

MAY 2026

MATTHEW & SARAH THOMPSON

Missionaries to the Bibleless of Papua, Indonesia

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS,
AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
FINANCIAL PARTNERS.

Hello Friends,

It was a hot afternoon as I (Sarah) sat on the bark floor of a jungle hut about an hour and a half hike from our little village. There were no walls, only poles neatly bound together with rotan that held the roof overhead. In the center, a small bed of coals quietly roasted cassava that Azariah had requested during his recent visit from the river that flowed gently just below the hut. Malachi hung sleeping in a net bag from one of the rafters while Mama Nena (*pseudonym*) sat nearby carefully trimming the tiny thorns from the edges of a long, thin leaf. I wove my needle through the yarn of the net bag I was working on and reached over to give Malachi another gentle push.

Over the past year, Mama Nena and the other ladies in the village have patiently taught me the art of making net bags, a skill passed down through generations of Papuan women. Looking over at what she was doing, I asked, "Ha klum kit kimlo?" Through hand gestures and patient repetition, she explained that the leaves she was preparing would be used as a guide for making a very large net bag, helping keep the stitches even. Then she smiled and said, "While you are gone to America, I will make a very large net bag for Malachi to sleep in when you come back."

As I reflect on this moment, I cannot help but think back to my very first language session with her. I had tried to explain a simple picture game where she would name objects and I would point to the correct picture. My explanation completely failed since she only understands a handful of Indonesian words. Instead, I sat for nearly two hours listening as she told story after story in Murkim, occasionally asking me to repeat sounds that felt impossible to understand.

As I reflect on moments like these, I praise God for the progress He has allowed in both language learning and relationship building, even when it feels slow. Please pray that we would continue learning the language well and that Mama Nena and others like her would one day soon hear the hope of the Gospel in a language they truly understand.

This month we made a quick trip to the village before preparing to leave for furlough. Our time was full of translation team training, story collection for analysis, opportunities to share God's Word, and sweet moments spent deepening relationships. Please pray for us as we make final preparations to return to the States for a few months.

Love in Christ,

Matthew, Sarah, Azariah, & Malachi

Prayer Requests & Needs

- Preparation for furlough and safe travels back to the States.
- The translation team as they continue work while we're gone
- Hearts to be open to the gospel



Life in the jungle hut



Washing clothes in the river



Hiking with the guys

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