



Carmelite Friars of Australia and East Timor

MISSION COORDINATOR UPDATE

05.09.05

May each person in the Carmelite Mission Support Groups around Australia have time to appreciate the new life that comes in the season of Spring .

Much has happened in East Timor in the four years that the Carmelite Friars have been involved, which is from August 2001 to this present day. There are now three communities in Dili where the Carmelites are living and being educated to become Carmelites and servicing the people in these areas. One of these places is the new house at Fatuhada which has now been completed. It is being used for the accommodation of senior secondary students from Zumalai in order to enable them to have a senior secondary education which would otherwise be impossible. It will also be used for accommodation for visitors and as an administration centre. (see photo below)



Over the last four years one of the major things that is being learnt is that the East Timorese culture operates very differently from the Australian culture. As a result we have not been able to foresee the numerous stages that the Hera Formation House has had to move through. Both Fatuhada and Hera have been huge projects for the East Timorese Carmelites to oversee. This I believe is due to the men being very young and not having experienced leadership from their forebears because they were never put in leadership positions.

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Zumalai parish, in the remote south west of East Timor, is full of smiling faces even though life continues to be difficult. The Carmelites continue to travel long distances to the twenty-two villages where there are mass centres on a rotation basis of once a month. They also provide sporting activities for the huge number of youth in the parish and are training youth leaders, that are like the Australian scouts, to run some of the village youth groups.

As westerners, our focus is achievement orientated but for the East Timorese their focus is relationships. Friends are very important to them and also to westerners but in a different way. The East Timorese have very strong skills of endurance, adaptability and observance to a depth that westerners will never understand because their experiences have been so different. Westerners are very conscious of time, the East Timorese are not at all conscious of time. Both the Australian (western culture) and East Timorese culture are good, both have different skills. When you are working together though, you need to be aware of and learn to balance both cultures. The East Timorese thinking processes are circular, they are interested in the person and place not what you do. Westerners thinking processes are more linear.

As a result of being more aware of the above, through experience and being able to articulate it, the Carmelites have made the decision to have a new focus in some of the parish support teams – that of education. This is because the East Timorese must know their own skills and name their skills themselves if they are to be leaders and to run their own country.

The decision has therefore been made for **Agusto Sampaio da Costa O' Carm**, to spend fifteen months studying in Australia. He will arrive this month and spend the rest of the year studying English. He will live in the Brisbane community and in 2006 he will be under taking a pastoral ministry programme focused on Leadership. The Carmelite parish Port Melbourne and Middle Park will raise funds for some of Agusto's education expenses as part of their project over the next couple of years.

Agusto is 34 years of age. He comes from Kotamutu, a rural village on the eastern side of East Timor, did his seminary training in Indonesia and has been working in East Timor for the last five years.



Agusto with his mother

It has also been decided that **Antonio Campos dos Santos, O' Carm**, who is two thirds of the way through his seminary training in Indonesia, will also do some study in Australia and also live in the Brisbane community. He will be in Australia for two years. He will do a six month English Course and do the pastoral ministry programme focused on Leadership for 18 months. Antonio is 25 years of age. He comes from Liquica where there was a huge massacre of people in April 1999. The Carmelite parish of Coorparoo will raise funds for some of Antonio's education expenses as part of their project over the next couple of years.

2006 EAST TIMOR CALENDAR \$10

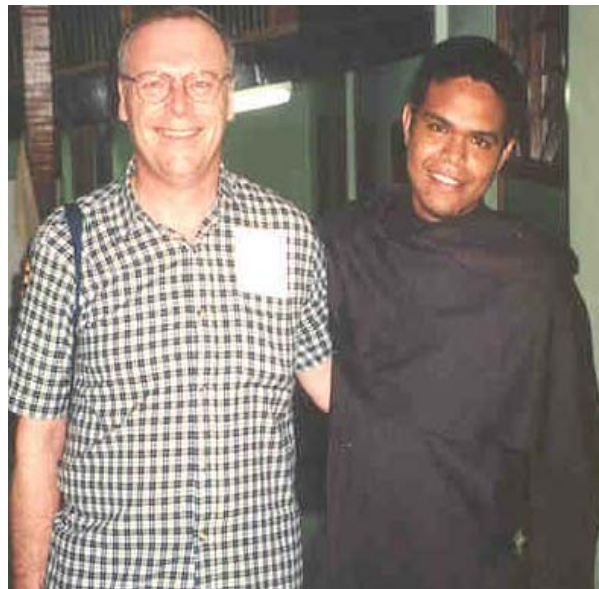
The calendar is at the printers and will be distributed in early October.

This year's calendar depicts a number of the projects in East Timor.

It is growing in popularity with many Melbourne schools ordering them for their classrooms.

Selling the calendar for a consistent price of \$10.00 across the various states is important in raising the potential funds through calendar sales.

Remember 1 calendar equates to only 2 1/2 cups of coffee.



David Hoffman and Antonio

Timor –Leste National Development Plan 2004

It is very interesting to note the following statistics from this plan:

The priorities of 40,000 people in 500 vil-lages were: **Education (70%)** Health (49%) Agriculture (32%)

East Timor Coffee

Two Carmelite Parish Mission Support teams that cover 5 mass centres, have now begun selling East Timor coffee. The purpose of selling the coffee is twofold:

- as an education tool about the Carmelite work in East Timor (a brochure is attached to the coffee)
 - as a fundraiser (The coffee is purchased for \$4.50 and the retail price is \$7.00)
- East Timor coffee is organically grown; artificial fertilizers and pesticides have tradition-ally not been used.

Could the updates be photo copied and given to each person in the parish mission support teams.

Rosemary Patterson, RSM
East Timor Mission Coordinator