

# East Timor: Things to Come Mission Association

September 2021

## Endure all things for the elect's sake

**2 Timothy 2:10** – Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

### Sunday Worship Service



September was a challenging month for us to continue the work of the Lord due to facing corona virus difficulties. God has always been with us in any circumstance; even when we experience hardships, God gives us more courage to do the work for the elect's sake. By end of the month, the regular transport services in the city and all the districts were already back to normal, but check points are still intact for passenger interrogation regarding possession of vaccine cards for travelers in and out of the city.



The schools just opened the first week of October for in person classes. The Sunday worship service has been blessed by the Lord spiritually and physically. The attendance amazingly increased even though we conducted gatherings outdoors the whole Sunday. We're thankful for the trees that sheltered us from the heat of the sun.

Another development was the 3<sup>rd</sup> church officers meeting October 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the agenda was the approval to purchase four dozen plastic chairs (2 dozen big chairs for adults and 2 dozen small chairs for children). We also initiated discussion on the probability of having a church building as soon as the long term contract on the leased land we occupy is granted. We also planned the first church fellowship outing, sports activities, VBS preparation for December and salient aspects of the need to have a livelihood project under the scope of our TCM Association as one requirement of the government permit granted to us. We are hoping that a permanent church shelter with an attached TCM Association Office can be constructed before the heavy rains come.

### Midweek Prayer meetings and prayer warriors



September 8 we started a **midweek prayer meeting** with our church members, and it is now a regular activity. We are so thankful to the Lord for these weekly two hours of prayer for international ministries and local

ministry concerns. This midweek prayer gathering aims to strengthen each member's relationship towards the work of the Lord and boosts personal devotions. The **prayer team** also visited some friends who were sick and shared prayers and words of comfort. The church members are devoted in concerted prayers because they also feel the battle against the evil and spiritual wickedness among the unbelievers that surround us. On September 25, we again prayed for one member, Mrs. Waty Soares. Waty is the same person that we prayed over for deliverance against the group of gangsters she was involved with in past years. This time, we prayed for her as it seemed her family and siblings had put a curse on her for staying away from Indonesia and for marrying a local unbeliever.

Each district of Timor Leste has its own distinct tradition of prayers and idol worship, in addition to their common idolatrous culture, which carries out spiritual magic and other animist worship which most locals believe can cause unexplained illnesses and deaths. The apostle Paul was very strong of his writings in **Eph. 6:12** that, 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."

### Friday Theology and Sunday Bible classes



We are delighted and thankful to the Lord for the Field Bible School students who are enjoy and are faithfully involved in our discussions and their class assignments such as special music, meditations and giving subject reports. The four topics, THE CHURCH, MINISTRY GIFTS, THE BELIEVER'S WALK and THE LORD'S SUPPER from the book *Bible Truth* by Charles Baker have helped them understand the basic doctrines of grace. We believe God enlightens them through the glorious help of the Holy Spirit. We are praying to finish all the topics from *Bible Truth* this month and hopefully

proceed to another book, *True Spirituality* by C. R. Stam.

**Every Sunday afternoon**, a regular adult Bible class is conducted with a series of lessons. This afternoon class serves like Sunday School which focuses more on Christian living and other questions stemming from the Friday theological classes. During weekly sessions, we highlight any blurred biblical issues for clarifying discussion and help them understand more on that specific topic. The students just finished the five chapters of *Things that Differ* by C. R. Stam. They are very eager for discussion on the topic of the Last Days and look forward to an exhaustive study. Now, we see the gradual growth of everyone in learning the doctrines of grace that give the difference between the Law of Moses and the gospel of Grace. A set of review questions is given to the students after each session for check-up. Our Bible students are so excited every time we have a class because everything is new for them.

### Noemi's and Ciony's children ministry



The English Tutorial class, teaching Bible lessons and teaching songs for children, resumed the first Saturday of October. Praise God that children can come freely now, and we can continue to teach the children and relatives of the church members after all the Covid restrictions. Starting this month we started searching for kids and adults for a Talent program for spiritual upliftment. Through this they can



appreciate how good God is and how wonderful His gifts and talents are that He gives to each one of us for His work. The kids really enjoy rendering their songs, voices and works of art every Sunday afternoon. It is our approach to bring them closer to the ministry and members as they are appreciated and have their skills and talents developed for personal and spiritual benefits. We are happy

seeing our kids practicing special songs on Saturdays after their regular English classes, after which we have a joint lunch with them once a month. We have seen better attitudes, behavior and interest to learn new lessons. For example they manage to come anytime they are free from their Saturday government school classes, because they miss each other's company and are willing to study new English lessons.

In Timor-Leste, class schedules for elementary to university levels can change at any moment at the discretion of the heads of the schools. Adjusting to their erratic school schedule stretches us as teachers, because teaching one English level to a few kids takes 3 hours. We try to teach 3 batches of students in a day to cater to varying English levels. This is

another approach for the children to gain more interest and draw their parents to join ministry activities and church gatherings.

*By the grace of our loving God, we have experienced a breakthrough in this pioneering ministry. We could have not done this without your support, prayers and care for our needs. We deeply express our heartfelt thanks for the love gifts you shared which in turn were shared with our members and close friends. During the 2 series of total lockdowns, the “bundles of joy” helped lift up their hearts into joy. May our God the Father Almighty richly bless you. In His name, be blessed to become blessings to others! So far, we distributed three batches of goods over the last 4 months. Before giving them the goods/groceries, Pastor Aaron gave them spiritual food in the spirit of Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3, **“man shall not live by bread alone but of every Word that comes out from the mouth of God.”** Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, “If we cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” To God all be the glory!*

**Romans 12:6** – We have different gifts based on the grace that was given to us. So if your gift is prophecy, use your gift in proportion to your faith.

### Thanksgiving

1. We thank the Lord for answering our prayers for a new computer, printer, video camera and internet router.
2. For new activity of the church - the midweek prayer meeting.
3. For good health, safety, protection and provisions.
4. For new members and friends of the church who continue to fellowship with us.



### Prayer Requests

1. For our house lease contract that ends this month, that God will give us an extension to stay or find a new place a for a long term contract.
2. For the Bible School Students and the missionary kids' in person schooling.
3. Pray that we can make a permanent structure/shelter for worship service.
4. Realization of the first church-family fellowship.
5. Basic Tetun language study starting 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October; VBS Science Class for December.
6. No more total lockdown so that our ministry activities will move on smoothly as planned.

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

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