



## The Nama of Papua New Guinea

The Nama people live in three villages – Ngaraita, Mata and Daraia. They live in an area of about two hundred square kilometers on the plains near Morehead River in the southern part of the Western Province of Papua New Guinea.

The Nama people cultivate gardens, which produce taro, sweet potatoes, yams, sago, and greens and also fruits, such as coconuts, bananas, pineapples and papayas. They also fish, hunt deer and wallaby, and raise chickens. They sell some of their garden produce at Morehead market, just a few minutes from Ngaraita.

Marriages are arranged through “sister exchange,” where there is ideally an even exchange of brides between villages. New brides will typically move to the village of their new husbands. Marriages are celebrated with singsings, consisting of traditional style music and dance.

Most of the Nama people identify themselves as Christians, and they are very enthusiastic about reading God’s Word in their own language. One woman in Mata village said, “Having the Bible only in English is like holding a cold glass of water that we can’t drink.”

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

< 26%

**Churches:**

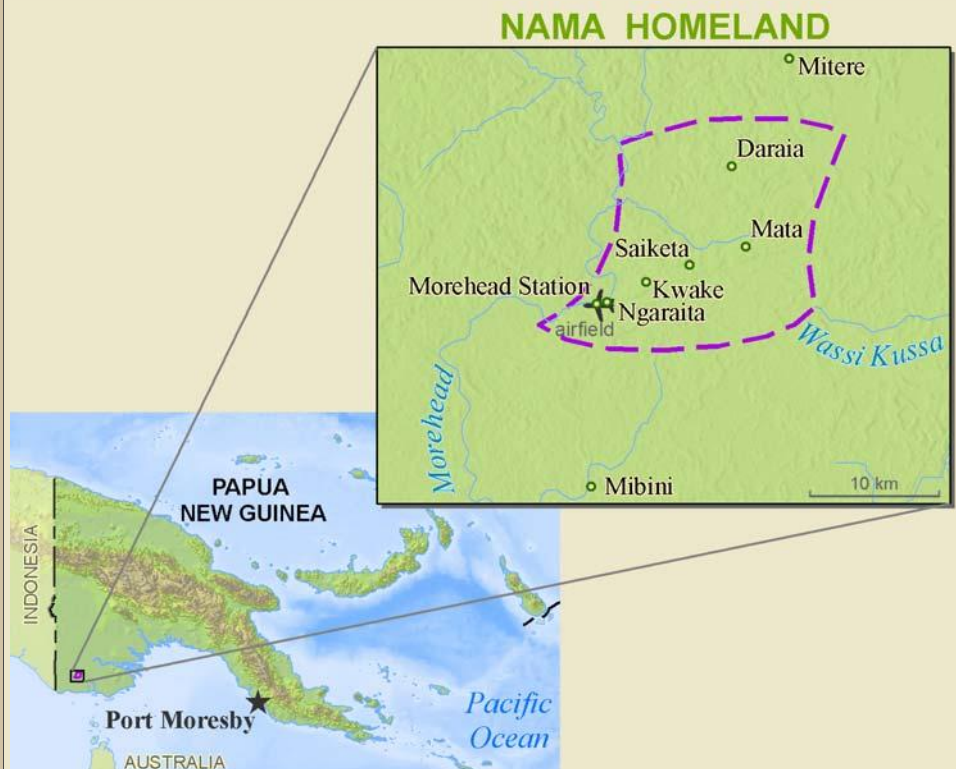
8

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None in their language

**Population (date):**

823 (2000)



## The Nama of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	Profile Summary
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		
Call Themselves Christian (%)	100%	
Comment (Call Themselves Christian)	Almost 100% would call themselves Christian.	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 26%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	Only 16% are active in the church	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Pastors	2	
Comment (Pastors)	One pastor and one priest. Pastor ratio of 2: 604 (two of three villages included) There is a CLC (Christian Life Centre) pastor and a New Apostolic Church (NA) priest in Mata village.	
Number Of Missionaries Working	3	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	Total expatriate missionaries: None; missionary ratio is 3: 604 (two of three villages) The Ngaraita/Morehead United Church pastor is from Port Moresby, the Chairman of ECPNG (Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea) is from Gogodala language group, north of the Fly River in Western Province, and the SDA pastor in Ngaraita is from the Wèré language group west of the Morehead area. Total national missionaries: 3 (from Port Moresby, Gogodala and Wèré)	
Response To The Gospel	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, a village near Morehead. The Nama 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.  Missionaries from Christian Life Centre in Port Moresby started work in the Nama area in 1987, and in 1989 a missionary from Dimisisi opened an ECPNG church. SDA churches opened in the area in early 1990, but the Mata SDA church closed in 1996 due to lack of interest. The Mata New Apostolic Church opened in 1994.  Most Nama speakers are church members. Local churches are usually full on Sundays; however, sorcery is still practiced. Usually, they use it to find the reason for death or sickness. They also use it to curse specific people. The SDA pastor in Ngaraita reported that some church members have turned away from the church. The Christian Life Centre pastor reported, "I think with all my heart that this (Bible in Nama) is what the people need to change their lives." (p.c. June 2003)	
Number Of Communities	3	
Comment (Number Communities)	Three villages: Ngaraita, Mata, Daraia. (Morehead Station is in the Nama speaking area, but as it is populated by people from various language and people groups. It is not included as a part of the Nama people group in this profile.)  Village (Population) Ngaraita (427) Mata (177) Daraia (219)	
Number Of Churches	8	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Literacy Rate	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings: Yes Literature: No Films/videos: No Radio: No The cassette is called "Words of Life", and it is recorded in the Nambo language. It includes about ten songs (about one to two minutes each) and ten short messages (each one being about five minutes or more) (source: <a href="http://www.gospelrecordings.com">http://www.gospelrecordings.com</a> ). The Nambo and the Nama belong to the same language subfamily, and for various reasons that include linguistic relationship, high contact and intermarriage, most of the Nama speakers understand Nambo well.  The church leaders read from the English Bible in church; however, not many Nama speakers understand English. The Scriptures are translated spontaneously into Nama whenever possible.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The Nama people need missionaries to assist them in translating the Bible into their language.	

# The Nama of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	823	
World Population (Date)	2000	
Comment (World Population)	National Statistical Office	
<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	Near the Morehead River in the southwestern part of Western Province	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	0-110 meters	
Longitude	Ngaraita S: 8.42.649 Mata S 8 40.311 Daraia S 8 36.956	
Latitude	Ngaraita E 141 38.840 Mata E 141 44.625 Daraia E 141 44.056	
Climate	Rainy season (December to May), dry season (June to November)	
Map Features	Ngaraita S842.649 E14138.840 (altitude: 50 meters) Mata S840.311 E14144.625 (altitude: 107 meters) Daraia S836.956 E14144.056 (altitude: 112 meters)  Morehead River	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Language	Nama	
Comment (Alternate Names)	None reported	
Comments (Dialect)	None reported	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Second Languages	English	
Comment (Second Language)	English (The educated know some English. 58% of those who are ages ten years and over have completed grade six.)	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Other people groups speaking this language as their mother tongue: Namat, Nambo, Namna, Neme (due to intermarriage)	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Namat, Nambo, Namna, Yokwa, Weam, Aramma (due to intermarriage)	
Comments (Related Languages)	Neme, Nambo, Nen, Namna, Namat, Namo	
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Neme, Namna, Namat, Yokwa, Weam	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	68.8%	
Percent Literate For Men	76.4%	
Percent Literate For Women	60.9%	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Comment (Active Literacy Program)	Ngaraita Elementary School has "big books" and "shell books" in Nama. A trial alphabet was developed during an agency Alphabet Design Workshop in 2002.	
Comment (Literacy)	The literacy rates are for people ages ten or older.	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Comment (Subsistence Type)	Swidden agriculturalists	
Occupation	Fishing, hunting, gardening	
Income Sources	Garden vegetables and fruits; fish, meat, mats	

## The Nama of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
Products / Crafts	Mats, baskets, sago, bows, arrows	
Trade Partners	Torres Strait Islanders, northern Queensland, Australia	
Modernization / Utilities	Outboard motors, radios, flashlights, spades, axes, knives, clothes, rakes, water tanks, graters	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Health Care)	There is a health center in Morehead and an Aid Post Orderly in Mata.	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	Vegetables, fruit, meat, fish	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	Morehead River and wells. Mata reported that during dry season the wells go dry.	
Shelter Description	Bush material houses, raised one to two meters on stilts, prevent animals from getting into the houses. They also provide a shaded shelter under the house. One family unit (mother, father and three to six children) usually lives in a house, which has about two to four rooms.	
Electricity	One trade store in Ngaraita had electricity.	
Clothing	Second-hand western style clothing	
Transportation	Most travel is done on foot, though people do sometimes travel by bike, dinghy or truck (two people in Ngaraita owned trucks).	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Patrilineal, but nuclear families usually live in their own houses.	
Neighbor Relations	Good working relationship with neighbors	
Authority / Rule	Groups in this area tend to be individualistic; however, clan leaders and elected officials have influence over others, particularly if they are respected and have good oratory skills.	
Social Habits/Groupings	Clans	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Integrated	
Self Image	Neutral	
Judicial / Punishment System	Village court	
Celebrations	Christmas, New Year, weddings, pig exchanges, harvest, church openings	
Media	No	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	3	
Comment (Primary Schools)	Two elementary schools. In PNG, elementary schools normally offer elementary prep (EP), grade 1 (E1), and grade 2 (E2) in the local language. Currently, in the Nama area, one of the schools does not offer prep, but only E1 and E2. One primary school. PNG primary schools normally offer grade 3 through grade 8.	
Primary School Enrollment	90	
Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	Elementary (EP-E2): 37 students (24 boys, 13 girls) Primary (grades 3-8): 53 students (26 boys, 27 girls)	
Secondary Schools	0	
Secondary School Enrollment	0	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	13: 252	
Comment (Teacher to Pupil Ratio)	Elementary 4: 37 Primary: 9: 222 (Two of the teachers are Nama, and fifty-three of the children are Nama. All of the classes are mixed.)	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Nama (Papua New Guinea)	

## The Nama of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Nama (Papua New Guinea)
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English
Comment (Language Of Instruction)	The primary language of instruction is Nama for the elementary schools and English for the primary school. For bridging purposes, some English is used in E2 and some local vernacular (Nama or one of the neighboring languages) continues to be used in grades 3-5.
Comment (Language Of Textbook)	The elementary schools uses Big Books and Shell Books in Nama. The primary school uses English textbooks. Bridging materials from the vernacular to English are also used. Unmixed Schools: The two elementary schools (prep through E2) are 95% Nama. (The primary school, grades 2-8, is mixed.)
Church Growth	
Reached Status	Selected
Reached Classification	Evangelized
Total Baptized	65%
Comment (Total Baptized)	65% (396/604) of the population of Mata and Ngaraita are baptized church members. (Figures for Daraia village were not obtained.)
Lay Leaders	A few
Bible Schools	0
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0
Christian Literacy Centers	0
Religion & Response	
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Liturgy reading
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive
Items For Prayer	Pray that God would strengthen and encourage Nama churches and believers.
Items For Prayer	Pray that God would raise up Christian Nama speakers who are enthusiastic about helping with translation.
Items For Prayer	Pray that the Lord would send out more workers to the harvest and provide translators who can help with a Nama Bible translation.
History Of Christianity In Group	
Year Began	1964
By Whom	Turaki Teauariki and his wife from Cook Islands
Significant Events	Church dedications, revival crusades, chief apostle (New Apostolic Church) from Switzerland came to baptize in water and in the Spirit, in Mata village.
Scripture	
Translation Status	Definite
Available Scripture	None
Form Of Scripture Available	None
Comment (Scripture)	It is likely that a Nama [NMX] language Bible translation project could be undertaken concurrently with the following Nambo Subfamily languages: Nambo/Namna [NCM], Neme [NEX], Nen [NQN], Namat [NKM], and Namu [MXW].
Comment (Scripture)	The cassette is called "Words of Life", and it is recorded in the Nambo language. It includes about ten songs (about one to two minutes each) and ten short messages (each one being about five minutes or more) (source: <a href="http://www.gospelrecordings.com">http://www.gospelrecordings.com</a> ). The Nambo and the Nama belong to the same language subfamily, and for various reasons that include linguistic relationship, high contact and intermarriage, most of the Nama speakers understand Nambo well.  The church leaders read from the English Bible in church; however, not many Nama speakers understand English. The Scriptures are translated spontaneously into Nama whenever possible.
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No

### Status of Christianity

### Status of Christianity

### Status of Christianity

### Status of Christianity

## The Nama of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
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	Seventh Day Adventists
Comment (Main Ministry)	Local Church
Number Of Adherents	Morehead/Ngaraita: 45 members Daraia: Unknown
	(Based on Church leader's report in the villages)
Number Of Congregations	2
Language Used By Workers	Motu
Language Used By Workers	English
Organization Name	United Church
Comment (Main Ministry)	Local Church
Comment (Number Of Adherents)	Morehead/Ngaraita: 94 members Daraia: Unknown
	(Based on Church leader's report in the villages)
Number Of Congregations	2
Language Used By Workers	Motu
Language Used By Workers	English
Organization Name	New Apostolic Church
Comment (Organization)	There is a Nama New Apostolic Church (NA) priest in Mata village.
Main Ministry	
Comment (Main Ministry)	Local Church
Number Of Adherents	Mata: 31 members Morehead/Ngaraita: unknown
	(Based on Church leader's report in the villages)
Comment (Number Of Adherents)	
Number Of Congregations	2
Language Used By Workers	Nama (Papua New Guinea)
Organization Name	Christian Life Centre
Comment (Organization)	There is a Nama CLC (Christian Life Center) pastor in Mata village.
Comment (Main Ministry)	Local Church
Number Of Adherents	Church in Mata 230 members  unknown number at the churches in Morehead/Ngaraita and Daraia
	(Based on Church leader's report in the villages)
Number Of Congregations	3
Language Used By Workers	Nama (Papua New Guinea)

## The Nama of Papua New Guinea

<b>Item Name</b>	<b>Item Note</b>
Organization Name	Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (see APCM)
Main Ministry	
Comment (Main Ministry)	Local Church
Number Of Adherents	40
Comment (Number Of Adherents)	The number is based on the church leader's report in the villages. Morehead residents are probably included in these numbers.
Number Of Congregations	1
Language Used By Workers	English
Language Used By Workers	Motu