

► Thank You

- Thanks from Filomena for the kerosene stoves. They are improving her cooking and are much cleaner than firewood. *(pictured right)*
- Thanks to our generous supporters who made a donation to the Foundation last year in lieu of Christmas presents. We hope that you were able to have interesting conversations about your gifts. May they share our joy in passing a blessing on to young people in East Timor.
- Thanks to everyone who supports the Springfield District Veterinary Clinic's Groodle program. The Foundation has recently received another very generous donation from sale of Groodle puppies. The Scholarship Program recipients appreciate your ongoing support.



► Presentations

Does your group need a guest speaker? Would you like to raise awareness and money for our projects in East Timor? We have a number of interesting presentations, which can be tailored for a school, business, community or church group. We are also willing to be the recipient of funds raised in any creative way you can think of – free dress day at school, lamington drive, jam sale, office fundraising initiatives, and more! To enquire further please contact our administrator, Sandy Nolde on 3851 2192.

► Book & CD Sale

TCF Book & CD Sale at Indooroopilly Uniting Church will be held on Saturday 17th March, 8.30am- 1pm. You can support the Foundation either by donating books and CD's for us to sell or by dropping by to say hello and purchase a book on the 17th. For more information please call Robyn Pugh on 38787296 or Helen Findlay on 3378 2647.



► Annual Luncheon

TCF Annual Luncheon at Kenmore Uniting Church will be held on Saturday 12 May, 12 noon. Come along to hear Rev John Ruhle speak of his recent visit and update us on the work in Timor. For more information please call Helen Findlay on 3378 2647 or Sandy Nolde on 3851 2192.

► Making a Difference

TCF is proud to be able to send more than 93% of your donations to East Timor. We have no employment costs in Australia as we have a host of dedicated, talented people who volunteer their time. Our administration costs are related to the production of newsletters, postage, Bank Fees and office supplies.

93%

Each time you donate rest assured that you are truly making a difference to young people in East Timor.

► Donations

Due to the high cost of credit card merchant fees, we are trying to encourage our supporters to use EFT or bank depositing instead of credit card donations. Cheques are still accepted. The enclosed donation form has our bank account details and each donor has been given a unique 4-digit number. This number is printed on the right hand side of the address label on your envelope and is also written on the deposit slip. Please use this number as your reference when transferring funds or making a Bank Deposit (ANZ). If credit Card is the only way you are able to make a donation, please phone Sandy on 3851 2192 or download the old style donation slip from our web site at www.timorchildren.org

To make a donation please complete the enclosed donation slip and post to:

Timor Children's Foundation
Mrs Sandy Nolde
PO Box 363
Moorooka QLD 4105

For information about the newsletter or to enquire about the work of the Timor Children's Foundation please contact Julia Godfrey on (07) 3892 2976



Autumn
NEWSLETTER
TWO THOUSAND AND TWELVE

AUTUMN NEWS

► Profile - Moises da Silva

In November 2011 Rev John Ruhle, TCF Chairperson, visited East Timor. Here is his interview with Moises da Silva.

Moises is married to Rusti and they have 3 teenage children (*pictured below*). Rusti is from Sumatra so they only see her family every few years. They enjoyed a holiday there in December.

Moises is the Administrator of the TCF Scholarships project in a volunteer capacity and works as the Moderator of the Protestant Church of East Timor. He has been the Moderator since 2008 and will seek reelection at the Assembly in June 2012.

He was born in East Timor near Bacau and spent his early years after school working as a health worker with the East Timorese freedom fighters. He was imprisoned by the Indonesians for a year in the late 1970's.

In the 1980's he studied to be a minister and has been working for the church since 1987.

John asked Moises "what challenges do you face?"

He said, "There are many challenges but I try to not let them weigh me down. Who am I to say that the burdens I carry are any heavier than what others carry."

John then asked "why do you work with TCF?"

He said, "The support I have received from my friends in Australia has made a huge difference in my life. I am keen to be able to help be the link between these friends in Australia and the students in East Timor. I believe this support can make a big difference. I challenge the students to work hard and that with support from the scholarships they can achieve something great for themselves and also help East Timor continue to rebuild and have a peaceful future."

Moises is a humble man full of integrity who feels called to be involved in the work of TCF. We are very fortunate to have him as our Scholarships Administrator and to be able to call him our friend.



Written by Rev John Ruhle, Dec 2011

► Student Scholarship Recipient Albertina De Rosa – Her Story

Albertina's story is a little different to her peers. She is married and her husband Albino is a pastor. She is already a qualified RN and Midwife.

Albertina wanted to do further study, but there were conditions. Her husband said she could study if it was in East Timor and if she got A's and B's. Albertina commenced her studies in East Timor in Public Health. She studied for 5 semesters where she was working and studying at the same time. She was earning \$120/month and the cost of study was \$150/per month.

In Semester 5 she went to Synod and asked "Is there any blessing that you can give me so I can continue to study?" Synod said Yes. This is where her journey with Timor Children's Foundation began.

Albertina said that she valued this opportunity to talk to people from TCF to share her story, she said, "we don't call you donors we call you parents, older sisters and brothers". Now that she is finished her studies she asks for our help through prayer.



Albertina still wishes to do further study in English and then Reproduction.

Currently she is working as a Feeding and Technique Officer at a Health Clinic in Dili.

Her success came through sheer determination, working and studying at the same time, and being prepared to ask for blessings along the way. She believes that God answered her prayers to pass her studies and that she did not do in on her own strength.

Albertina is very passionate about her life and her calling to help Women in Dili. (*Albertina is pictured with Fiona Christ, Catharina van Klinken & Peter Armstrong*)

Written by Fiona Christ after meeting Albertina in Dili, Dec 2011

► Happy 10th Birthday

In 2002 Bob Mitchell travelled to East Timor and met Filomena de Vasconcelos, the wonderful woman who runs St Mary's children's home. He was so moved during his time there on returning to Brisbane he set up the Foundation to ensure ongoing support for her. Thank you Bob for your vision, passion and motivation. The Executive Committee and supporters join with you in celebrating this milestone.



Over the past ten years the Foundation has shared many joys and challenges with Filomena and the children in her care at St Mary's. Provision of a library and improvements to the home was a blessing, then we shared her sorrow when it was burned during the unrest in 2006. Our provision of funds and support continued during the three years that she and the children were refugees in Bacau. The completion of her renovated home in 2010 was met with much celebration and the story continues this year as we provide scholarships for some of the older children to enter further education.

Thank you to all our supporters for your contribution to this work. Thank you for enabling us to be a source of care, support and encouragement to Filomena and the children. You are helping us to do "all the good [we] can".



Bob Mitchell liked the mandate, which John Wesley set in the following quote, and you will see an excerpt of it on our letter head and many publications we send out. Here is the full quote for you to reflect on...

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.”

- John Wesley