



# Team East Timor News Update

## Live with Power

(Pastor Aaron I. Arsino)

April 5, 2020

**2 Timothy 1:6-7** – For this reason I say to you, Let that grace of God which is in you, given to you by my hands, have living power. For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-control.

### Timor-Leste under the State of Emergency:

March 28, 2020, the President of Timor-Leste, Francisco Goutières “Lo-Ulo”, declared that the county is in the State of Emergency as a preventive measure to the pandemic Covid-19. The schools, churches, offices and some social gatherings are all suspended. People are instructed to stay at home until April 26, 2020. After the President’s declaration, its citizens got panic and foreigners have been uneasy. It has closed the land boarder to Indonesia, the port and the airport’s flights were restricted only to the inbound Timorese from abroad who complied with the standing regulation. As of even date, there are no more public transportation and people keep storing foods that will last for few weeks. Timorese are not afraid to die of Covid-19 but they are more afraid to die out of hunger. The country is dependent on the importation of some foods and goods from the other countries like Indonesia. Its own agricultural products and supplies are not enough for their own. Our neighbors advised us that we should store foods and water because they really know based upon their experiences, in times of crisis in East Timor, how their people suffer. They said that during crisis, riots becomes worst in East Timor every night, especially at the height of economic uncertainty. The city is now empty of food supply. Most of the people went home to their respective districts. As of April 4, reports from the Ministry of Health confirms of only one patient who is being infected of Covid-19 here. Relatively, the state declared that there are now 25 people being quarantined who are suspected of having infected with the corona virus.



### Cultural Prayer and Rituals in East Timor of fighting against Covid-19:

The culture in East Timor is stronger than the state and their religion. Government offices, churches and social gatherings would at times suspend but not their cultural practices and rituals. Their culture is very powerful that even the political leaders and priests would join the tribal ceremony in every district of doing the animistic prayers and worships and the offering of animal sacrifices. One vivid example of this culture was their unified prayers in their fight against Covid-19 last week (photos above). Our greatest battles in this country are against the principalities and powers of the darkness side by side with their culture and tradition. To combat these wiles of the devil, we hold on to the power of God’s Word in **Titus 2:11** which spells out salvation for those who will hear, listen and believe the gospel in **2 Corinthians 15:2-4**. Our conviction in the preaching the gospel is our faith in Jesus that He is our Shield and Savior against their wicked practices brought about their culture that misled them into animistic beliefs and from the Word of Truth.

### Thanksgiving:



- We thank God for the divine protection in our daily lives, of keeping us safe from Covid-19 and from any other illnesses and from troubles every night.
- We also thank God that even the city was flooded twice in March but God miraculously saved us from the great calamity.
- We thank God that through daily devotion and meditation of God’s Word that we find rest in His name.
- We thank God that we still continue our worship service and bible sharing.

### Prayers:

- The processing of Ate Ciony’s visa.
- The processing of our school renewal of permit.
- John and Jirah’s online schooling.
- For the preparation of getting the requirements of our visa renewal, all these three processing of documents have been delayed as offices have been closed for two weeks now.
- Pray for our health: Ate Ciony, Noemi, Jack and I. Not because we have bad coughs, not because of Covid-19, but because of the dusts and from the muddy floods in the city.
- Pray for our survival in the country. For now, we still have food and water and milk for Jack. Few stores are open but stocks are already limited.



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

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