



Carmelite Friars of Australia and East Timor

MISSION COORDINATOR UPDATE

18.11.05

Blessings on each person in the Carmelite Mission Support Groups around Australia as Summer and Christmas are fast approaching.

Update on Augusto Sampaio da Costa O.Carm. and Antonio Campos dos Santos O.Carm.

Agusto and Antonio arrived in Australia on Monday evening 19th of September. They were very excited, especially Antonio as it is his first trip to Australia. Both men began their English Course on the following Monday 26th September. They are both enjoying the Course but finding it quite demanding with the long hours and tackling the homework which is experiential and very different to what they had experienced in East Timor.

The Course they are doing is **ELICOS** (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students). Agusto is doing the Course for 3 months and finishes on the 16th December. Antonio will continue the Course into next year. In 2006 Agusto will begin a pastoral ministry programme focused on Leadership.

What both men have enjoyed the most is meeting and interacting with the people doing the Course. Forming relationships with people is so important to the East Timorese culture.



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November Visit to East Timor by Father Wayne and Peter Appleton

This was a productive visit as the Carmelite men and women were all in good health. The Formation House to be built at Hera, which to date had encountered obstacle after obstacle, now has an official date. While Wayne and Peter were in East Timor, the East Timorese priests had a meeting with the Government Minister which had very positive outcomes. Construction of the building will now begin in January 2006.

There are now basic education courses that people can access in East Timor. One of these Courses is the **(ETDA) East Timor Development Agency**. It is an East Timorese NGO that trains people in a variety of skills. Agusto Galhos O.Carm. and Nelinho Soares, O.Carm. will both begin Courses at the ETDA agency this month. Agusto will do a basic Excel financial management course in Tetun which runs for 10 weeks and Nelinho an English Course.

Water Tanker

The water tanker that was donated to Zumali by Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Wentworthville has finally arrived. It is proving to be a wonderful asset. With only 10 people on the Zumalai compound at present it is able to hold enough water for 1 week. After the breakdown of an old tanker 12 months ago, which was unable to be repaired, a jeep with 2 water containers was being used. When there were larger numbers on the compound the jeep was visiting the water supply up to twice daily. After taking such a long time for repairs on the new water tanker to be completed in Dili, the Timorese are amazed that at present they only have to visit the water supply at the spring once a week. The long wait has been hard for us westerners to understand because Timorese time is so different to Australian time. Frustration and impatience are not part of the East Timorese personality. Endurance, adaptability and observance are skills that are deep within the East Timorese psyche.



The long awaited water tanker at Zumalai which is also shelter for the goats!



Christmas Blessings

I would like to wish each of you and your families every blessing for the Christmas season. May the Christmas gifts of freedom, peace, love and joy be fostered further in your hearts. These gifts, I believe, we are losing in today's corporate and materialistic world. May we treasure them so that we can share and give them to others.

Coffee Tastings and Selling East Timorese Coffee

The parish of Kiama in NSW which involves 3 Mass centres and the parish of Port Melbourne and Middle Park have experimented with East Timorese coffee tasting and selling at gatherings after Mass. The aroma of the coffee has drawn large groups to the buying and selling of the coffee and has proved to be an enjoyable and fun time. At all the gatherings there was tea for the tea lovers but the coffee was very popular especially as coffee consumption is forever increasing both in the cafe sect and with individuals purchasing good quality coffee for use in their own homes. East Timorese coffee can also be a great Christmas gift.

Cranebrook

In July, seven members of the Parish Mission Support Group in Cranebrook visited East Timor. The experience was a blessed one for each of them. The stories of the East Timorese people touched their hearts deeply and the welcome and hospitality that they received from the people was very moving.

Last month, Corpus Christi Cranebrook held a very successful Fundraising Spring Ball. There was a live auction, a silent auction, and lucky-prize balloons were also sold. Much work and effort went into the planning and preparation for this event. Congratulations to the Cranebrook parish for their amazing work and success.

Could the updates be photocopied and given to each person in the parish mission support teams or other friends.

Thank you

Rosemary Patterson, RSM
East Timor Mission Coordinator