



# Team East Timor Missions Update

March 2021

**Titus 2:11-13** – For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Great is the Lord our God!

On March 7, Team Timor, together with the church members, celebrated our 2<sup>nd</sup> English Learning Center Anniversary (Arsino Aaron Learning Centre, LDA) with great success.



An attendance of about 50 people including guests/friends and former students graced this momentous event following safety precautionary measures prescribed by the government authorities. *That day was even blessed more with Ptr. Arsino's message on "Blessed Hope". This anniversary's message has been synthesized in three points of Christians having "(a) a Great God and Savior, (b) a Great Salvation and (c) a Great Hope in Heaven."*

We praise God for answered prayers and for allowing us to gather for that very special occasion under fine weather and the privilege of meeting our local friends with whom we started sharing the gospel. The rendition of special songs by our Timorese and the missionary kids, John and Jirah, added color to our worship. On the other hand, the music team offered inspirational and God-glorifying songs to open that day's worship service.



*A sumptuous lunch was shared by the congregation after the service. Celebration continued in the afternoon with singing, various games and giving prizes. With a few remaining members bonding with us until evening, we really enjoyed our thanksgiving day which we simply held in our comfortable place with tall trees, green scenery and a garden.*



The success of that grand day could be attributed to concerted efforts from our dear friends and brethren who faithfully remember us in prayers with enduring support, and above all to God's guidance with His plan for this tiny nation. Words may not be enough to express our deep gratitude for all of your remembrance to us. Nevertheless, please allow us to say our heartfelt "Thank you!" May we enjoin you to witness some of our happy photos taken from this 2<sup>nd</sup> Learning Center anniversary. Hoping that you are also encouraged knowing our updates regarding Team Timor.



At the outset, Team Timor has been experiencing being blessed beyond measure by faith. As we continue to live here for missions, please pray with us more fervently that we will reach souls to come to the fold of our Master Jesus Christ. Looking forward to working and ministering in this unreached nation for years, through thick and thin, by God's grace working through us.

To God be the glory!

**COVID UPDATE**

A total country lockdown was declared at midnight on March 8, 2021, just a day after our church anniversary. It is in full force until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2021. Its immediate declaration was due to the increasing local transmission of COVID cases within the city that has recorded 97 patients in one week alone. It caused alarm and panic by residents with rising prices on the majority of basic commodities, considering that there is still no proper authority handling price control in East Timor. All the roads



going to the districts are heavily guarded and closed. People in the city are not permitted to leave Dili and residents from the districts are barred from entering Dili. We did not post in Facebook our article regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary for our own safety because, after our celebration in the morning, two of our neighbors just 300 meters away from our house were



found to be COVID positive through contact tracing from the districts. All schools, public and private offices and other establishments are closed. A few grocery stores are open during mornings only. Strict quarantine

procedures and protocols are observed under strict police supervision. A few people seen outside for emergency reasons are under strict scrutiny; the rest have been arrested. Per actual checking at supermarkets, the rice supply has gone empty and



some basic commodities are limited in stock already within Dili City and the same is also true in some districts. Swab tests have started to take

place for government frontline offices and public workers. As a predominantly animist culture, the Timorese have been performing their rituals and animistic prayers for controlling COVID just as they also offered animal sacrifices for their departed loved ones and the spirits. Please enjoin us in fervent prayers as we face this spiritual battle. The challenges we now face as missionaries in East Timor have solidified our desire to share the gospel of grace of God, notwithstanding the odds of political crisis, health and the principalities present in this country.



**Ephesians 6:10-13** – Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**Thanksgiving**

1. The successful anniversary of English Learning Center.
2. The full support of church members during the anniversary.
3. Thankful to the Lord for keeping us safe from Covid-19.
4. For the good health to everyone.
5. God's provision for our needs.

**Prayers**

1. The lockdown in East Timor.
2. New church members in East Timor during the lockdown. We have already 6 Filipino and Timorese families and 10 individuals.
3. John and Jirah's school that is now temporarily closed because of the lockdown.
4. Bible studies, praying meeting, worship service and other activities that which are now limit the number of people in gatherings during the lockdown.
5. The ministry of sharing the gospel in the midst of Covid-19 in East Timor.

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