

# East Timor: Things to Come Mission Association

November – December 2021  
**Ministering the gospel of God**

**Romans 15:15-16** – Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some measure to remind you, because of the grace that is given to me of God, that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

## Sunday Worship Service

Rainy season affected our worship services and other church activities. We find it very hard looking for a better place in Dili because of its costly rent.

The congregation has been praying that the Lord will provide a new place of worship. The church still continues serving our LORD GOD even we experience discomfort and much inconvenience during this rainy season. We thank the Lord that the weekly and monthly activities are still ongoing, and pray that there will be no more lockdowns due to the threatening new virus that may infect this country since the last variant along with the original COVID virus are still affecting the border province of Kupang, as well as the entire country of Indonesia.



## Lord's Table

Once a month the church regularly practices the Lord's table to strengthen the faith of every member in how the Lord Jesus Christ saved us by His grace

and we have the forgiveness of sins through His blood. As we commemorate it, they understand better how vitally important the death of the Lord Jesus was. Part of the message of Christ's death is the lasting impact for them and for all peoples and nations.

## Monthly meeting with church officers

Our monthly meeting for the church leaders is one way to evaluate our goal setting and plans for the church. During these meetings we also discuss our monthly activities, reaching lost souls, and educating the children of the members. We also train them how to look at the church physically and spiritually from the perspective of the locals we desire to reach for Christ. Despite rain showers during the evenings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of December, we had happy gatherings for worship services and dinner fellowships. Praise God for these inspiring supports of the church family!



## Friday Theology and Sunday Bible classes

Reporting about the lesson, leading the vesper hour, rendering songs and preaching the Word of God are the significant activities awaited by

everyone in our theology class. We are still praying that the doctrines they learn will be fully established with understanding of this dispensation of grace. Looking forward, we hope this activity will grow more, especially in training leaders in the doctrine of the mystery of grace which was revealed through the apostle Paul. This year 2022, we are praying that trained leaders will become knowledgeable in the grace doctrine, be established in their faith and be able to reach the lost souls of this country.



### Midweek prayer meetings

Prayer is a must, not only because we are servants of God but because we are fighting against the spiritual forces of wickedness in this world, and against the powers of darkness in heavenly places. Prayer cannot make us powerful, but it reveals how God

works in us and in the lives of the people we minister to. By faith, prayer gives us courage and extends our patience in our daily encounters with concerns and problems. Every time we pray, GOD answers our pleas, rejoices in our victory and listens to our cry. Prayer meetings manifest God's goodness in saving us in times of hardship and trouble.

### Children's participation in Worship Service

We've found that the children love singing. Sometimes we involve them in leading songs during the worship service. Even though some of these children suffer from poverty, frequent maltreatment and abuse from their own families, and spiritual hunger, they relish staying with us for hours during weekends and Sunday afternoons, enjoying our company and care. We pray we can help these children grow in Christ by sharing/teaching the gospel of salvation, through personal care and concern, and by emphasizing the importance of following the Lord Jesus Christ.



### Funeral Service

On December 20, 2021, we lost the 11-year-old daughter of one of our church members. Kristiani de Deus was pretty, very active in the

church and at the top of her 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. Kristiani became a close friend of our missionary kids and members of the church. A common story here of abuse and of strong cultural influence, she was a victim of her step-father who raped and brutally killed her. It was a very traumatic incident for every one of us as we helped to the capture of the villain. Please join us in prayer for the government authorities' wisdom in handling the case and the healing of the pain suffered now by the family. We thank our God so much for our friends' connections that led to the immediate arrest of the killer in Indonesia, and for the help to the victim's family in the ongoing court litigation. The suspect is now in prison. We thank the Lord that even though we experienced a very stressful tragedy, yet the Word of God is continuously being spread and taught in the areas here within our reach.

### Thanksgiving Prayers

1. For all the blessings we received last year, and our plans for 2022 as we started a joyful New Year.
2. For how the Lord answers our prayers, provides our needs and for all the protection and good health.
3. For all of the supporters/partners who keep on praying and partnering with us in the ministry.
4. For the leadership of TCM-USA and TCM-Philippines, missionary colleagues, church members and friends who work together with us.

### Prayer Requests

1. We are praying for a place to live for the missionary team. We cannot renew our current lease as the owner has not assured us of privacy and sanitary provisions which are our main concerns.
2. For a church building/church lot. During Sunday worship, we are gathered under the shelter of the trees and during ministry gatherings in a small, improvised room.
3. For the needs of our learning center such as printer ink, bond paper, other supplies.
4. For wisdom for the NGO. We are required to be active this year in conducting livelihood trainings and project implementations in the country and have a permanent office.
5. For trained leaders to be built up more in the grace doctrines and to have more leaders.
6. For the missionary kids as they grow, for their studies and for their others needs to be provided.
7. For the start-up materials and provisions for new houses in the aftermath of the typhoon in the Philippines. The Arsino's family home was severely damaged, and Ciony's mother's and sister's houses were broken down.
8. For Kristiani De Deus's bereaved family to move on, living peacefully in comfort of God's love and grace.

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

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