



Hello Friends,

In January we continued to learn more of the Murkim language and culture as well as made progress with the translation team formation process.

When Colors Count

One of the fun and fascinating things we're learning about Murkim is that adjectives can be marked as singular or plural. I know that sounds a little nerdy, so let me explain.

We started noticing there were multiple words for things like big, small, long, and short, and it seemed like the difference might depend on how many objects were being described. A friend who works in Bible translation with a neighboring language group mentioned that her language has both singular and plural adjectives and suggested we look for that in Murkim too.

Sure enough, when we showed someone a white piece of paper, they said, "*Lol bwaik*" ("white leaf/paper"). When we showed them multiple white pieces of paper, they said, "*Lolbol bwaik*" ("white leaves/paper"). Instead of marking the plural on the noun (*bwaik*, leaf), Murkim marks it on the adjective (*lol*, white → *lolbol*, whites).

This works differently from English and most of the world's languages. We're thankful for our friend who gave us the heads-up, which has helped us learn to describe things accurately and naturally in Murkim.

Meeting and Getting to Know Translation Team Candidates

Last month, we asked you to pray with us for the formation of the translation team, and we're thankful to share that big steps have been made. We now have the names for all the different candidates. Several candidates from the southern Murkim villages near Mot (the village we live in) spent a week with us teaching Matthew Murkim. It was a great opportunity to get to know them better and see their strengths and abilities.

While we were in Sentani, Matthew also met with the candidates from the northern Murkim villages and began getting to know them as well. Please pray with us as we prayerfully consider which three of the nine candidates will be selected to serve on the translation team for Project247/OneStory. Pray for wisdom, for God's will to be done, and for unity among the different villages throughout this team formation process.

In Christ's love,

Matthew, Sarah, Azariah, and Malachi

Prayer Requests & Needs

- Open hearts to the gospel
- The translation team formation process
- For ongoing language and culture learning



Matthew with some of the translation team candidates



Best Buddies



Sarah with friends

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