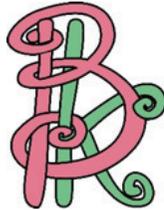


► **Scholarships**

During the year the Foundation has provided up to 310 scholarships each semester. Two new aspects to the provision of scholarships will begin in the New Year. While in Timor, Julia had conversations with a Timorese run sewing room, Belekrai, which produce reusable cloth sanitary products. The provision of high quality/affordable sanitary products is required in Timor. Females worry about being able to afford products each month and have to miss out on attending school, study or work if they can't afford them.



From January 2015, TCF will include a Women's Health pack made by Belekria in the scholarship provision. This supports a local Timorese business while ensuring that females undertaking study through the scholarship program can continue their study without disruption. At a cost of US\$20 per pack, the Foundation believes this is a good investment.

During 2015 it is also hoped to research the employment outcomes of our graduates, to better understand where and in what fields students are gaining employment after graduating. We look forward to sharing the results with you.

► **Bridge the Gap Trek to East Timor 2015**

Rev John Ruhle has organised a group of 10 people who will travel with him to Timor next September to check on the Foundation and Uniting World projects. They will also spend four days trekking through Timor Leste's rugged mountain range, visiting traditional villages and sacred sites and witnessing the beauty of this largely unvisited country. To find out more about the trip see <http://bridgethegap2015.gofundraise.com.au/>



► **Tetun Bible Translation**

For many years Catharina's passion has been to translate the New Testament into Tetun. Working through AuSIL (Australian Society for Indigenous Languages) she has dedicated thousands of hours to this task and is near completion of her dream. It is painstakingly slow work. 8 verses per day (approx. 1 verse/hour). Olander, a Timorese lady, assists. She translates from Malay, checks with Catharina, a non-Christian consultant checks it again, it is translated back into Malay and re-checked. By undertaking this process accuracy is ensured. The language of Tetun is simplistic and still young (approx 15 years old) which makes the task harder. Many Biblical words and concepts have no direct translation. For example there is no concept of justice, i.e. innocence or guilt.



Christianity is dominant in the Timorese population. According to a 2005 World Bank report, 98 percent of the population is Catholic, 1 percent Protestant, and less than 1 percent Muslim. The possibility of reading a Bible in Tetun is appealing and would serve as a great witness and resource.

Catharina has 4 books to complete in order to finish the New Testament – Matthew, John, and 1 & 2 Corinthians. This will take approximately 3 years, at a cost of US\$3,000 each.

If you were interested in learning more about the process of Bible translation into Tetun; would like to pray for Catharina's work; or contribute financially please contact AuSIL or by emailing her supervisor, Barbara Grimes on [Barbara\\_dix\\_grimes@sil.org](mailto:Barbara_dix_grimes@sil.org)

On-line donations are available through [www.ausil.org.au](http://www.ausil.org.au) Cheque or money orders can be sent to PO Box 3575, Palmerston N.T. 0831

Please include a note with your name, address and that it is for Catharina Williams - van Klinken's work in Timor. AuSIL will acknowledge your gift and issue a receipt

► **Sincere Thanks**

- For the past 6 years Lisa Wessling has designed our newsletters. Her style and professionalism have improved our product and we very much appreciate her assistance!
- Terry Edwsmith has prepared our auditors report for many years. Thanks for your diligence and willingness to work with the Foundaiton.

► **Apologies**

In the Spring Newsletter we thanked Lea Printing for their ongoing support. Our thanks go to Jenny and Peter (not Paul, as published!) Thanks for having a sense of humour Peter! [www.leaprinting.com.au](http://www.leaprinting.com.au)



Summer  
Newsletter 2014/15



# SUMMER NEWS

## ► Much to Celebrate!

- There is much to celebrate in this edition of the Timor Children's Foundation newsletter.
- Positives steps forward are being made in Timor and the nation is actively moving towards the future.
- We are encouraged by new churches and groups of people are joining our donor lists. There is nothing like telling people about the Foundation's work in Timor and being encouraged to share more.
- Our scholarship project is undertaking some small changes.
- Thanks for journeying with us this year, thank you for your prayers and encouragement and (for those that have been able) thank you for your financial contributions.
- Our newsletters come to you with "no strings attached", i.e. no expectation of receiving a financial donation. However, when you are able, thank you for your assistance.

## ► The Godfrey Family Adventures

In September the Godfrey family spent a week in Timor visiting the TCF projects. Parents, Nathan and Julia have been involved in the Executive Committee for many years and Nathan has been a Director since 2005. The three children Shae (10 yrs), Caleb (8 yrs) and Daniel (5 yrs) have grown up listening to stories of what the Foundation is involved in, so they decided to show them first hand. Julia shares some of their stories.



Aussies, Samuel and Cynthia Bacon and their 3 children (aged between 14 – 2yrs) welcomed us into their home on the beach at Comoro (near the eastern end of the Dili airport). To reach them we travelled through a local community with pigs, dogs and goats roaming free; houses built from blocks, concrete, palm fronds and timber lined the dusty, pot-holed roads which the car crept over at 30km/hr. Rob Williams on a bicycle travelled faster and far more skillfully ahead of us, showing the way! Just before we reached their home we past the local cemetery. Of the few hundred graves, more than 50% were young children and babies, tiny tomb stones with names and dates engraved. The adult graves were large, colourful, ornate shrines with photos of the deceased behind glass doors.

Staying with the Bacon's was the perfect transition for the children, They were happy to explore the local area and to attend meetings

but reveled in the normalness of speaking English, eating familiar food, and playing games with the kids.

Cynthia's parents coordinate boxes of donated items and ship them to Dili through the Rotary Victorian Store in Australia. A shipment had just arrived before us and as we departed for Hera, Cynthia handed me a box of baby clothes. Soon after we arrived in Hera, staying at the local midwife/pastor/disability and school coordinators home, Branca was told that a mother from the hills outside Sidara was in labour. A few hours later a healthy boy was born and I was able to sort through the clothes and prepare a welcome pack of bibs, booties, wraps and clothing for the new arrival. My daughter, Shae, and I then visited the mum in the clinic and gave her the gift. God works in mysterious ways! Thank you Rotary Victoria for enabling the generous, timely donation!



Another evening we had dinner with Moises and Rusti da Silva, along with ex-scholarship recipient, Abraham. TCF paid for Abraham to study medicine in Indonesia. After qualifying he worked in Timor before undertaking specialist training in Radiography. He had recently arrived back in Timor and was working at the Dili hospital.



Thank you to the supporters of our Scholarship Project. Abraham is truly a good news story of how the scholarships assist people to "be all they can be."

When Filomena began taking children into her home she prayed that God would give her a sign that this was His will for her life. More specifically, she hoped that one of the children would become a minister. Salvatore is the answer to this prayer and his commitment to serve God brings her much joy. He is based in Bacau most of the week, coming in to Dili on Tuesday's to record a 1 hour sermon which is aired on the Timorese Christian radio channel on Sunday's.

Filomena is also proud of Simeon. He is a strong, healthy young man working for the Timorese navy who came to live with her as a small boy. She taught him to do book work while he was in her care. He would input her expenses into Excel for her reports to TCF. When he commenced with the Navy he was asked how he gained his financial skills and proudly told them that Filomena, "his mother" had taught him and that she herself had learned from a book. He is still in regular phone contact with Filomena, comes back to Samaria to assist her practically and remains in control of the Homes finances.

## ► Samaria

The Godfrey family spent a few hours at Samaria children's home. Filomena and the children are well and send you their love and greetings. The children sang for us, we joined in where we could, and then the games began. At this point our kids thawed out and really began to enjoy themselves. After seeing through the bedrooms and the newly renovated kitchen and dining room we were treated to a banquet dinner. (Renovation include: painted ceiling, tiled dining room floor, tiled kitchen beaches – all things Filomena had hoped for 2 yrs ago when Julia visited, so it was encouraging to see the work completed).

Filomena will be purchasing 5 mattresses, 10 bottom sheets, 15 pillows, 2 wooden wardrobes – 1 for boys, 1 for girls (with lockable drawers) and kitchen shelves for storage.



[timorchildren.org](http://timorchildren.org)