



Team East Timor Mission Update

October 6, 2020

Eph 5:16-17 – Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord

is.

East Timor and Covid-19

East Timor had extended its State of Emergency until October 4, 2020 because of some positive cases of Covid-19 from the Indonesian borders. There has been no record of death here yet. The Ministry of Health is very vigilant in fighting against the spread of the virus. We praise the Lord that we are all safe and in good health. The economic situation of the country is gradually sinking. Many locals lost their jobs and some of the business centers are already closed, while some of the non-formal activities and educational courses have stopped their operations. People in East Timor are in deep poverty. We do not know yet when will the situation here be back to normal.

Immigration Office and Visas

Our second extension of tourist visas was done. We are now extending again said tourist visas the third time for October while waiting for the approval of our working visas. John and Jirah's student visas were already accepted and they are now waiting for the stamp of their passports. Most foreigners are much stressed re-visa processing in Timor-Leste. As of now, getting of visas is time consuming, expensive and complicated than before because government authorities keep changing their rules and due to political influences.

Sunday School and Sunday Worship Service

Our Sunday School activities for children is being affected since we temporary close the Learning centre. There are only a few children who regularly come, but some of the young people are regularly attending our worship service. We praise the Lord that our Sunday activities are still on-going. We feel so sad when sharing bible stories every Sunday because the children have zero knowledge about bible. Their parents also are the same being not knowledgeable of the bible in spite of being religious Catholics. We thank God in this privilege that through us the Word of God be shared to these students and to the few locals who have been connected with us for some time. Praying and hoping that the gospel of salvation be understood to them and they will receive God's salvation thru Jesus Christ. There is no impossible for God to take them out from their animistic beliefs to come into His fold. Sometimes, children and young people love to talk about myths and stories of their ancestors and, many times they are amazed by the Word of God when they attend our bible class. Hopefully the Word of our Lord



will enlighten them with much knowledge of Jesus Christ - the true light of salvation. *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (John 8:12).

English Learning Centre / NGO

The learning centre is temporary closed since August. We are not sure when it will open again. The Office of Immigration strictly warned us to temporarily close the learning centre while waiting for the approval of working visas. Requirements and the applications for visas in East Timor in this pandemic time are very hard as there are no definite guidelines to follow. While waiting for the visas, we have processed again the NGO registration since it was not approve last year. We are hopeful that the government will grant it this time. The Ministry of Justice called us to

continue processing the registration so we did comply and submit the new requirements per their advice. We always find a way that will lead us for the success of the NGO registration. The Ministry of Justice Office also called us for interview. As of now the Justice Officials are guiding us on how to process until it will be approved. Relatively, we do not hear any negative feedback as they appeared friendly during the interview.



Worship service at Soares' residence

The Soares family has already attended the series lessons of bible study about "Salvation by Grace" and the "Law and Grace". We are deeply thankful to the Lord that the whole family is now faithful in attending the worship service every Sunday. Even though it's very hard for the first time to share the Word of God because of their strong culture and religious beliefs, divine intervention has no doubt caused the Soares family members to fellowship with us. This family has open doors to the Word of God. Mr. Vicente Soares is a pure Timorese with full respect in their family clan and his wife is an Indonesian from the island of West Timor who comes from the Christian family. The couple is having difficulty adjusting with their contradicting cultures and religious practices and beliefs. We could not imagine on how God will touch their lives to have a gradual change like new born babes in Christ and into following the will of the Lord. They help us by sponsoring our stay and go with us in making follow-ups of our visas. Moreso, we also have our regular bible studies to another one family who is very devoted to catholicism and



fanatic of their cultures. Using the catholic bible is our bridge to enter their house. We continually pray that the Word of the Lord will come unto them with the power of the Holy Spirit to let them understand about the gospel of salvation.

Our in-house English classes are still on-going with the two families of whom we have conducted regular Bible Studies. We are pleased to inform that their kids and immediate family members are very interested to learn, but their schedule of English classes are always interrupted by the normal change of their regular school classes specially those students learning in government schools.

Prayer requests

1. Working visas and extension of tourist visas.
2. Approval of the NGO application.
3. For more contacts for bible studies.
4. For Outreach ministry expenses.
5. For English class students waiting for resumption of the operation learning center.
6. For Discipleship and theology students who are interested to study the bible.

Thanksgiving

- The TCM cares project which consistently supporting us.
- Our site visit/ocular view for a potential land in the district of Manatuto.
- Cheerful supporters and prayer partners.
- The bible study contacts to the locals.
- Good health, safety and protection.
- Sunday activities / Sunday School / Worship Service.
- Continuing Bible studies and in-house English classes thru Bible lessons.

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

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