



# Tales from Timor Leste

April 2017



Boatarde hotu hotu, afternoon all. Well, the month of April saw a few events and twists and turns. As mentioned in my last newsletter, I started teaching an *Introduction to English* course in Weberek which has had a great roll out. The first week brought in 6 students, however once word got around, the next lesson saw 50 students huddled around my white board, eager to learn English. My hats off to those who teach students for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week; I need a nap most times after teaching my 1.5-hour class lol. All in all though, it's a great time of fun and making connections with the community kids. I now teach English at Besusu Monday and Thursday, and at Weberek Tuesday and Friday. Thank you for all those who have been praying for these classes and for my language learning. Towards the end of this month, I changed language helpers to assist with learning different pronunciation of Tetun. My new helper is a wonderful lady named Mana Elizita who is also part of the fellowship group in Weberek. Mana Elizita has previously learnt English through a Filipino run NGO in Manatuto, and so has been a great blessing in understanding how language learning works. She has also offered to help me with my language teaching in Besusu which has been another great blessing!



Top & Bottom. Some of the students from my Weberek English Class

## Lauren Crase Contact Details

lauren.rebecca@live.com.au  
Mobile (Timor): 7512 0326

## To Support Lauren:

finance@apwm.org.au (02) 8073 7490  
www.apwm.org.au



As students had school exams and holidays over Easter, Alina and I decided to head back to Dili over the Easter break. It was a great time of rest, lesson planning and catching up with friends and the church in Dili. Whilst Easter is certainly celebrated in Timor Leste, it is not commercialised with Easter eggs and bunnies like back home which was a lovely surprise. It was a lovely being able to attend the services over the Easter weekend in the Dili Presbyterian church, and witness the baptism of several children.

The month of April also was a big month of prayer regarding something God had been laying on my heart for a long time. After my first trip to Timor Leste in 2012, I knew God was calling me to serve the people of this wonderful nation. Through the years 2013-2015, I visited Weberek and my heart for not only Weberek but the nation as a whole grew. When I arrived into Timor last May, I knew I was called to return to Weberek for a time but was open to wherever God wanted to use me in Timor Leste. From around September last year, God started to really lay on my heart that I would not be spending my whole 2-year term in Weberek. Without any further inclination of how that would eventuate, I discussed this with APWM and committed it to prayer. Then soon after arriving in Weberek in February, again I felt the Holy Spirit laying on my heart that I wouldn't be staying in Weberek long term. Within days, little confirmations started to fall into place that God has other plans for me in Timor. After praying and asking others to pray over the span of a month, I finally had a peace that God was moving me back to Dili. Prior to this I had felt quite stressed that 'if not Weberek then where? And doing what?' Once I had a peace and resolved to move back to Dili, all the pieces of the jigsaw fell into place within a few days. After more prayer and discussions with APWM National and Pastor Carlos of the Dili Presbyterian Church; from July, after my month annual leave in June, I will return to live and serve in Dili. I will be again be serving alongside the Dili Presbyterian church, particularly with the children's ministries which I really enjoyed last year. I will also be teaching a beginner's class of English through the church and starting a conversational English class centred around the bible. And finally, I will be assisting at a not-for-profit clinic called the Bairo Pite Clinic, working alongside nurses, helping with training and clinical skill improvement.

I will be living with an amazing Christian family from Western Australia that also work at the Bairo Pite Clinic and have a huge heart for seeing improvement in the health of the Timorese people.

It has been an amazing journey and time spent over the past few months with the Besusu church, and the past 5 years visiting and connecting with the people of Weberek. I now look forward to the exciting new adventures The Lord has planned for me in Dili.

## Looking forward to May

---

It's hard to believe but, my students in Besusu are now only a few weeks from completing the full Introduction to English course! The month of May will be focused on consolidating what has been taught over the past few months. Likewise, the group in Weberek will work through the same course Besusu has almost finished. I will also continue to assist Lucinda and Alina with the bible fellowship meetings in Weberek and share short words of encouragement with the Besusu Presbyterian. A few days before the end of the month, I will then return in Dili in preparation for my departure to Australia on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

## Prayer Points

---

- Please pray for the upcoming month as I finish up serving in Besusu/ Weberek and prepare to transition to serving in Dili once again.
- Give thanks once again that more student ministers are now going to Besusu to provide teaching to the people. Please pray that this continues and that God will raise up a full-time minister for this congregation in His perfect timing.
- Please pray for my English students as they near completion of the course and that it provides opportunities to share the gospel with these students.
- Please continue to pray for the news shared in last month's newsletter about the petition to ask the missionaries and Christians to leave Weberek.
- Please pray for physical and emotional preparation as I return home after a year living in Timor Leste

Until next month  
Maromak fo bensaun