



Global Ministries

[HOME](#) > [RESOURCES](#) > [WEEKLY PRAYERS](#) > [PRAY WITH EAST TIMOR ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018](#)

Pray with East Timor on Sunday, September 23, 2018

BY [TOM LIDDLE](#) ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Lectionary Selection: Mark 9:30-37

Prayers for East Timor:

Gracious God, you have taught us. You have shown us. You have been among us. And yet it seems we have learned little. Children are still marginalized and victimized. They are the targets of traffickers. They are exploited in pornography. They are enslaved. They are malnourished and lack opportunities for education. We know that there are reasons for this O God. We have made choices that do not prioritize children. We have not welcomed them.



And so we pray: Bless, O God, the children of the world. Bless those who live in the slums. Bless those who live in war zones and refugee camps. Bless those who live in rural areas, laboring long hours to survive. Bless those who are victims of traffickers and those who live in captivity. Bless those in the suburbs and those in the neighborhoods. And bless us big people that we will get our priorities straight and invest our time, energy and resources in children. In the name of the one who welcomes children, we pray, Amen.

Mission Stewardship Moment from East Timor:

Today's gospel reading invites reflection on the sacramental character of children. Jesus tells his disciples that "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."



In East Timor an estimated 46% of children under 5 are chronically malnourished. Malnourishment in childhood leads to stunting, delayed physical development, and learning difficulties. Dealing with this is one of the biggest challenges the country faces. For its part, Global Ministries partner Immanuel Clinic is starting a feeding program for Sunday School kids at Immanuel Church. Although this is a small group, it will serve as a sample of children in Lospalos and may lead to a larger response. Clinic staff will start by doing a nutritional status assessment of kids who attend Sunday School and provide a regular, protein-rich breakfast. Nutrition

education is another part of this work. For this the clinic has long been a community leader in providing basic information on how parents can do a better job with nutritious food.

Throughout history children have often been regarded as less than fully human. In today's world the situation is no different. Child labor and human trafficking destroy the lives of kids. Governments that view education and nutrition programs as wasteful spending undermine the future. Jesus calls us to a different way. He insists that children are not only fully human but also bear a unique divine spark.

(Prayer and Mission Moment by Tom Liddle)

Global Ministries Mission Coworker in East Timor:

Tom Liddle, a member of Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth, Minnesota, will serve with the Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL) as a facilitator for strengthening congregations and continuing education of pastors. Make a gift that supports the work of Tom Liddle.

More information on East Timor:

http://www.globalministries.org/east_timor



Global Ministries

[HOME](#) > [WHERE WE WORK](#) > [SOUTHERN ASIA](#) > [COUNTRY DIRECTORIES](#) > [EAST TIMOR](#)

East Timor

East Timor is the eastern half of the Island of Timor in Eastern Indonesia. It lies north of Australia across the Timor Sea. East Timor gained its independence in 2002 after nearly 30 years of occupation by Indonesia (1972-1999) and four centuries of occupation by the Portuguese.

East Timor won its independence from Indonesia in an election in May of 1999. After interim oversight by the U.N. East Timor became a new nation in May of 2002. The years of agitation for independence and preparing for independence were fraught with conflict between local groups and between the locals and the Indonesian military. Hundreds of thousands have lost their lives. Homes and churches have been destroyed.

The population of East Timor is predominately Christian, of which 90% are Roman Catholic. Indigenous people have lived on the island for thousands of years. The population of East Timor is estimated at 911,000. Unemployment in some areas is as high as 80%. The economic disparities between those who are well off and the majority who live in abject poverty feed a restlessness that makes nation-building all the more difficult. The nation is vulnerable to the alternating disasters of monsoons and droughts.

During the sixteenth century Indonesia was colonized by the Portuguese and it remained a Portuguese colony until Portugal agreed to relinquish the colony in 1974. In 1975, Indonesia invaded East Timor to incorporate it into Indonesia. During the invasion, over 200,000 Timorese (approximately 1/3 of the population) were killed. The Indonesian occupation was not accepted by the majority of the population and another 200,000 Timorese died from violence or famine between 1975 and 1999. In 1999, 96% of the residents of East Timor voted for independence and the United Nations became the interim administration until independence in 2002. The Indonesian military went on a scorched earth rampage in response to the 1999 vote for independence. Most of the Indonesian Christian clergy were killed or driven out of Timor. Many of their churches were burned. Most of their Indonesian congregation-members were also driven out and many of their homes were destroyed. The formation of the Truth-seeking and Reconciliation Commission in 2002-03 has brought some hope for restoration of human rights, refugee Timor Lorosa'e or East Timor is the eastern half of the Island of Timor in Eastern Indonesia.

East Timor is disputing Australia's claim to oil and natural gas deposits beneath the Timor Sea. According to commonly accepted Law of the Sea guidelines the Greater Sunrise Fields, the Laminaria-Corallina reserves and the Bayu-Undan deposits would lie entirely within East Timor's sea boundaries. Australia's claim goes back to an agreement negotiated with Indonesia in 1972. Since East Timor is a new nation and was in no way represented in that agreement they are demanding that Australia withdraw

its claim. Negotiations are making slow progress. East Timor is in desperate need of this economic boost and the benefits it would bring to the local population in the form of schools and other public services. Activists are calling for a swift resolution to the issue.

Population (2014 est) – 1,201,542

Area – 9,240 mi

Capital – Dili

Ethnic Background

Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian)

Papuan

Small Chinese minority

Exports – oil, coffee, sandalwood, marble, (a potential for vanilla exports)

Imports – food, gasoline, kerosene, machinery

Life Expectancy (2014 est) – M 66 years, F 69 years

Infant Mortality (2014 est) – 38.79 deaths/1,000 live births

Adult Illiteracy Rate – 41.7%