

East Timor: Things to Come Mission Association

March 2022

Saved by God's purpose and grace

2 Timothy 1:8-9 – Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Celebrating the Learning Center's 3rd Anniversary



Our main event of March was the celebration of the 3rd anniversary of the English Learning Center. This was held at the newly constructed worship center which we built just beside our rented house. The special event was a simple celebration of the members of the church, attended by friends and some students. We had to limit the number of attendees because of the tension brought about by the preparation for the country's presidential election. There was some trouble in the streets,



killings, and riots because of bullying by different parties during the campaign period, which made it unsafe for many people to join us.

The celebration comprised a special message from the Word of God, praise and worship songs and some presentations from children and women. Pastor Aaron shared the theme "Building your Future" which filled us with the knowledge of the Word of God. The message gave a big picture of a person's essential needs, not only physical, emotional and economic sustenance, but the spiritual aspect of human existence. Everybody was very happy and comfortable with the refreshing venue for the whole-day activity. We wish to give recognition to our church officials and members for their sincere support that contributed to the success of the anniversary.

Church ministry in East Timor is full of challenges. We are confronted with the diverse strong cultures of the country's thirteen major tribes, religious traditions and animist practices, gang conflicts and the usual unpredictable government rules and requirements. Every day, we face difficulty and/or we are sometimes beset with inner concerns about how the Lord will work in us as we move forward to accomplish our mission's goals. We can only trust Him and wait for God to transform people by faith. Pray for more patience so that we honor our God each day!

On the bright side of our struggle, we believe we can do many things this year to glorify God through the lives of the people to whom we minister, and to see lives that acknowledge and repent of their sins and believe the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. We are targeting more souls this year to be added to the congregation. Pray that the Lord will lead us in all our ways.

Our Team has been blessed with the presence of our officials who have been with us through thick and thin for more than two years. These officials gladly spared precious hours helping us during our transfer to this new place. Much more, they helped in the construction work of the church projects which made the budget lighter and even manageable. They have also done special favors for the ministry like connecting us with friends and giving feedback and advice on different situations here in Timor-Leste.

Worship Center Construction



to make it more presentable and durable. There are a few needs to be installed or put up like simple ceiling so as to control the heat of the sun during hot season. We plan to re-open our children's English tutorial classes and we will utilize the center for the kids learning activities. The remaining work at the center is still "on-hold" by faith. The church is so thankful for those who extended their prayers and financial support to give us the better, more comfortable worship area. We prioritized finishing the flooring and the roof for the immediate anniversary need. We are thankful for the men who took leave from their work to help build the worship center. Construction materials in East Timor are very expensive. At this time, all the construction material prices have almost doubled. Last week news from the government warned that prices of prime commodities, gasoline, food and other things in the markets will increase even more next month because of the low of supply of imported goods. Pray that this scenario will not put the locals in the path of starvation and causing deeper poverty of Timor-Leste.

Children's presentation



Timorese kids are good in singing and dancing. They participate actively in the worship services and on special occasions. We are planning to nurture them in faith and with fear of the Lord so that when they become old they will not depart from it. Timorese have been getting poor education. Every day, students in primary and secondary government schools have only 2-3 hours of class and some in common private schools have only 4 hours. In better, very expensive private schools, the average number of school hours is just 5-6 hours. We are praying that we can help them through complimentary learning specially in English and common subjects such as History, Geography, Values Education integrated into teaching English. So far, this Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) here has been found effective, as a multi learning strategy.

Worship team leader



Worship leaders are leading lively songs in different languages as is the practice here in East Timor. Timorese like to sing English songs more than Tetun as part of their learning. Members are praying for more musical instruments to use during fellowships and to enhance the sound system for the open-style gatherings. House churches in this country are discriminated against by other religious groups who have their own state of the art buildings. Some invited locals are also hesitant to join with us when they see our place which is a far cry from their own and because of their dominant belief/culture. Yet, we believe that there are still many who do not kneel down and worship idols. Our courage is to keep on preaching, sharing and evangelizing to find these people God is calling. Part of

our mission is to let the people experience the presence of God in honoring Him through worship and strengthening them through discipleship.

Midweek Prayer Meeting



Every Wednesday is our day to have corporate worship to God through prayers. To be united in prayer is one of our ways to have more strength and power in preaching the

gospel of salvation. Living in this country, only prayer can make us courageous in facing the spiritual battles against the darkness, and hardships in life. As servants of God who totally submit in dependence on Him, we must pray continually.

Timor-Leste: Dengue Outbreak Response Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA)



This February East Timor experienced the highest cases of Dengue Fever in its history. Mandatory fogging against

mosquitos was implemented by the Ministry of Health in the entire country, house to house, cleaning every street and canals. Hospitals and clinics are still full of patients with Dengue Fever. Our missionary team also had high fevers, coughs and colds for more than a week. Thank God, we are now healed by your prayers and by taking some medicine. Dengue Fever is very alarming, and some people already died. We are praying for protection not only from Dengue, but from all kinds of sicknesses, viruses, evil attacks, etc. As we are living and serving our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, we are taking care of our physical health and spiritual health.

Thanksgiving Prayers

1. Thank God for answering prayers for all the provisions for our worship center project. Now we enjoy several hours of fellowship without the burden of the heat of the sun and/or under the rain.
2. For the successful 3rd anniversary celebration of English Learning Centre.
3. Jirah's first place award in the spelling contest in their school for 6th grade students.
4. For the 3 months of the Team's English teaching at the Universal Institute of Professional Management
5. For our supporters/partners of Team East Timor Ministry.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our NGO permanent office and land for establishing livelihood projects; for the survey visit in the districts for the projects for this April and May.
2. Pray for the NGO livelihood training that is going to be conducted in May – June, welding for men and body massage/reflexology for women.
3. Pray for the extended second round presidential election on April 19, 2022, that it will be peaceful and orderly; last month's election result did not reach the mandatory 51% majority votes for the leading candidate.
4. For our health and protection.

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

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