



Carmelite Friars of Australia and Timor-Leste

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May the Christmas star of light continue to be a constant source of hope to the people of Timor-Leste and to each of you.

I visited Timor-Leste during the month of October. Life seemed much more peaceful and there was a more pleasant feel than on my earlier visit this year in February. Progress does continue to happen and it is wonderful to share some of this with you.

Two Trainee Teachers

Two young people from the Zumalai sub-district have for the first time gained entry to the Teacher's College in Baucau. The Teacher's College is a new venture in Timor-Leste being run by the Marist Brothers. There have now been two groups of students that have graduated from the College after completing a three year Teacher Training Course. Before 1999 nearly all the teachers in Timor-Leste were Indonesian. Very few of the present Timorese teachers have therefore done teacher training. The two students: Bernardino do Nascimento from Raimea village and Ana Cai Cardosa from Zumalai town (pictured below) began their Course in September of this year.



Antonio Olavio O.Carm, who is the director of projects in Timor-Leste has found good accommodation for these students in Baucau. Both Bernardino and Ana Cai are settling in well despite making big adjustments due to the different language dialects on the eastern side of Timor-Leste and the high academic standard of the Teacher Training Course. Bernardino is being supported by OLMC parish Wentworthville who are covering tuition fees and accommodation. The sponsorship of Ana will be taken up by another group.

Other Education Areas

The Carmelites are now endeavouring to make education their main focus. The number of scholarships for secondary schools in the 2007/2008 year has now increased and there are also two new secondary schools that students are attending.

Ten young people from Zumalai sub-district, six men and four women are doing **five month live-in courses** in automotive, carpentry, electrical, sewing, cooking and masonry in the Covalima district which is where Zumalai town and Zumalai sub-district are situated. The government is sponsoring these courses that are for the training of young people. This is great news as this type of opportunity is often not made available in remote areas like Zumalai.

GTZ a German Aid Agency is now based in Suai and working in **agriculture**. Suai is in Covalima district where Zumalai is also situated. A young man from Zumalai town who was attending the university in Dili has been employed by GTZ to train and support people in agriculture, in Zumalai sub-district. Zumalai sub-district is a mountainous area and also contains fertile plains for the growing of rice. The plan is for this young man to spend about a month in each of the larger villages of the Zumalai sub-district giving workshops and helping the people. The Carmelites have provided him with an office to work from on the Carmelite Compound. GTZ have given him a motor bike and computer which can be operated for two hours each evening when the Carmelite generator is turned on.

Nando Barreto who runs the workshop in Zumalai has just completed a six month **Carpentry Course** in Dili. He is now making the floor foundations for a brickmaking workshop and will then make the cupboards for the Raimea village school classrooms .

The Carmelites also now have on their compound a brick making machine, bought in Indonesia . This forward planning on their behalf will provide the Carmelites with their own sustainable income. It is hoped they can begin to produce an income from selling the bricks at a more competitive price than other places.

Sean has also initiated the selling of **tais** in Australia that have been made by the women of Raifila village in Zumalai sub-district. Tais is a traditional woven cloth with designs that often represent myths and symbols of Timorese areas and family groups. Tais are often worn by the Timorese people on traditional occasions. The people from Raifila village are very poor and because the village is so remote find it difficult to sell their tais. This project has turned out to be a win/win situation. The people in Australia receive a beautiful hand-woven piece of cloth and the people of Raifila receive needed income from their labour.



Nando making floor foundation boards.
OLMC Primary School Zumalai is in the background.

Whitefriars College, Donvale

Whitefriars Secondary College for boys in Donvale raise large sums of money each year for Timor-Leste through their annual walkathon. Sean Keefe O.Carm who is Chaplin at the College visited Timor-Leste last year and has now been the instigator behind a number of new projects.

A Benefit Concert was held in July this year at Whitefriars College which raised money towards a renewable energy plant on the Zumalai compound. Plans are now well in progress to have this solar power plant installed.

Like many other Carmelite groups, Whitefriars is now also selling **East Timor coffee**, through the school tuckshop.



Tais in Production at Raifila Village



These children from Raifila village in Zumalai sub-district wish you a **Happy Christmas!**
Feliz Natal!

Thank you for all your support of the Carmelite Timor-Leste Mission during 2007

Rosemary Patterson

Carmelite Timor-Leste Mission Coordinator