



Team East Timor Missions Update

**November – December 2020
A Blessed New Year**

Psalm 37:23-24 – The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with* his hand.

East Timor and Covid-19



East Timor still has a few number of positive Covid-19 patients as of December 31, and the government declares a total lockdown again until January 31, 2021. The country has suffered not only the Covid-19 but for its economy and industries. East Timor is a little bit an isolated state, thus the importation of goods and other prime commodities are now deficient of supplies. People have felt this insufficient supplies and have worked out to meet both ends. Some have started utilizing only local goods for the daily basic needs. These facts have been confirmed by a friend who is the Veterans President of East Timor. In a few opportune time, Pastor Aaron have had coffee meetings and talked with Antonio “Ai Tahan” Matak, Veterans President. Among main concerns during these meetings are the political and Covid-19 issues of which we learned directly that the locals are obviously hungry – materially and spiritually starving.

Immigration Office and Visas

Our application of visas started to process last July 2020. It is now on its sixth month and we still have to pay for the working visa which is the last phase of the process after approval for photos at the Immigration. This is the first time that the process has been very delayed considering the three months total lockdown and the appointment of the Director of Immigration had been replaced two times causing erratic implementation of some office policies for the past six months. Praise God that we had already the approval – just waiting for the advice for the payment of the working visa. With the long holidays of this season, the last phase of for the release of our passports may again be delayed. *But we are already safe from the penalties and charges of overstaying as Immigration does not allow anymore 4th tourist visa extension for those who had already applied for the working visas which are already in their custody.*

English Learning Centre / NGO

The English learning centre classes will regularly start in February 2021 if the country shall be free from the Covid-19 or soon as we comply all requirements. Hopefully through this activity, will be a bridge to connect more locals for the sharing of the gospel of salvation. The processing of the NGO application was temporarily set aside by the Ministry of Justice for political reasons. It needs more patience to do the NGO registration as when we did inquire from several NGO applicants, we learned that they have worse experience than ours. The power and the control of this country is politically enjoyed jointly by the priests and tribal leaders, henceforth all of the big decisions are aligned with the catholic religion and with their culture. Recently, the Ministry of Justice warned all the protestant churches in the country that are being registered as NGOs not to conduct any religious ceremonies, like weddings, and baptismal. Protestants can only do worships and prayer meetings. East Timor needs more prayers just like any other unreached nations. We do not lose hope in pursuing our NGO registration as its scope of work has more areas where the gospel can penetrate. We believe that God sent us here with a great purpose to let Jesus Christ shine and bring salvation to the Timorese. As long as we are here, we will continue the work of the Lord for His own glory.

Worship service and Sunday school



God’s grace gospel is always abounding, the ministry in East Timor has been blessed by the

Lord. With visa limitations, some of the Filipino Christians who are already married to the Timorese are meantime

our priority in focusing to share the gospel of grace. Now, the congregation is gradually formed. Our regular attendance has grown up about twenty-four every Sunday that we have conducted our worship service outside the room – under the shelter of trees. We only got difficulties of gathering if there is rain because we use only a roll of net to protect us from the heat of sun and from anything that falls from the tree. We thank God that as of December, we had elected a set of officers. We are praying that by the grace of our Lord the gospel of salvation will abound more next year.

Bible studies and English extension classes

We thank the Lord for the bible studies that we have. Every Friday evening is our indoctrination/theology class for adults with series lessons on Things that Differ and Dispensation. For now, we limit our time reaching out other areas for the risk of having no working visas yet.

This month of December, we had two Christmas parties for the children's in-house English extension classes and the 1-week Science and English vacation school. The affairs (Fiesta as they call it) were gladly attended by their parents and members of the church. During these Closing exercises, we handed to the children gifts and many special awards to those deserving kids together with sumptuous foods/snacks and they had some fun with the games introduced to them. We also ended up our Sunday School for October – December 2020. We also had the privilege of sharing the message of Christ's birth and preached the gospel of salvation. We lift the lives of the children to God for those who professed to receive the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

We praise the Lord for some local and Filipino friends who supported us for the successful 1-week Science and English vacation class. There were 26 Timorese children who religiously finished this vacation class.



On December 29-30, we tarried to compliment the faithful church attendance of two Filipinos married to Timorese by conducting in-house evangelistic family event. We were happy to have them with the entire family gathering together with some believers. Their children have been with us during Sundays. We took advantage of the holidays for these gatherings to establish better rapport among us. Though we face hardships emerging with their culture because most of their relatives are solidly against the protestans, we never give up reaching them thru the gospel of salvation. Praying that by the year 2021, the Lord will bless more of His work and the Timorese will understand the message of grace.

Psalm 37:39-40

But the salvation of the righteous *is* of the LORD: *he is* their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Prayer requests

1. Pray for the release of our passports with the working visas.
2. For the NGO application to continue processing next year.
3. More bible studies and indoctrination to the regular church attendees.
4. The opening of English learning center by February 2021 class.
5. For the next school year of John and Jirah by January 2021.

Thanksgiving

- Thank God for the successful events of the month of December 2020.
- Partnership and prayers and our visas.
- Good health, safety and protection.
- For the whole year that was full of challenges and but with good memories amidst the pandemic.
- For John's and Jirah's school academic and special awards.

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

(E-mail) anj_arsino04@yahoo.com.ph; cionybuca@gmail.com,
(whatsapp) +63-9503-688-800,
(messenger / facebook) Aaron Indino Arsino, Asuncion BUca.

