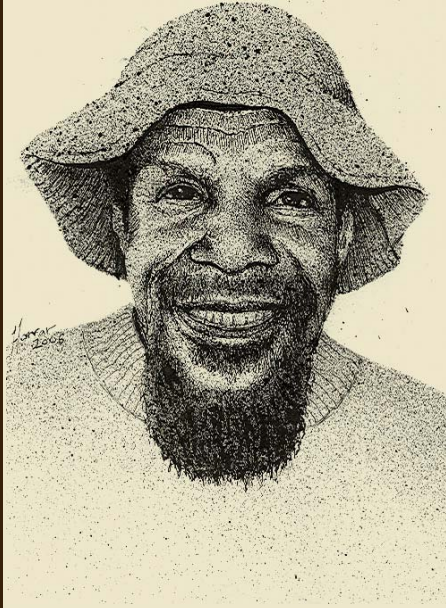


## The Namat of Papua New Guinea



The Namat people occupy Mibini village about 14 kilometers south of Morehead Station. Mibini residents reported that it was once three villages, but due to deaths from sorcery and other causes, the people came together to form one village, choosing Namat as the common language. The Namat say they often mix languages. It is reportedly hard for them to differentiate languages any more.

The Namat people cultivate gardens on the plains near the Morehead River. Their diet consists of yam, taro, sweet potato, sago, greens, fruits such as coconuts, bananas, pineapples, and papayas. They also fish and hunt deer and wallaby and raise chickens. They occasionally sell some of their garden produce, meat and fish in Morehead.

The Namat people build their houses on poles, raised about 6 to 10 feet above the ground. The roofs and walls are made of bark. There are Seventh Day Adventist and United Church congregations in Mibini. Most of the people would call themselves Christians, but there is a fair amount of syncretism. Sorcery continues to be very actively practiced in the village.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

21%

**Churches:**

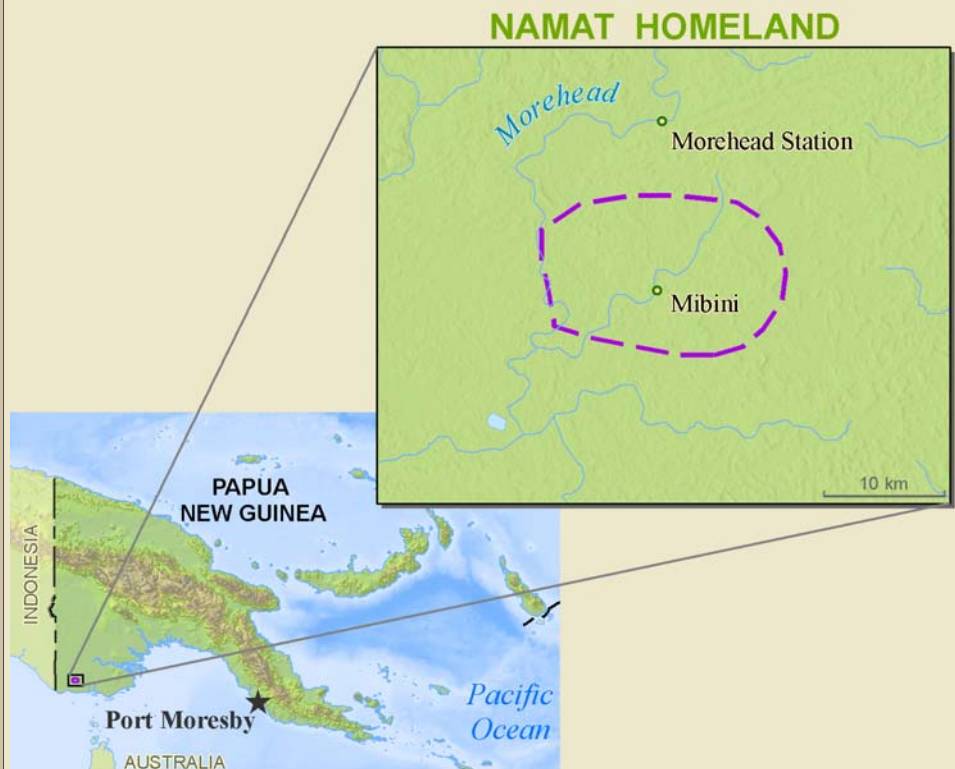
2

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None

**Population (date):**

215 (2003)



## The Namat of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	21%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Pastors	2	
Comment (Pastors)	The pastor at the Seventh Day Adventist church is from Buzi. The pastor at the United church is from Rouku.	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	no expatriate missionaries	
Response To The Gospel	<p>Most of the village would call themselves Christians. But it was reported at the United church that most individuals are nominal Christians. 19% of Namat are described as disciples by the pastors. 25 individuals at the Seventh Day Adventist church and 15 at the United church. In 1964, Mr. and Mrs. Turaki Teauariki from the Cook Islands were the first missionaries to come to the Morehead area. They started work in Rouku, just west of Morehead, in the Ko'mnjo language area. The people responded to the gospel and stopped practicing customs like burying the sick alive, women giving birth alone in the bush, and polygamy.</p> <p>The Seventh Day Adventist church came to Mibini from Morehead in the early 1980s. The United church came around 1980. An evangelist from Daru came to Ngaraita and later to Mibini.</p> <p>There is a fair amount of syncretism.</p>	
Number Of Communities	1	
Number Of Churches	2	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Reported: Very few men or women are literate. Very few can read in English.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Papua New Guinea	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Mibini ward of the South Fly District in the Morehead Rural Local Level Government area, Western Province. 14 km south of Morehead Station.	
Country	Papua New Guinea	
Ecosystem Type	Savannas	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	42 ft	
Longitude	E141 38.151	
Latitude	S8 50.396	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Language	NAMBU	
Comment (Language)	Namma is reported to be an alternate name.	
Comment (Language)	Everyone school age or older is familiar with English and/or Motu and/or other neighboring languages.	
Comment (Language)	Some very young children may be monolingual if both parents have come from the village.	
Comment (Language)	The Namat report that their language is a mix of many languages. They say that now no one is able to differentiate these languages.	
Comments (Dialect)	Namma and Namo are reported dialects.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive	
Second Languages	KOMNIO	
Second Languages	ENGLISH	

## The Namat of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
Second Languages	KANCHA
Second Languages	NAMBU
Second Languages	MOTU
Second Languages	NAMMA
Second Languages	NAMO
Comment (Second Language)	Most older Namat speak Motu. Most younger individuals at least understand English. Some also speak Komnjo and Kancha. They are also familiar with Namma, Nambo and Namu.
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	MOTU
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ENGLISH
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	NAMBU
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	KANCHA, KOMNIO, NAMMA, and NAMO are also described as mother tongues of the Namat.
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Reported that the Namat speak Namma just like the residents of Ngaraita and Tais villages.
Comments (Related Languages)	There seem to be no closely related languages. Namat is just 66% lexically cognate with Namma.
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	The Namma area is northeast of the Namat area. The Kancha area is southwest of the Namat area. The Namu area is to the south and the Komnjo area is to the northwest.
Corrections To Ethnologue Entry	They are entered in the Ethnologue as part of Namma (NMX) language group. However, we only found a 62-66% shared cognates between the two. Namat might be a dialect of the Nama language.

### Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	42%
Percent Literate For Men	44%
Percent Literate For Women	41%
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	No
Publications In Vernacular	None

### Group Description

### Economics

Subsistence Type	Fishers
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	Very minimal. They reported that they do sometimes sell meat, fish, baskets and mats in Morehead. They eat what they fish, hunt and grow in their gardens and their homes are made entirely of bush materials.
Occupation	Gardening, fishing, hunting
Income Sources	meat, fish, baskets and mats
Products / Crafts	baskets and mats
Trade Partners	Neighboring villages: Yokwa, Ngaraita, Uparuwa, Tais, Rouku. Marriage exchange with Pongariki, Rouku, Yokwa, Jarai, Uparuwa, Ngaraita, Mari, Tais, Mata, Derideri.
Modernization / Utilities	lamps, radios, bicycles, tools, hoes, hammers, saws, nails, knives
Comment (Economy)	There is very little access to, or money for, outside things (western goods).

### Group Description

### Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	None
Comment (Health Care)	The closest health center is in Morehead, a 3 hour walk.
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Diet)	Cassava, yam, taro, sego, papaya, pineapple, some venison and fish
Water (Quality)	Fair

### Group Description

## The Namat of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
Comment (Water)	There is a small river for bathing. The women often use the swamp. The Namat drink well water.
Shelter Description	Houses are made of bark, usually one or two bedrooms and a main room. A family unit (mother, father and several children) lives in each house.
Electricity	None
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Clothing	They buy secondhand clothing in town. A few people wear shoes. Some wear sandals.
Transportation	Walking and biking. Tractors sometimes come to Mibini. They report that the road is passable in late August/September during dry season.

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Neighbor Relations	Amiable; They have marriage exchange with neighboring language groups and report that when disputes arise they talk or fight with knives and axes, but no one is killed.
Authority / Rule	clan leaders
Social Habits/Groupings	clans
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Judicial / Punishment System	When there is a dispute, the village comes together for village court. They talk matters over and come to a decision. It was reported that people sometimes resort to fighting.
Celebrations	Weddings, funerals, pig exchanges, harvest, church openings, yam harvest, Christmas, New Year, Independence, birthdays
Art Forms	baskets and mats
Media	None
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive

### Education

### Group Description

Primary Schools	1 elementary (EP, E1, E2)
Primary School Enrollment	27
Secondary Schools	0
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	100% (elementary)
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1:27
Comment (Education)	Students go to Morehead for high school.
Comment (Education)	Namat is the language of instruction and the language of the textbooks in the elementary school.
Comment (Education)	Many of the students and their families have trouble paying school fees. Some have problems maintaining their grades. Others get into fights. Children often need to work in the gardens, so they cannot come to school. There are some unwed mothers.

### Church Growth

### Status of Christianity

Reached Classification	Evangelized
Total Baptized	45
Comment (Church Growth)	Twenty-five (25) of the baptized Namat are Seventh Day Adventists.

### History Of Christianity In Group

### Status of Christianity

Year Began	1980
By Whom	United Church
By Whom	Seventh Day Adventists
Significant Events	The Seventh Day Adventist church came to Mibini from Morehead in the early 1980s. The United church also came around 1980. A revival occurred when a pastor from Sepik visited.

### Scripture

### Status of Christianity

Translation Status	Possible
--------------------	----------

## The Namat of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
Available Scripture	None
Uncertain Need Explained	It would be very difficult to decide which language to do a translation in since there is so much code mixing and code switching.
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name	United Church
Year Started	1980
Mission Agency Type Of Organization?	No
Denominational Type Of Organization?	Yes
Number Of Adherents	40
Number Of Congregations	1
Number Of Expatriate Workers	0
Number Of Local Workers	1
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	1
Organization Name	Seventh Day Adventists
Year Started	1980
Mission Agency Type Of Organization?	No
Denominational Type Of Organization?	Yes
Number Of Adherents	40
Number Of Congregations	1
Number Of Expatriate Workers	0
Number Of Local Workers	1
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	1