



Traditional ceremony of preventing Covid-19 in Timor-Leste

Team East Timor Mission Update

July 23, 2020

John 3:17 – For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

East Timor and Covid-19

East Timor is now free from Covid-19. Still, the government has imposed strict measures at the borders and the airport is still closed. The locals have been encouraged to follow sanitation, health, social distancing and other safety protocols. Cases of dengue infections are decreasing. Offices are already back to normal and schools are now open. John and Jirah have started normal classes this month, but with the new schedule attending their classes during afternoon only. We are so thankful to the Lord for His sovereignty over this country and also to the government, health authorities and the NGOs which are engaged in health concerns.

With regard to the learning centre, we started the English classes just last week. By this, we adhere to the safety and health precautionary measures practices inside the premises.

Immigration and Visas

After the lockdown, we immediately made follow-up applications for the extension of our visas. All our visas had expired last May. The Immigration Office has changed all the procedures of Visa processing in conformity with the new administration. The Immigration Office allowed us to renew our visas, but, first we need to possess a tourist visa extension before we can process one-year working and student visas. There have been no clear instructions or guidelines on the new procedures – just tidbits of information and instructions from the attending guest officer/s. Praise God, through all your prayers for us, that a few local friends extended their help for us to have legitimate access at the Immigration Office, and hopefully our tourist extension Visas shall be granted next week. We are praying that we can have the needed funds to immediately process our Working and Student Visas once the approved tourist Visa extension is secured so as to avoid high penalty charges. The Immigration Office will no longer process very late applications for all types of Visas after July 2020.



Children Sunday School and Sunday Worship Service

Thanks be unto the Lord that the children we have been teaching have continued attending our Sunday school. We have divided the children's classes into three levels: Ciony for the intermediate, Noemi for the Juniors and Pastor Aaron teaches the primary graders. Thank God that even our English volunteer Teachers are assisting us during the Children's



Sunday School. Our worship services are improving in terms of lessons with variations of teachings because some of the locals are also attending together with the adult English students.

English Learning Centre

The application for renewal of our learning center permit was submitted two weeks ago. Until now, we are still waiting for its



approval. We are also grateful that some of our facilities have been upgraded following orders from the government and the Ministry of Health. Schedule of classes is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM with a noon break of 2 hours. Four classes are simultaneously conducted such as pre-school, primary, secondary, senior high school and college students at two hours each period. This caters to the morning and afternoon attendees, while also accommodating the schedules of students from regular school classes. We have new enrollees while some old students have not returned yet from their districts. We hope to increase the list of enrollees next month soon as we disseminate the news properly to the nearby areas. Initially we have now English students at the learning center.

Ciony's language study

Ciony was able to have her Tetun language study for a month. We are still praying she can continue her language study and that the financial needs will be met. She still needs at least one month to continue learning Tetun to enhance her formal communication skills so she will be more efficient also in teaching English to the college students and the professionals, and eventually can share the gospel to the locals.



Bible study

We praise the Lord for new contacts for Bible study. East Timor is very devoted to Catholicism and animistic beliefs. Finding contacts for Bible studies here is very difficult because most of them are closed-minded in terms of religious beliefs and evangelism other than Catholicism. Pray that our needs for Bible studies will be provided, especially our transportation expenses, because our contacts are a little bit far from where we live. We have targeted at least three different areas for Bible studies

starting this month. As of now, we are pleased to inform that we already started two home Bible studies.

Prayer requests:

1. Pray for the visas and the financial needs.
2. Pray for approval of our learning center permit renewal.
3. Pray for Ciony's language study, that she can continue for another month (that will cost \$480).
4. Pray for our new contact/s for Bible study (targeting at least 3 families).
5. Pray for the outreach ministry expenses.
6. Pray for our English class students and some students who are willing to be discipled.
7. Discipleship and scholarship program for deserving selected students next year.
8. Long term plan and goal to acquire a property in the city proper, at least 400 sq. m.

Thanksgiving:

- Opening up of the economy in East Timor.
- For the supporters and prayer partners.
- The opening of English learning center / provisions of updating facilities.
- The one month language study of Ciony.
- The Bible study contacts to the locals.
- Good health, safety and protection.
- Sunday activities / Sunday School / Worship Service.
- Successful Bible studies.

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

(Email) anj_arsino04@yahoo.com.ph; cionybuca@gmail.com, (whatsapp) +639503688800,
(messenger/facebook) Aaron Indino Arsino, Asuncion BUca.