

INDINOS IN EAST TIMOR

December 2023

Dear Beloved Brethren in the Lord,

Greetings from East Timor.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

This will be our first time to spend Christmas and New Year in this new country of ministry. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude once again to all of you who are praying for us and financially helping us for the Ministry here in East Timor. We would like to share some Praise and Prayer items where you can join us.

Visiting the iconic *Cristo Rey* statue above Dili, the capital city.



On December 13, we will have been here three months. Studying their language is not easy. It is HARD. We went to language school for only 30 hours due to financial reasons. We are in the process of practicing what we learned from language school. Portuguese vocabulary helps a little bit. Nene tried to write out in Tetun (the official language of East Timor) on how to evangelize. We met an elderly lady and made friends. After few weeks, Nene had an opportunity to evangelize her to practice her Tetun. By the help of the Spirit the elderly lady trusted Christ as her personal Savior! What a blessing!

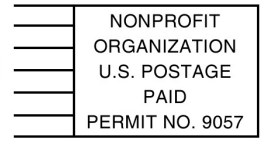
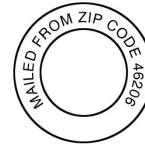
Please pray for us that we can speak and understand their language. This country also uses Bahasa (the Indonesian language). When you go the market or stores to buy something, they will not use Tetun for the figures or numbers—they will use Bahasa. It confuses us many times. We are renting a small studio apartment for \$250 per month. We are also praying to buy a used car, about \$5,000 more or less at the present prices. They have public transportation (*Mikrolet*) but it only runs until 6:30 in the evening. After that you have to take a taxi or just hike. During nighttime it is really risky because sometimes there are outbreaks of violence and riots.

One challenging thing is that a full Bible (Old and New Testament) in this country is very hard to find. Recently, they have completed translating the entire Bible into Tetun. Please pray that this country will be exposed to the Word of God.





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Maintaining visas to stay here long-term has also been a challenge. We were allowed to extend our entry visa for one month. After that



we had to exit to the Indonesian border. Good that they allowed us to come back in a day. It was a stressful day because we could only say a few words in Tetun and then to Indonesia where their language is different. We are thankful for Pastor Aaron Arcino's wife who accompanied for our exit since she can speak fluently in Tetun, and they have a friend from the Indonesian border who can speak Tetun and Bahasa. We have started applying for a work visa through the TCM-Association that Pastor Arcino has registered here as a non-profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). Pray with us about this because it is typically a lengthy process with lots of steps (and often unannounced changes in requirements) and is very expensive. If we cannot get an official document stating that we have begun the application process, then we will have to exit again. Only God knows what will happen after that.

Another challenge is that the official currency here is US dollars. A small country using US dollars as their money! Hard to believe but it is the reality.

Please do continue to pray for us and for our health. Once again thank you for partnering with us for the gospel.

In Christ's Service,
Gomer and Nene Indino

