

# Mattocks Missionary Mosaic

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Rich & Joyce Mattocks; Mailing address: SIL, PO Box 1 (53), Ukarumpa EHP 444, Papua New Guinea

## The Long Game

As I (Rich) drove my truck across the Aiyura valley to drop off Tai, he said, "As I watched the recording this morning it was encouraging to sit and listen to how sweet and clear the translation is in those Bible verses I heard today in my [Gadsup] language. People are going to like hearing this on the MegaVoice players." Tai is a Gadsup consultant checker, a friend and older man who I've known for 32 years. I'd asked Tai to observe the Gadsup team recording the New Testament, which has been painfully slow! I asked Tai to give me advice about speeding things up. Gadsup is a tonal minority language where people don't grow up reading or writing their language. The complexity of getting things done acceptably for all the dialects has been challenging. As I drove back to Ukarumpa, I was praying and thinking about what Tai just said, and the two hour meeting Kossack and I just had with the Gadsup team. Kossack had taught Manasseh to record the Gadsup Scriptures, and he is cleaning and checking their work. Manasseh told us, "We don't want to rush to just finish this quickly because dust will just cover up our work like happened before." (He was referring to the first Gadsup New Testament completed in 1981 by an American translator, who told me in the 1990s that he only knew of five Gadsup people who could read that first New Testament.) The low literacy rate makes the audio recording even more essential, even with our revised writing system over numerous years and trials. As I drove and prayed, I complained to God, "Everything is just so slow and we feel like we are making inches of progress." Then a thought penetrated my thinking: "Rich, you are a special education teacher. Didn't you start Tyndale to take on the tasks others don't want to touch?" I answered, "Yes." Then I thought, "This qualifies, just keep going." In comparison, the Kamano recording of the New Testament (NT) took 7 months working 2 days a week. The Gadsup team started recording a year ago, working three days a week, and has only completed 76.12% of the NT. They often re-edit and re-record the same verse several times to get it right. We decided to have the team record four days a week. It sure would have been nice to have had the NT recording completed and loaded on MegaVoice players by coffee picking season that ends in August, when people have money. It looks like they won't finish until December or later. **Please pray we can be patient and that the recording will not be slowed further, and for adequate funding.** The



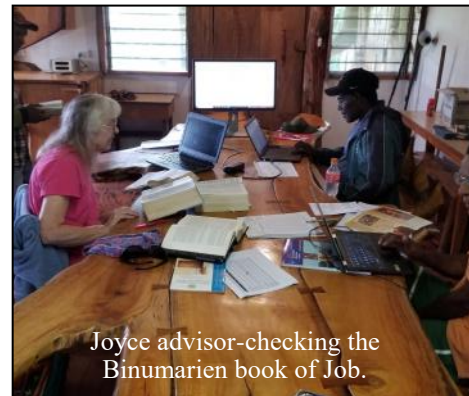
Gadsup New Testament Recording Team

team just spent the first two weeks of August with Kossack audio recording The Jesus Film. This is a great evangelism tool, but it also slowed the NT recording more.

Another item causing extra patience is the **motorcycle renewal registration paperwork**. The government has introduced a new process and more paperwork which has us waiting three months so far to get the certificate so that Franky can drive to remote villages to sell Kamano-Kafe Bibles and audio MegaVoice Scripture players. **Please Pray!**

**A bright spot** is that the **Benabena team** has been making steady progress with us advisor-checking both Luke and half of Matthew. Since June, the team travels from Goroka and stays in a rented house next door for the first two weeks of each month. During these checking sessions, we do discipling and improve their translation drafts. **Pray, as every language is different, and this language has been having trouble finding words or phrases for things like baptism, Passover, love, grapes and many other biblical words.**

The Benabena team (Esana at the keyboard) correcting verses during advisor-checking.



Joyce advisor-checking the Binumarien book of Job.

**The Binumarien team continues to make good progress translating the Old Testament.** They finished Job and started Daniel in early August. Sometimes Joyce substitutes for James by advisor checking.

**Another bright spot** is our **abundant fruit**: the avocado tree Joyce planted in 1998 from a seed (started producing in 2006), and the limes/lemons and grapefruit starts Rich planted about 28 years ago. The first year the grapefruit tree produced, the fruit was dry and woody, but God must have helped the roots find the underground spring under our neighbor's yard because now the grapefruits are massive, juicy and plentiful! **Please pray that God will do the same with our ministry**, as so much feels like we are limping or plodding along, and it is dry and woody right now. Translation work often takes years to produce fruit.



Above Photo: Rich with cereal-bowl-sized grapefruit he planted as seedlings.

🙏 **Thank you for praying for Joyce's health!** After arriving back in PNG, Joyce continued to lose more weight (with much muscle pain) and she developed painful neuropathy in both hands and feet. Blood tests taken here were all fine. Food options are limited here, but Joyce has very slowly regained 11 of the 26 pounds she lost. She is on medicine that reduces most of the pain in both her hands and feet. We also shipped over a home vibration plate which is helping.

🙏 **Please pray for the Gadsup audio recording team.** When they finish recording, they will work on spelling checks for the printed New Testament book.

🙏 **Please pray for the Fore language team.** The bus accident has required us to work on re-training and mentoring other Fore speakers into new roles. It has felt like musical chairs as we have implemented solutions to make progress on the Fore NT audio recording.

🙏 **PTL—The Benabena language team** has made great progress building a team of people while recently recording the Jesus Film and sorcery movie. (They are excited to sell SD cards with these movies.) We have been renting a house next door to us since July for the first 2 weeks of each month for advisor checking sessions. **Please pray for funds for the new TBT Benabena language project account.** Joyce is advisor-checking their drafted NT verses afternoons and doing finances, email etc. during mornings.

🙏 **PTL—Tyndale** now has 19 missionaries. Rich, as director, is really feeling the need to be in the USA.

🙏 **Please pray, as we need gifts in the TBT "general" account ("where needed") because of the rapid cost increase of the yearly Tyndale independent finance audit.**

🙏 **Please pray.** We are working on ways to make the growing work in PNG sustainable, but this has been made harder because the depressed PNG economy is causing fewer national tithe offerings, like we used to receive towards the work. Also, far fewer people are able to purchase (for a fraction of the cost) once very popular items. We have had lots of prayer and discussions with our national team members and have reduced the already subsidized amount people pay for Bibles, MegaVoice players, SD cards etc.

Some have asked about **Christa**. She continues to work at a homeschool office helping with republishing text books and maintaining the website. In her free time she is taking art classes and rock climbing. She sends us occasional wilderness pictures. She recently moved into a less expensive upstairs of a house that is closer to her work in northern Spokane.

Wendy found a family in her church who needed housing half way between work locations in Spokane and Chewelah. In May, they moved in and started renting our pole barn house in Deer Park. We are saving some money each month to try to complete the unfinished upstairs. The downstairs is livable, but still lacks base boards, pantry wall and shelves, and a some finish work (all things Rich wants to do for his future exercise program). **THANK YOU** to all of you who helped us get Spokane County occupancy permission! We lived in the house November 8 to January 27 before returning to PNG. You blessed us and now also this family living in the house. The former 2-bedroom septic is now expanded to a 4 bedroom approved septic system. **Pray** Rich is in the long application process for the upstairs building permit. The next step is to install upstairs windows.



**PHOTOS (Right):** Top left: Rich loading the Benabena translators in our truck to take them to catch a Goroka bus. Top Right: Jeremy, an SIL Autoshop mechanic helping James and Rich replace bearings (after 7 years) on our coffee roaster. Middle: Rich and Kossack using posts on our back veranda to teach some Binumarien men how to stretch their backs. Chairs and sitting at computers are both new to this culture that traditionally is a slash-and-burn, hard working culture. Bottom Left: Fore men (Aquila and Orexen) recording Acts. Bottom Right: James teaching Robin (Benabena) how to maintain the solar panel to supply power to his computer at his village house. (Notice these men squatting, which these people do so easily!)

### For Personal Correspondence:

**Rich & Joyce Mattocks**  
SIL PO Box 1 (53)  
Ukarumpa, EHP 444  
Papua New Guinea  
(675) 71742801 (PNG cell)

[RichJoyce@Tyndalebt.org](mailto: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

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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:

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