

Team East Timor News Update

The gift of God

(Pastor Aaron I. Arsino)

March 21, 2020

Romans 6:23 – For

the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



1st Anniversary:

There is no other important thing during the celebration of the school's 1st year anniversary than the preaching the gospel of salvation. We praise the Lord that in this event, they were open and interested in listening to the gospel of the grace of God. We cannot count the persons receiving the message of Christ's love and salvation because all of them stood up during the prayer. The celebration has been very successful with the cooperation of everybody. We are so thankful even for the neighbors and some government officials who helped us about the security measures during the anniversary.

Ma'am Ciony's Arrival:

The arrival of Ma'am Asuncion Buca was not posted in Facebook to avoid the locals watch list on the issues of covid-19. Two days after Ma'am Ciony's arrival, the airport and the border were closed due to the tensions of covid-19. People in the city are very curious when somebody from another country arrives in East Timor. East Timor has no facility and medical experts who could well treat common diseases as well as for Covid-19 virus, so, an Italian was sent to Australia for treatment two weeks ago as he was suspected of being a Covid-19 carrier. Ate Ciony, as we call her, is living with us immersing the locals. For now, she is still adjusting the environment, culture, language and of the foods. We all know that it will not be easy for her to immerse the people in this backward territory, but because of God's love to the nations, Ma'am Ciony responded the call of God coming here with us.



Thanksgiving:

1. The successful celebration of Learning Centre's 1st year anniversary. An overwhelming attendance of more than 120 people was observed. There's no other thing that makes us feel happy other than those lost souls who believe the gospel of salvation.
2. Discipleship classes to the students who acknowledge receiving the Lord Jesus Christ thru English approach program called English Discipleship Class. Other title is offensive to the locals like ministry or Bible teaching.
3. The participation of all the locals around the Learning Centre was being appreciated, from trained students, neighbors and friends and government officials.
4. The smooth arrival and giving of the welcome party for Ma'am Asuncion Buca. Praise God for her safe arrival.
5. Thanking God that our trained students are now seriously doing the work together with us, and, they are helping us in everything during the preparation of the materials in the English course.

Timor-Leste: COVID-19 (March 13, 2020) → Country-Specific Information:

- Timor-Leste has not confirmed cases of COVID-19 according to the World Health Organization (WHO) based in Timor-Leste.
- The Global Health Security report 2019 found Timor-Leste stood 163 out of 195 countries in preparedness to respond to emergency situations. Other disease-specific and program-specific studies and evaluations have also identified challenges facing the health system in this country. The health system in Timor-Leste is weak and high numbers of COVID-19 cases would stretch the health system and its resources down.
- WHO in Timor-Leste recommends those with fever, cough, and difficulty of breathing to seek medical care early to reduce the risk of developing more severe infections. It has disseminated campaign for health care measures and basic approaches in cases of health risks patients.
- The WHO is working closely with the government of Timor-Leste Ministry of Health and gives advice on the country's response to COVID-19.
- The land boarder, port and the airport are already closed. The foods here are now limited for the people and panic buying also arises.

6. Thankful to God that Timor-Leste is safe from covid-19. Since March 12, 2020, it closes the boarder, airport and the port.

Deadly flood:

Dili city was flooded last March 13, 2020. The people called it "deadly flood". Schools and building and many houses were being destroyed by that flood. The heavy rain lasted only for two hours but the waters filled the entire city. All of our members had been flooded and most of their things were carried away by the flood. Team East Timor has been safe except from the remnants of heavy dirt and mounds of dusts around our place. Five of our volunteer teachers' houses were damaged/flooded like kitchens and walls, and caused them sleepless nights for a couple of days. Our school activities have been affected by the attendance of some students-having their foods, slippers/shoes washed out due to this flood. Some of the students are not able to attend classes because they are waiting for a help from the government and from some private sectors. We are praying that we can share them also a little help. Basically we have shared with our volunteer teachers during their duty hours and during Sunday's worship services.



Prayers:

1. For the extension of visa application of Ma'am Ciony for another month. This is needed before she could apply for a year's permanent stay/annual visa. Visa application now becomes worse/complicated because the rule has changed and government authorities are very strict because of covid-19. All Visa fees also have increased this year.
2. For the preparation of getting the requirements of our visa renewal and that our needs will be provided.
3. For the renewal of our Permit for English School.
4. For our health. Jack got fever for two days now. Buying medicines is hard and is very limited in most pharmacies.
5. John and Jirah's school declared a two-week lockdown from March 23, 2020 to April 3, 2020. They are required to have an online schooling.
6. Pray for our survival for the following weeks; panic buying of goods and foods have started and the prices of other prime commodities are getting higher now in East Timor.

Philippians 1:21 – For to me life is Christ and death is profit.

For some questions and suggestions, please feel free to contact us at:

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