



Team East Timor Missions Update

January 2021 TheWork Begins

Matthew 20:28 – Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

East Timor and Covid-19

This month of January 2021, the Covid-19 cases are increasing in East Timor. Its borders with Kupang and Atambua {Indonesia} have been totally closed. The importation of goods is not permitted because of the alarming cases of deaths and a number of patients from these borders. The threat now, we are told, has started local transmission of the virus. Now, the country is aware of symptomatic cases of which Timor-Leste government is doing its best to curb the transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Church gatherings have been banned. Classes have just now been permitted to have face-to-face instructions on limited number of students. The government is distributing goods to selected locals from December 2020 to January 2021 because majority of the people are starving. The State of Emergency is still extended until February or until further notice. By faith, hopefully we can survive this pandemic by the help of our Lord.

Immigration Office and Visas

We praise the Lord for all of His goodness and answering our prayers. The Arsinos and Ciony have received their passports with visas. The Immigration Office seems like our second home as we kept visiting several times a week of checking visas for the last six (6) months. We learned more patience in this country and making friends of those who are also having difficulties in their visa processing.

English Learning Centre

We are praying to open the learning center this month of February, if the Lord grant it, as the State of Emergency is still extended until February, (until further notice). Even our extension classes have been temporarily stopped. Our students are eager to re-open our class again, but we will keep waiting until further instruction from the government of when we shall be able to operate the English Learning Center.

Worship Service



Worship Services still continue in the midst of pandemic. We do our worship services inside our Bible study room. Big church gatherings are not yet permitted by the government. But, group meetings up to 10 persons are allowed. So then, our Sunday activities are not affected as of this this month and praise the Lord that we have more evening meetings weekly. We also thank our Living God because church members are already practicing an offering as part of the worship every Sunday. The members have started supporting some basic needs. Please help us to pray on how the Lord works more for this church and how well we grow together spiritually and in number in this time of pandemic. Sometimes, it is hard dealing with language differences, specially during worship services in explaining the Word of God into Tetun language. Our powerpoint sermons are in English and are translated and expounded in Tetun for the

Timorese. We believe that God will enlighten them more by His power that will come unto them not in word only but also by the power of the Holy Spirit that works in us.

Bible Studies and Evening Devotions



Starting January 2021, we have changes in our Bible study schedule due to the restrictions imposed by the State of Emergency. We focus our ministry schedule on the members to continue our Bible studies and

have family devotion together. In this situation, we have the opportunity to teach them worship songs, Bible doctrines, Bible readings, verses expositions and memory verses. **Children ministry is now actively involved in church activities.**

Our series of Bible studies is growing deeper every Friday, studying the seven dispensations and we praise the Lord for all the knowledge that He gives. Our family devotions, together with some church members are held during Wednesdays and Saturdays. Also, to accommodate those who want to join with us in an allowable group, a special prayer meeting has been conducted once a week. Activities are safe from the restrictions of the State of Emergency because we are inside the premises of a big compound and with smaller groups of each evening gathering.

Restaurant blessing



Pastor Aaron has the opportunity of blessing a small restaurant of Mana Merry, a Timorese friend. Mana Merry

is a sympathizer in our church, and is also praying with us always in the work of the Lord in East Timor. Mana Merry is a widow and has four children. She is a veteran who fought during the Indonesian civil war and has experienced many troubles and hardships in life. Now, that she learns the Word of Truth, she stands alone and leaves behind her culture and traditions. Here, it is the hardest decision to get out of their culture, being cast out from families and friends just to follow the steps of Jesus. We are always praying for her that she can bear the ridicule and persecutions by her own people.

Psalm 31:23-24 – O love the LORD, all ye his saints: *for* the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Prayer requests

1. Pray for Ciony's continuing language study.
2. More Bible studies and doctrinal teaching to the regular church attendees.
3. Studies of John and Jirah and their adjustment to the new school.
4. For the 2nd year anniversary of our learning center on March 7, 2021 together with the church members. In this manner, we can invite more people to hear the gospel of Salvation.

Thanksgiving

- Thank God for the releasing of visas of the Arsinos and Ciony.
- Thank God that John and Jirah have transferred into a Christian School.
- For providing our needs even in the midst of crisis.
- For keeping us in your prayer, and good health every day and God's protection.

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

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