

SEPTEMBER 2026

MATTHEW & SARAH THOMPSON

Missionaries to the Bibleless of Papua, Indonesia

Hello Friends,

In September, we wrapped up our time in the States and returned home to Papua. We were deeply encouraged and strengthened during our furlough as we spent time with family, our church family, partnering churches, and friends. We are grateful for every kind word, prayer, gift, meal, and all the support to help us on our way. We enjoyed getting to visit with some of our partnering churches and hearing people pray specifically for us, the Murkim people, and the work God has given us here. We only wish we could have seen more of our partners! Our furlough was short, and unfortunately, there just wasn't enough time to visit everyone.

One of the biggest highlights was being with family, especially getting to introduce our boys to family members who had not met them yet. We also loved being back with our sending church, meeting many new additions to our church family (praise the Lord), and strengthening friendships there that mean so much to us. Each visit with our partnering churches were sweet, and we were also thankful for the blessing and opportunity to attend the American Baptist Association Messenger Meeting while we were in the US.

One of our biggest requests during furlough was prayer for our Murkim translation team. We handed out baseball-style prayer cards with individual translators on them and asked people to commit to praying regularly for one or more members of the team. As far as we can tell, none of the translators currently have a clear understanding of the Gospel. Health is also a serious concern among the Murkim people, so we are asking God for the salvation of each of these men and to protect the health of them and their families. We were so encouraged by how many people committed to pray, and we want to extend that same invitation to those we weren't able to see. Our translators and two other men in our direct sphere of influence are: **°Arinus Tentop °David Bumi °Ikonius Wima °Tarson Murkim °Tinus Beti °Yakwin Wima °Yohanes Temtop °Yohanes Uma °Yulius Belmbu °Mois Sepolim °Kutinus Mir.n** Please email us if you'd like photos.

Please pray for our next Project 24/7 workshop, October 5–23, as we begin translating the stories of "The Creation of Woman" and "Mankind Falling into Sin." Please also pray for our family as we continue settling back into our home, routines, and ministry here in Papua. We are thankful to be back and excited to see what the Lord will do in the months ahead.

Love in Christ,
Matthew, Sarah, Azariah, & Malachi

Prayer Requests & Needs

- **Continued growth in understanding of the gospel for the translators**
- **For us as we transition back into life Papua**
- **Good health for our family and the translators**



Back on the bike



Pro Traveler



Sarah's sister's wedding

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