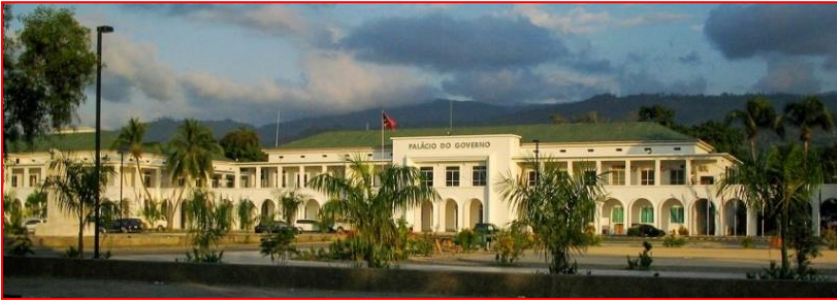


# Team East Timor Mission Update

**November 6, 2020**



**Psalm 73:25-26** – Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

## East Timor and COVID

East Timor is now struggling with an economic crisis. Recently, two big supermarkets and two hotels were closed. The number of jobless locals is increasing, and many overseas workers here have been laid off. The government, in its fight against the spread of COVID, has strictly ordered residents to wear masks and social distance in public places. Timorese have become lax, and COVID remains a major health threat; hence, the State of Emergency continues.

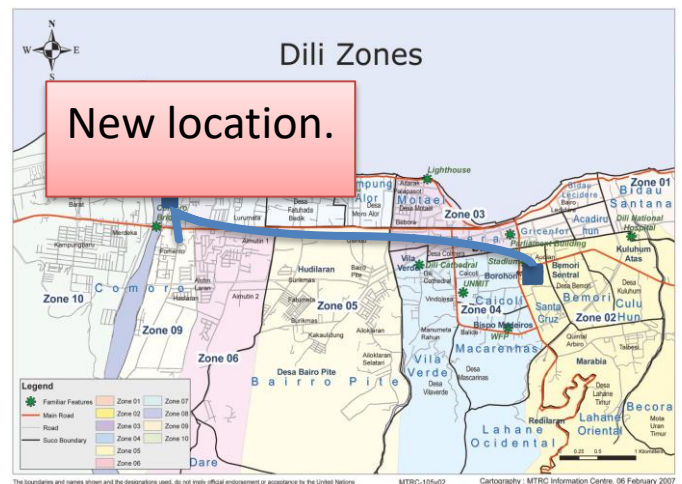
The decrease in importation of goods and prime commodities caused the increase of prices of the country's basic needs. Local production of goods in the country has never been enough to sustain its people.

## Immigration Office and Visas

Our present status is still tourists in Timor-Leste. We already did the third extension of our tourist visa, and we are preparing for the fourth extension by mid-November. There seems to be a delaying strategy in the current system of processing visas in order to extract money from foreigners by having extended visas. Respective offices processing our visas often required of us papers which do not fall within their checklist, and sometimes they demand repetitive documents. We have felt this experience along with our foreign friends for the past months.

## English Learning Centre / NGO

The learning centre has moved to a new place. It was an immediate transfer because there were many interested occupants for this place which is cheap, very conducive to learning and naturally residential. Among the reasons for our transfer were the personal conflict between the owner of the previous rented house and the village chief which gravely affected our residency requirement, prompting us to seek help from the other village chief. Also, the old place has neighbors who kept on having festivities which at times disrupted our Sunday services. Nevertheless, we trust our God that the rapport that we established with the majority of the neighbors and the seed of the Word that was shared with the students shall never be in vain.



In this new place, we meet new people and friends. We have started an impact through sharing the gospel of the grace of God. We are happy and excited on how God will work out His salvation plan by the Holy Spirit and through the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please take a look at the map of Dili City. As a background, Dili is divided into ten zones and our previous place falls under Zone 2, the most famous village named Santa Cruz. It is a historical place where the massacre of thousands of Timorese occurred during the time of the Indonesian occupation. Our new place is in Zone 8, where most of the bigger malls and shops of the country are located, and it is nearer to various hotels and the airport.

## Worship service and Sunday school

The new place is an answer to our prayer. We have now three Filipino families fellowshiping with us. One family has already applied for Timorese citizenship and



the two men are married to Timorese. These families have committed to spend their whole life among the locals and have participated in our regular Friday Bible studies. Their commitment is a big help in tracing local contacts since they are already citizens. Now, we have new children attending Sunday school from our new neighborhood.



## Bible studies and extension classes

Every Friday evening and Sunday afternoon, we have Bible studies and fellowship exclusive for Filipino-Timorese members and friends.

During Saturdays, we have Bible study and an extension class for children's ministry to the two villages. The 2-month in-house English class thru Bible lessons at the Timorese-Indonesian (Soares) family ended the third week of October. Spiritual blindness brought about by strong cultural and animists practices are the issues which make it difficult for conducting Bible studies with the locals.



## Prayer requests

1. Working visas, extension of tourist visas and student visas.
2. Approval of the NGO application.
3. For more contacts for Bible studies.
4. For English students waiting for resumption of the operation English learning center.
5. For Discipleship and Theology students who are interested to study the Bible.

## Thanksgiving

- Thanks for the new souls added in the church, new place and friends.
- Partnership and prayers.
- The Bible study contacts among the locals.
- Good health, safety and protection.
- Sunday activities / Sunday School / Worship Service.
- Continuing Bible studies and English classes thru Bible lessons.

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