



The Neme of Papua New Guinea

The Neme people occupy two villages: Keru and Mitere. Mitere is located about 24 km northeast of Morehead and Keru is another 12 km north, just south of the Arammba language area.

The Neme people cultivate gardens on the plains east of 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 Neme people build their houses on poles, raised about 6 to 10 feet above the ground. The roofs and walls are made of bark.

There is an Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea congregation in Keru (no research done in Mitere). Most of the people in each village would call themselves Christians, but there is a fair amount of syncretism. 20 men from Keru village have been working on translating Arammba scripture portions into the Neme language, but they have requested help from a translation agency.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

8%

Churches:

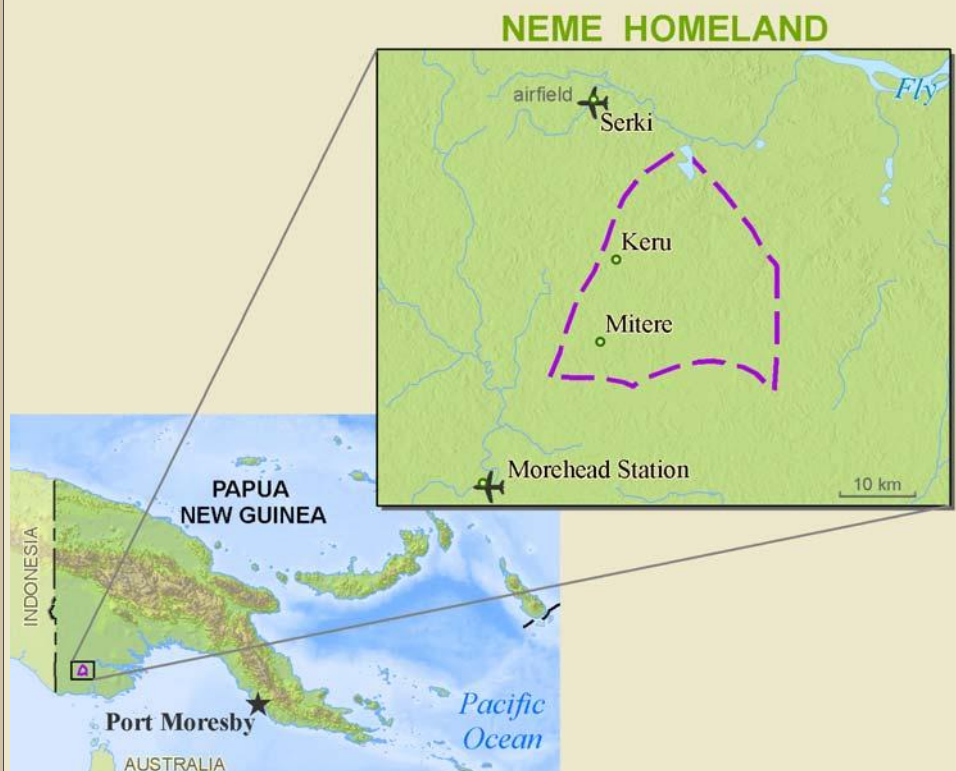
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Portions

Population (date):

300 (2003)



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Item Name	Item Note	Profile Summary
Have They Heard The Gospel?		
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	8%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	25% have been baptized	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Pastors	1	
Comment (Pastors)	There are one pastor and one lay worker. There are no expatriate missionaries.	
Number Of Missionaries Working	1	
Response To The Gospel	Rapid growth, but largely nominal or syncretistic; Most Nema consider themselves Christians. Some of the men have attended the Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (ECPNG) Bible school in Kiriwa. Keru village is only accessible by foot or bike path and has very little outside contact. 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. 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 sent south to the Nambu area. Most people call themselves Christians, but there is a fair amount of syncretism. Church leaders and other elders are very interested in having the Scripture in their own vernacular – so much so that they have begun translating Aramma scripture portions into Neme. The Keru pastor estimated that 25/300 are "strong Christians."	
Number Of Churches	1	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	A few men in Keru village are translating Aramma [STK] (1998) Scripture portions into their own language. They have completed Genesis chapters 1-3. They have composed some songs in the vernacular and sing them during worship services.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	None known	
	Literacy Rate: 51% Reported: Many men can read in Neme and English. Not many women can read, and those who can only read in English. The school in Keru is new. Children are learning to read.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings	

Countries Where People Group Lives

Group Description

Country Name Papua New Guinea

Geography & Environment

Group Description

Location Keru and Mitere villages, Keru ward of the South Fly District in the Morehead Rural Local Level Government area. 34 km north east of Morehead station, just southeast of the Arramba language area.

Country Papua New Guinea

Ecosystem Type Tropical Forest

Ecosystem Type Savannahs

Geological Type Plains

Elevation 96 ft

Longitude E141 47.574

Latitude S8 26.515

Language & Linguistics

Group Description

Primary Language NAMBU

 Comment (Language) Some very young children may be monolingual if both parents have come from the village.

Attitude Towards Mother Tongue Very receptive

Second Languages ENGLISH

Second Languages MOTU

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Item Name	Item Note
Second Languages	SUKI
Second Languages	ARAMBA
Comment (Second Language)	Everyone school age or older is familiar with English, Motu, and/or other neighboring languages. Most older Neme speak Motu. Most younger individuals understand English. Some speak Arammba and Suki. The Nema are familiar with Nambo and Nama.
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ENGLISH
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	MOTU
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	SUKI
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARAMBA
Comments (Related Languages)	There are no closely related languages. Neme is 53% lexically cognate with Nambo and 52% lexically cognate with Nama.
Neighboring Languages	ARAMBA
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	The Aramba area borders the Neme area to the east. The Nama area borders the Neme area to the southwest. The Namna and Nambo areas border the Neme area to the southeast.
Corrections To Ethnologue Entry	NEX was submitted by the Bouves, not yet published. Language name should be Neme, not Nemme.

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	51%
Percent Literate For Men	57%
Percent Literate For Women	46%
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	No
Publications In Vernacular	Genesis 1-3 (draft)

Group Description

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	Very minimal. The Neme sometimes sell meat, fish, baskets and mats in Morehead. They eat what they grow in their gardens and hunt. 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: Mukfideben, Mata, Gubam, Pongariki. Marriage exchange with Mukfideben, Mata, Gubam, Pongariki and Ngaraita.
Modernization / Utilities	Nails, hammers, saw, wood edger, bicycles, radio, cooking items, lamps, shovels, axes, bush knives, files
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 2 day walk or 6 hour bike ride. When the roads were good, the health center in Morehead sent out traveling clinics. But the road is no longer passable by 4WD. There are aid posts in Kiriwa and Mukfideben, but the aid posts are not used by the Neme.
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Diet)	Cassava, yam, taro, sego, papaya, pineapple, some venison and fish
Water (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Water)	There are a shallow, fairly muddy creek for bathing and wells for drinking.
Shelter Description	Houses (usually one or two bedrooms and a main room) are made of bark. A family unit (mother, father and several children) typically live in each house.
Electricity	None

Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None	
Clothing	They buy secondhand clothing in town. A few people wear shoes. Some wear sandals.	
Transportation	Walking and biking	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Neighbor Relations	amiable – they have marriage exchange with neighboring language groups. When there are disputes, they talk matters over.	
Authority / Rule	clan leaders	
Social Habits/Groupings	clans	
Judicial / Punishment System	When there is a dispute, the villagers meet for village court. They talk about the matter and come to a decision.	
Art Forms	baskets and mats	
Media	None	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	1 elementary, 0 primary	
Primary School Enrollment	27	
Secondary Schools	0	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	100% (primary)	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1:27	
Comment (Education)	Many families have trouble paying school fees. Some students have problems maintaining their grades. Others get into fights.	
Comment (Education)	Neme is the language of instruction and reportedly the language of textbooks for early years.	
Comment (Education)	Students go to Suki for grades 3-8 and Daru for 9-12	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Classification	Evangelized	
Total Baptized	74	
Lay Leaders	1	
Bible Schools	1 (Kiriwa/Arammba area)	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1970s	
By Whom	Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (see APCM)	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Definite	
Available Scripture	Portions	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	Yes. There may be some recordings in Neme, done by Global Recordings (or Gospel Recordings). However, on their website it lists “Nemeyam” as another name for Arufe – which may mean the Neme speakers are meant to use the Nambo recordings. According to our data, Neme and Nambo share 52% cognates and there is little understanding between the two.	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity

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Item Name	Item Note
Organization Name	Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (see APCM)
Year Started	1970s
Mission Agency Type Of Organization?	No
Denominational Type Of Organization?	Yes
Number Of Adherents	74
Number Of Congregations	1
Number Of Expatriate Workers	0
Number Of National Workers	1
Number Of Local Workers	3