



TCM East Timor: Ministry Updates

May 31, 2024

1Chronicles 16:23-24 – Let all the earth sing to the LORD! Day after day proclaim His deliverance! Declare His glory among the nations, and His miraculous deeds to all people.

1. District Visitation and Ministry Extension



Team Timor is pleased for the progress of our ministry outreaches in the two districts of Liquica and Baucau. Our missionary team, along with the church in Dili, has decided to focus on these two significant districts in the country. Pastor Aaron Arsino has visited the pioneering Protestant church in Liquica, which was initially established by a Papuan missionary couple. After that missionary couple returned to their home country, Pastor Aaron was invited to visit and preach to their church. We have regular contacts and Bible study sessions at Loes, Liquica, with the help of the local community. Also, we have consistent visits and Bible study at Caibada Bacau. Henceforth, the Team has agreed to have a regular schedule of Bible study/visits to these extension ministries of the said districts. Starting in June 2024, we will begin full-time Bible study sessions in these areas. We are praying for God's protection

during travel and provision to cover our weekly travel/gas expenses. Recently, Pastor Aaron has connected with a young people's organization in Liquica, which will help us integrate and engage more into building camaraderie in that community thru songs/basic English classes and spread the work of God. It is noteworthy to mention that residents in these two districts have their own mother tongues and sub-dialects in addition to Tetun, and Indonesian Bahasa. Our contacts in Baucau are a few Portuguese-speaking folks. That makes us extra cautious in using words of mixed languages as the medium of communication when talking to them. Presenting to them the gospel needs to be clearly shared so sometimes sessions are longer because messages must be translated into three languages e.g. Tetun, Bahasa Indonesia or Portuguese. These two districts are deeply rooted in their distinct culture and traditions, unlike those residents in the capital city, Dili. Our connection to the community is crucial for the progress of our mission work. Thank you for your continued support and unceasing prayers as we strive to bring the message of salvation to the people of East Timor. *Galatians 2:2* – *I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.*

2. Sunday's Special Prayer with the Mother's Day celebration



The church in Dili is praying for land to build a church building. Dili now is too crowded, and the cost of land has soared after the pandemic. It is hard to find vacant lots for sale at fair prices. Still, we keep on searching for probable sites and at same time searching for a bigger space for the congregation to transfer our worship services to a strategic and better location. Owning land and a building are major requirements in registering a church in East Timor.



In May, the church honored the women thru a special Sunday message and by giving them simple gifts. That Mother's Day message was boosting their moral and dignity, citing their value and significance as mothers, wives, and roles in the family, at the church and in the Christian service - as a whole. Sad to say, most Timorese women are treated

like second class citizens, and others, especially in the hinter villages, are treated as slaves, as part of their tradition. Ancient practices requiring a very high cost of dowry is one reason these women have been unjustly cared for by the husbands for so long. We praise the Lord that for some time, through our sermons and Bible studies, our local members have started to realize and learn the value of a woman as God's equally beloved creation. These mothers are happily bringing their kids to the church. During Sundays, these kids have shown their sincerity in attending Sunday School lessons and at times, extend their activity in the afternoon.

The process of growth of these kids and youth may have been so slow, but we are fulfilled to see them gradually change/transform their habits and character. Pray for more patience as we lead them to Christ. By attending Sunday School, their knowledge and communication skills have improved using the English Bible. Many of them now have recited verses and Bible stories. **Psalm 128:3-4** – *Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children like olive shoots surrounding your table. See how the man will be blessed who fears the LORD.*

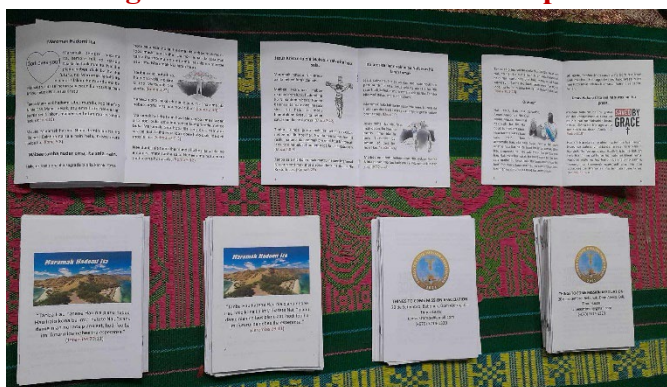
3. Midweek Prayer Meeting and Friday Bible Study



The midweek prayer meeting and Friday Bible study are our regular activities weekly. During these gatherings, we

share our prayer concerns and thanksgiving and study series of lessons from the Books of Genesis and Revelation. We ended our series on the Book of Revelation and before proceeding to another major doctrine, we are having a two-month meditation on our favorite Psalm chapters. This Friday gathering has been our schedule religiously calendared for the past three years which has greatly enhanced our knowledge and understanding about the Word of God. We have always emphasized the notion that knowing and understanding the **Word** keeps us closer to the **LORD**. Our deep study of Bible history and doctrines has strengthened the spiritual life of the church members. We are praying that our weekly activity will grow in number and in the knowledge of the loving God. Among the prayer concerns of the locals here is the alleviation from the extreme poverty suffered by some district villages where for now, they could only eat once a day. Their mortality rate is very high due to very poor health, malnutrition, and unsanitary conditions. Another thought-provoking issue petitioned in our prayers is the aspect of the locals' black magic practices. Normally, by tribe or gang, they regularly observe animist practices/black magic in the midst of their economic situation believing that these rituals could help them augment their economic life. From these sad scenarios, the church has planned to conduct a feeding program, "Save a Day's Meal", to about 100 individuals at Loes, Liquica, and distribute relief goods and share to them very affordable basic food commodities to our extension ministry site, wherein most of these residents could hardly afford to have two meals daily. The main part of this activity is the preaching the Word of Hope to these recipients (with gospel tracts). By God's grace as these provisions be available, we will be holding this outreach/feeding program during the TCMA 3rd anniversary at Loes, Liquica. Thank you for praying with us. **2 Corinthians 1:11** – *as you also help us by your prayers for us. Then many people will thank God on our behalf because of the favor shown us through the prayers of many.*

4. Evangelism and Distribution of Gospel tracts in Tetun Language



We had a great victory in May 2024!

We are able to make our very own gospel tracts in Tetun Language. We are happy and victorious because members and leaders have shared the gospel of God's grace thru these Tetun gospel tracts and the recipients' confession of having accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Gospel tracts are very effective in sharing the gospel of salvation as it is a simple presentation of the gospel with a prayer for acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank the Lord for the motivation of the members and leaders to reach the locals within their sphere of influence. These happy faces are the testament that "saved" Christians would love others also to become saints in God's sight. Our

church's move by June will be sharing/giving these gospel tracts by target area/zone within the city proper, and hopefully we can print a hundred copies every week. Praying for these souls to be nourished by the Word of God more deeply to live as Christians and be the instruments of light to the darkened country. All these deeds and goals are for God's glory and honor! **2 Thessalonians 3:1** – *Finally, brothers, pray for us—that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly, and that it may be honored the way it is among you.*

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS:

Pray for

1. TCM East Timor's 3rd Anniversary at the end of July 2024. We are planning to celebrate it in the district and feeding the community.
2. Renewal of the Buca/Arsinos' work permits/visas.
3. Acquiring a church lot in the city.
4. Weekly travel to the two districts for the expansion of the ministry and needs for transport expenses.
5. Wisdom to communicate to the locals with their strong culture, and varied dialects.
6. Trained leaders to be built up more in the grace doctrines and to have more local leaders.
7. Advancing language study, advance Tetun for Ciony and Noemi, and Advance Bahasa Indonesia Language for Aaron.
8. The NGO (TCMA), development of agricultural livelihood training program, and recreational activity to the community.
9. Protection as crime and robberies become common now in the country because of poverty, under employment, etc.
10. The Timorese people who are now starving.
11. Travel/furlough and visa of Ptr. Gomer and Nene Indino.

Galatians 6:9 – “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

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

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