



Timor Leste

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Long Trip

I left Rio on a Tuesday, 1 pm and arrived in Bali, Indonesia at 3:30 am of Thursday. A very long trip, with stops in 3 different countries, but, although exhausting, it was very peaceful.

When I arrived in Bali, Joshua was waiting for me at the airport, but I can't say the same about my luggage that were missent and went to Bangkok. No worries, they got there on Friday night, with everything inside.



Joshua showed me the city and I could feel the spiritual oppression that exists in that country. There are offerings at almost every single entrance of houses, stores and streets, by the sidewalk. There are many Hinduism temples, including many inside the houses. We could witness a moment were an offering was being given, in the middle of the street. Every crossroad has gigantic statues of the Hindu gods. Each worse than the other.



The smell of incense in the streets is also very much present. We also saw some mosques and many muslims leaving after their prayers. Apart from that, there is a lot of prostitution and drug use, since the city is always full of tourists.



Arriving in Dili



After 2 years of planning, I finally arrived in East Timor. Right at the first day I took part in a worship practice of one of the churches that Joshua and Claudinha help. I thought I would only watch, but I ended up playing drums at the practice and also at the service, the next day. It was nice to play with unknown people of so different backgrounds. At least, the songs were in English and I could follow them nicely. It was a bilingual service, English-Bahasa. It was my first contact with this language in a service, and it was very interesting.

I also had an interesting “contact” with the local culture. I had to take my goatee (or and

attempt of one) out, so I wouldn't be misinterpreted as a muslim. Not that it could cause me any problems, but maybe the people wouldn't be so receptive because of that. But it's okay... :)

Both Saturday night and Sunday afternoon we spent time with a group of doctors of Singapore, from the NGO Transformation Alliance, in which I will be working at, together with Joshua and Claudinha. They spent 2 weeks here, visiting some distant and isolated villages and offering medical treatment to several families. There are always groups of doctors/dentists coming to Timor and I will also be helping connecting these groups with the families and villages of Timor. It was nice to hear a language I know well... I could understand everything they were talking about. It was a time that my mind could rest.

In this first week I will also finish organizing the little details of my arrival, such as opening a bank account, buying a wardrobe and some other little things. I believe that, until the end of the week I will be feeling at home. It won't be hard, because Joshua and Claudinha are excellent people and have been great friends, since the United States.

I'm still getting used with the country. This week I'll start my Tetun (a local dialect) classes. For what I've heard it is a little close to portuguese and it seems that in about 3 months I will be able to communicate well, God willing. My teacher will be Sergio, a timorese that is studying English in College, and is also learning portuguese (maybe I will help im with portuguese - it will be an “information exchange”)



Prayer Requests:

- 1) Learn Tetun
- 2) Establishment of contacts with churches and people
- 3) Presidential elections that will take place on April 9th. Pray that there won't be any rebellion in the country and that the situation remain stable as it has been the last few weeks.

God bless you all!

Timor for Christ,
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