join a team to translate their Benabena New Testament.

We are so thankful for a gift given by a former missionary kid (MK) who grew up here, specifically to help the Awa and other Highlands languages. I had been praying that God would either have another mission hire Kossack (i.e. SIL hired Korry to consultant check and teach), or that God would give Tyndale enough money to keep Kossack supporting his family and helping needy remote languages. If we carefully plan the helicopter use and transportation, we think he can produce about 8-10 Jesus Films and sorcery movies in the next two years using this gift. The SIL Highlands Director was really happy to see this gift go to Tyndale to empower Kossack and us to reach more languages with media. I am a “working Director” on the field; everyone in Tyndale works from home offices, helping us invest every penny in Kingdom work. Pray that God will help us with needed infrastructure, like the Melanesia boat, to expand His Kingdom to other remote places.



Left: James & Kossack training the Benabena team as they edited their sorcery movie script. **Right:** The Benabena team recording the first few voices of the movie in our translation office.

- 👉 **PTL— Both the Jesus Film in Kamano-Kafe and Nomane** are approved for distribution.
- 👉 **PTL**—for a “just in time” gift! God provided funds for Tyndale and Kossack to make the biblical media ministry happen, with a special focus on the PNG Highlands languages (i.e. Awa, Tairora, Fore, Benabena and Gadsup). If the Lord wills, Kossack could start post-producing the Benabena sorcery movie September 1.
- 👉 **PTL— Our PNG bank glitches since the Easter weekend “upgrade”** are mostly fixed, but there are still challenges getting statements and making some transfers. Joyce still has to call the bank for some accounts which were switched to other branches in order to make payment transfers. Even our TBT bank branch number was changed to a different branch.
- 👉 **Please keep praying** that the literate people who want a Kamano-Kafe Bible will hear about it and be able to save their money to purchase a Bible. Pray for creativity, God-directed interactions and success as our team sells the Bibles in a depressed economy.
- 👉 **Please pray that we can work out the details with the Fore team about who God wants in the recording next step.** In the meantime, the team continues to edit and resolve consultant -checking notes in the New Testament.
- 👉 **Pray for the Gadsup team as they finish recording Matthew and start recording Luke.** Pray for one of their team members to speed up resolving consultant changes in other New Testament books.
- 👉 **PTL—the Binumarien team** is doing well with Tyndale people and James advisor-checking Judges with them.
- 👉 **Please pray for someone in the Spokane area to step in and be our hands and feet as we attempt to build our future pole barn house in Deer Park.** Our friend, Wendy, has been our hands on the property, but is going in for her first knee surgery September 19. **Please pray for her knee surgery!** When Rich needs a picture sent over WhatsApp or organizing the move of the RV far enough away that they can work on the septic tank, Wendy has made it all happen. She has been an amazing example of Galatians 6:10: *So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*



Left Photo: Gadsup team recording Matthew: Esther (left), Mannaseh (laptop) and Kennedy (right).

Above Right: Delivering Kamano-Kafe Bibles in a village.

For Personal Correspondence:

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

(Some mail is getting to PNG now, though months later!)

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

In Luke 14:28-30. Jesus says, “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’” **We think we might be on the leading edge of the PNG, and now the American part of what I’m calling the “World Affordability Crisis” (WAC).** We’ve lived our married life by this verse, but lately I, Rich have been asking God in tears, “How do we go forward in ministry and building our retirement home, when inflation has skyrocketed so suddenly beyond our means? **We had counted the cost** before we started building in Deer Park with our main builder’s cost estimates and with advice from other experienced friends, and from internet price searches, but **in less than one year, prices all doubled and tripled!** Even the lowest of 4 bids for a cement floor is still **double**, and the **septic and plumbing are 350% higher** than we were told to expect! Part of the higher plumbing cost is that many people and builders told us, “No problem, you only need 1/8” drop per foot for plumbing, you will be just fine.” They all failed to realize it’s a 4” **rise** to the current septic tank. The property and building are flat (no stair access, slab on grade), which we wanted for my (Rich’s) Cerebral Palsy. I have spent 7 months since March on Skype and emailing between both the septic designer (required by the county), and plumber, trying multiple solutions. We even designed a new septic and drain field that failed to achieve the drop needed. The current plan (**not yet submitted to the county**) uses pump tanks outside the house to the existing septic, which is approved for two bedrooms. We wanted the cement floor poured before freezing weather starts in October, so please pray that the septic will be approved so the inside plumbing can be done quickly! This limits our dream of adding more bedrooms or additional dwelling units for aging family members and for hosting missionaries in transit or training. At least we are able to store missionary vehicles. After we pay for plumbing, septic piping and cement, all our years of savings will be used up. These costs leave nothing left for the framing, electrical, insulation, sheet rock, heating, sinks/toilets, appliances, etc.. Without God’s miraculous intervention, we will need to back the old RV trailer into the garage and run an extension cord as a living space for our hoped-for June 2024 furlough.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 👉 **Please pray for God’s mercy and financial intervention.**
- 👉 **Please pray that the septic plan will be approved quickly so plumbing can also be finished.** We’d like to be done with the plumbing “change of plan” phone calls, which add more delays and higher prices.
- 👉 **Pray that the cement gets poured before freezing weather.**
- 👉 **Pray that the residential permit** Rich has applied for gets approved. Rich investigated and found we were given misleading information on permit costs, expiration dates, and what can be built with building vs. residential permits.
- 👉 **A praise** is this week a retired, licensed electrician volunteered to come from Seattle to wire. (His license allows Rich to keep working in PNG).

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

