

## The Nen of Papua New Guinea

The Nen people occupy Bimadeben village, located forty-six kilometers northeast of Morehead station, just west of the Idi language area.

The Nen people cultivate gardens. Their diet consists of yam, taro, sweet potato, sago, greens, and fruits (coconuts, bananas, pineapples, and papayas). They also fish, hunt deer and wallaby, and raise chickens.

The Nen people build their houses on poles, raised about six to ten feet above the ground. The roofs and walls are made of bark.

The Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea is active in Bimadeben. Most of the people would call themselves Christians, but the pastor reported that many are nominal in their faith.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

14%

**Churches:**

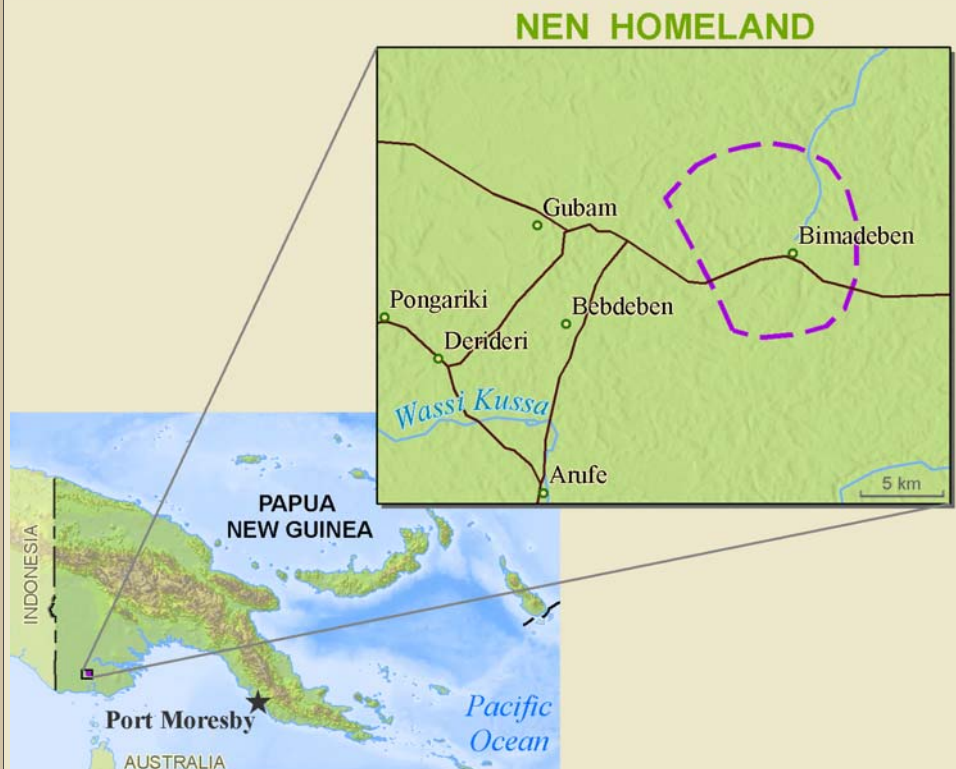
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**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None in their language

**Population (date):**

343 (2003)



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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	14%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Pastors	1	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Response To The Gospel	<p>Rapid growth, but largely nominal or syncretistic; 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 they stopped practicing certain customs i.e. burying the sick alive, women giving birth alone in the bush, and polygamy.</p> <p>In the late 1960's missionaries from Australia began the Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (ECPNG) in the Suki language area, north of the Nambu language area. Papua New Guinean pastors were trained there, and then they were sent south to the Nambu area.</p> <p>Most of the people would call themselves Christians, but many are nominal.</p>	
Number Of Communities	1	
Number Of Churches	1	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	The book of Colossians has been translated by Martin Graham in Nambo, a neighboring language. The Nen have a copy, but they do not use it. The pastor reports that it is too hard to read.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	"Many" men are literate in Nen, English, and Motu. A few are literate in Tok Pisin. "Few" women are literate in Nen, English and maybe their own language.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings	
<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	Bimadeben ward, South Fly District, Morehead Rural Local Level Government area, Western Province. Forty-six kilometers east and slightly north of Morehead station. Just west of Dimisisi in the Idi language area.	
Country	Papua New Guinea	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	122 feet	
Longitude	E142 02.999	
Latitude	S 8 37.739	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Language	NAMBU	
Comment (Language)	It is reported that only the old women and young children are monolingual; however, children whose mothers are from other language areas are familiar with their mother's vernacular.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Second Languages	MOTU	
Second Languages	TOK PISIN	
Second Languages	ENGLISH	
Second Languages	NAMBU	
Second Languages	NAMA	
Comment (Second Language)	Most of the young and middle-aged speak English. The old men speak Motu. A few people speak Tok Pisin. Some of the people seem familiar with Nambo and Nama.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	NAMBU
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	IDI
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	They intermarry primarily with Nambo and Idi speakers. The women from these areas and their children are likely bilingual.
Comments (Related Languages)	There are no closely related languages. Nambo is just 58% lexically cognate with Nen.
Neighboring Languages	IDI
Neighboring Languages	NAMBU
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	The Idi area is to the east of the Nen area. The Nambu area is to the west.
Corrections To Ethnologue Entry	NQN was submitted as the suggested new Ethnologue code by the Bouves, not yet published.

### Literacy

### Group Description

Adult Literacy Percentage	83%
Percent Literate For Men	87%
Percent Literate For Women	79%
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	No
Publications In Vernacular	Folk tales recorded by David Gibson

### Economics

### Group Description

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	Very minimal. The Nen sometimes sell meat and baskets in Morehead. They have done government work, fixing the roads. They eat what they hunt and what they grow in their gardens. Houses are made entirely of bush materials.
Occupation	Gardening, hunting
Income Sources	Baskets, cassowary, meat
Products / Crafts	Baskets
Trade Partners	Marriage exchange with Gubam, Derideri, Bebedeben, Arufe, Dimisisi
Modernization / Utilities	Lamps, Coleman, nails, hammer, saw, axe, spade, file, oilstone, radios, tools
Comment (Economy)	They have very little access to - or money for - outside things (western goods).

### Community Development

### Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	None
Comment (Health Care)	There is a new aid post in Bimadeben, but as of June 2003 it was not open. The nearest health center is Morehead Station, which is forty-eight kilometers away, twenty-two kilometers that must be passed by foot or by bike.
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Diet)	Cassava, yam, taro, sego, papaya, pineapple, some venison
Water (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Water)	There are wells for drinking water and a creek for bathing.
Shelter Description	Houses are made of bark, usually one or two bedrooms and a main room. A family unit (mother, father and several children) typically lives in each house.
Electricity	None
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Clothing	They buy second-hand clothing in town. A few people wear shoes. Some wear sandals.
Transportation	Walking and biking

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Neighbor Relations	Amiable. They intermarry with neighboring language groups, and they report that when disputes arise they meet and discuss matters.
Authority / Rule	Clan leaders

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<b>Item Name</b>	<b>Item Note</b>	
Social Habits/Groupings	Clans	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Judicial / Punishment System	When there is a dispute, the villagers gather for village court. They discuss matters and come to a decision.	
Celebrations	Weddings, funerals, harvest, church openings, school, hospital opening, farewell, Christmas, New Year, Independence, school closings	
Art Forms	Baskets and mats	
Media	None	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	1 elementary	
Primary School Enrollment	59	
Secondary Schools	0	
Secondary School Enrollment	1	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	100% (elementary)	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1:20	
Comment (Education)	Nen is the language of instruction and reportedly the language of textbooks.	
Comment (Education)	Students go to schools in Dimisisi, Arufe or Kondobol for 6th grade. For 7th grade, they go to Dimisisi. For 10th grade they go to Daru. One student is in Balimo studying at the 11th grade level.	
Comment (Education)	Many families have difficulty paying school fees. Some students are unable to maintain their grades. Others get into fights.	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Reached Classification	Evangelized	
Total Baptized	73	
Lay Leaders	0	
Comment (Church Growth)	One pastor is from the Suki language group, and another is from the Idi language group. A third pastor is Nen. The three pastors use Nen for announcements, and they mix English with Nen for preaching. They may read Scripture in English, but they explain it in Nen. No expatriate missionaries are working among the Nen.	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Resistance / Receptivity	The Bimadeben pastors estimated that forty-eight Nen are regular church attendees.	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	1967	
By Whom	Mr. Elis from New Zealand	
Significant Events	In 1985 and 1986 there was a revival. Some men collected some magic stones from a story place, declaring they no longer had power over the people of Bimadeben.	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	Possible	
Available Scripture	None	
Comment (Scripture)	The book of Colossians, translated by Martin Graham, is available in Nambo, a neighboring language. The Nen have a copy, but they do not use it. A pastor reports that it is too hard to read.	
Comment (Scripture)	There may be some recordings in Nen, done by Global Recordings (or Gospel Recordings). The catalog lists "Nen" as having "Good News" recordings; however, it also lists "Ekemer (Nen)" as another name for Arufe. The set of information may mean that the Nen speakers are meant to use the Nambo recordings. According to our data, Nen and Nambo share 56-58% cognates, and there is little understanding between the two.	

## The Nen of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	Yes
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (see APCM)
Year Started	1967
Mission Agency Type Of Organization?	No
Denominational Type Of Organization?	Yes
Number Of Adherents	73
Number Of Congregations	1
Number Of Expatriate Workers	0
Number Of National Workers	2
Number Of Local Workers	1
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	3