

OCTOBER 2025

# MATTHEW & SARAH THOMPSON

Taking God's word to those who haven't heard

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS,  
AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR  
FINANCIAL PARTNERS.

Hello Friends,

## Language Learning and Preparing for What's Next

We've been encouraged by Matthew's progress in Murkim language learning during our time in the village. Now we're back in town and continuing linguistic study and preparing lessons for when we return.

We're also taking important steps in forming the translation team. As we wait for baby Malachi's passport and visa, we're using this season to review what we've learned and try to plan well for the next stage. Thank you for praying with us through each step of this process!

## The Beauty of Language

God is amazing and creative. The languages of the world contain an incredible diversity of structures and grammar. That's why it's so important to really learn and study a language and how it works when doing translation.

Let me give you a taste of the Murkim language to show what I mean. If you want to say, "I hit a mouse with a hammer," in Murkim you would say: "*Nuk hama kun ya kena arbe blo ko.*" This translates quite literally as "I hammer grab mouse hit."

In Indonesian, you would say "*Saya memukul seekor tikus dengan palu,*" which literally means "I hit a mouse with hammer." As you can see, the structure in Murkim is very different from both English and Indonesian. So if you were translating this sentence from English or Indonesian into Murkim, you couldn't just translate it word for word. You'd need to understand the grammar, structure, and natural phrasing of Murkim to express the same idea correctly. Thank you for praying for us as we learn the Murkim language.

## Looking Ahead: 2026 Furlough

We're excited to share that our family is planning a furlough next year, June through September 2026. During this time, we look forward to reconnecting with many of you and sharing some of what God has done in our lives since we left the U.S. in late June 2023.

We'll be putting together our travel schedule soon. If your church is planning a missions conference during those months and you'd like us to be part of it, please let us know. We'd love to try to make it!

In Christ's love,  
Matthew, Sarah, Azariah, and Malachi

## Prayer Requests & Needs

- Malachi's visa process
- The translation team formation process
- For ongoing language and culture learning



Azariah with Murkim friends



On the plane



Brothers & best buddies

Update video

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