



TCM *East Timor*: Ministry Updates

April 2, 2024

John 1:16 – For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

PRAISES



Figure 1 - Team meeting.

1. East Timor Missionary Team

The TCM missionaries in East Timor are of the same mind in reaching the locals throughout the country. The team is pursuing two district outreach ministries as one of the major goals for this year. For the following years, we aim to legally establish the church in Dili, the capital city of Timor-Leste. This long-term vision of the church includes equipping the members in sound Grace doctrine and we are hopeful to have our own building as well. In the case of district ministry, we have targeted two areas in which for some time, we have started a series of Bible studies through our direct contacts. These are the districts of Baucau and Liquica. Brgy. Buruma, in Baucau, is 127 kilometers and about 3 hours travel by car from Dili, going toward the east side of the country. We praise the Lord for the hospitality of the Borges family who received us and are willing to serve the Lord. It is a great blessing that from a very dominant Roman Catholic religion, comes this contact, the Borges family. Grandfather Jose Borges, who speaks fluent Portuguese, has vowed to attend the Bible study in his house regularly even though his family has strong cultural and traditional beliefs. This grandfather was very happy to receive two Bibles in Tetun during one of the Team's visits. We deeply appreciate your fervent prayer for the salvation of his entire family, and for a subsequent house church to be planted soon as God the Holy Spirit wills and grants this special request.

The second district is Brgy. Loes, Liquica. It only takes 2 hours travel, and it is just 75 kilometers from Dili going to the west side of the country. That is also where our NGO agricultural project is located. We praise the Lord that there are about 3 family contacts in this place. Praise the Lord that our temporary meeting place in Loes is almost finish. The Team has been developing this area for 4 months already. Glory to God!

2. Midweek Prayer Meeting and Friday Bible study

Wednesday ministry and Friday Bible study are taken seriously because these are the times the church leaders are free to study the Word of God deeply. We praise the Lord that in every fellowship we cherish every moment as we pray together about bringing the gospel of salvation. The church leaders are now soberly intentional in helping the Team reach the locals. We see they are much concerned about the church-goers every Sunday than before. We have been praying together that we can acquire a church lot in Dili for the construction of a building soon. The government here requires a church building which is visible to the community as well. This is one major requirement before a church can be granted a permit/registration to officially operate and legally exercise pastoral work and ceremonies. We are asking the Lord to provide for our ministry needs, especially the land for the church building as it is indeed very expensive in the city.



Figure 2 - Wednesday bible study prayer meeting.



Figure 3 - Friday bible study.

3. Pastor Ben Anderson's Visit in East Timor

February 23-27, 2024, TCM International Director, Ben Anderson visited us in East Timor for the third time. It was timely because Pastor Gomer and Nene have joined us. Pastor Ben's presence gave much encouragement to the members of the church especially the Word that he delivered. He challenged everyone



Figure 4 - Worship service with Ptr Ben Anderson

in the matter of missions. As part of his testimony, he recalled that while the gospel

in the Philippines had just started to spread out, being carried by early faithful believers, his father, the late beloved Ptr. Vernon flew to Manado to open another mission field. Through the work of the gospel in that huge Muslim country, stand the Grace churches in Indonesia today. Our church is so grateful for being reminded always of mission work in reaching the lost. TCM's goal is that indigenous churches will be



Figure 5 - recognition and giving certificate of membership.

established in this country. During that Sunday worship service, we also accepted new church members and recognized three workers who have helped us in expanding the work to the districts. Each recognized member received a Certificate of Membership and commendations for their faithfulness in serving the Lord with us. During this significant visit, Pastor Ben conducted Team and individual meetings as well as dinner fellowships.

That great impact of that Sunday dinner fellowship was evidenced as we heard at least four locals giving their testimonies of how God upheld their faith in Christ since they received Him as their Savior. That night was so memorable as Pastor Ben also gave more encouraging words and blessings to the members. This four-hour church bonding was attended by church friends as we saw this occasion as a way for them to hear words of inspiration about our Lord and Savior. The church kids enjoyed swimming as a perk given by the venue management.



Figure 6 - church members' dinner with Ptr. Ben

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS:

1. Pray for Gomer and Nene as they are in the Philippines preparing documents for furlough in the U.S.A.
2. Pray for renewal of work permits/visas for Ciony and the Arsinos.
3. Pray for acquisition of a church lot in the city.
4. Pray for the weekly travel to the two districts for expanding the ministry and for transport expenses.
5. Pray for wisdom to communicate with the locals with their strong culture, and varied dialects.
6. Pray for trained leaders to be built up more in the Grace doctrines and to have more local leaders.
7. Pray for sponsors for Timorese scholars who want to do formal study in IGBI Philippines.
8. Pray for the NGO (TCMA), development of agricultural livelihood training program, and recreational activity for the community.



Figure 2 - integrated agri-farm.

Romans 5:17 – For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one-man Jesus Christ.

For questions and suggestions, please feel free to contact us at: (E-mail) anj_arsino04@yahoo.com.ph or aaronarsino8@gmail.com / cionybuca@gmail.com (WhatsApp) +670-7714-1320, +670-7846-3881 Facebook/Messenger: Aaron Indino Arsino, Asuncion BUca