

► Mike Prince takes on Tour de Timor

It is with admiration and gratitude that TCF acknowledges Mike Prince's efforts in raising almost \$2,500 for Samaria children's home. Mike competed in Asia's toughest Mountain Bike adventure race, the 2017 Tour de Timor (TdT).



The event is part of the "Dili – City of Peace" campaign to foster: advancing sport in Timor-Leste, providing

opportunities for economic development, boosting tourism, shifting perceptions about Timor-Leste and strengthening peace, harmony and national pride.

What is the Tour de Timor?

It was a five-day multi stage race from 19–23 September 2017 in the coastal and inland communities of Timor-Leste.

The course was approximately 500km long (100km on single tracks) and included a total of 10,000m of climbing.

The event was first held in 2009 and was an initiative of the former President of the Republic, José Ramos-Horta.

What made him take on this challenge?

1. To support Timor-Leste in promoting and celebrating development and peace in the region.
2. To raise funds to support the Samaria Children's Home in Dili.
3. To experience the culture, needs and vision of Timor-Leste.

► The Gap Uniting Church holds a ride-a-thon

During October the children in Grow Sunday School at The Gap Uniting Church learned about the lives of people in Timor-Leste. The first three weeks were spent learning about different issues and fundraising, culminating in the fourth week with a sponsored bike ride. The TCF committee loves hearing about creative and different fundraising activities and thanks The Gap Uniting Church for empowering your young people to help us make a difference in Timor.

► Thank you

Thanks to Groodles Australia who made a very generous donation in July. Their ongoing support of the scholarships program and dental project is most appreciated. For more information on Groodles please check out <http://springfielddistrictvets.com.au/groodlesaustralia/#>



► Welcome to Jan and Keith Elcock

In July the TCF welcomed Jan and Keith Elcock to the Executive Committee. They are members of the Chermide Kedron Community Church and have had an interest in Timor-Leste for a few years. This was first developed following an ABC radio programme called Lingua Franca which highlighted the work of the Mary Mackillop sisters in East Timor. They then learned of the work the late Arie VanKlinken had commenced with the scholarship programme. Jan is learning Tetun and has taken on the role of Secretary.

► Date Claimer

The Annual Timor Children's Foundation Luncheon for 2018 will be held on Saturday 12 May at Indooroopilly Uniting Church. Presentation at 12 noon followed by a finger food luncheon at 1pm. More details will be provided in the New Year.



timorchildren.org



SPRING 2017 Newfletter

SPRING NEWS 2017

► Samaria Children's Home

Filomena sends her greetings and thanks for your continued support. She and the children are going well, although she has had some personal health issues during the year. TCF has agreed to increase her monthly support in the New Year and to provide funds to replace the 15 yr old fridge which is rusting inside. We encourage our donors to consider making a regular monthly donation to the Samaria Children's



home. \$50 per month will cover the costs of a child attending school, meals, clothing and medical expenses. Although this is a non-tax deductible project, we work hard to keep our costs low and are proud to say that 96c in each \$1 donated reaches the children. To find out more about setting up a direct debit, please contact Ruth Grieve on 0429 474383 or email admin@timorchildren.com

► Scholarships

Rev Moises da Silva continues to administer the scholarships on our behalf. Semester 2 saw TCF support 277 students and 24 who are completing their thesis. Since finishing his role as Moderator of the Protestant Church Moises has been given a role at Hosana Church. His three children Lia, Mia and Rio live and study in Indonesia. He asks for our continued prayers for them, himself and his congregation.

► Churchie Partnership

This year the Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie) has partnered with TCF through their Yr 9 Service Projects. The Service Choir, conducted by Mrs Oxenford, performed at our Annual Luncheon and has also heard a variety of presentations on our work in Timor. We greatly appreciate their support and enthusiasm.



Churchie.
MAKING OF MEN

► Dental Project and May visit update

Drs Malcolm Campbell and John Fisher have had their dental work in Timor Leste promoted this year. Journey, a publication of the Uniting Church in Australia, included a story titled "These Timor-Leste kids love to see the dentist...meet the Aussie church members who made it possible." in their September edition. The Salvation Army included "Saving the world one smile at a time" in their War Cry magazine in August. It is wonderful to see people catching the passion and love that these men and their teams have for the Timorese.



An excerpt from Journey:

"In 2016, Dr Malcolm teamed up with one of the Glebe Road church council members who is an experienced dentist, Dr John Fisher, and they were invited to do a quick check on the dental health of the children at Marcelo 02 Eskola [a kindergarten and elementary school on the western outskirts of Dili].

They thought they might examine a small number from each class but there was no way that the children were going to miss out, and the original sample was extended to include the whole school population. The two dentists did 653 dental exams in one day. Each child was given a toothbrush and a small tube of toothpaste. Both dentists were distressed by the poor oral health of the children. Many had swollen faces and were in constant pain from badly decayed and infected teeth.

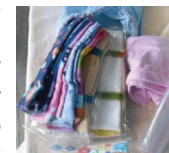
[In 2017 a team was created to return to Marcelo 02 Eskola and treat the children.] Donations from the Glebe Road congregation and TCF were boosted by funds raised by students and staff at Fahan School in Tasmania, and staff at Boonah Dental donated all fees raised one Saturday to the dental project.

The dental team arrived in May with minimal personal luggage and maximum allowable cases loaded with dental supplies. Students and staff at the school were thrilled to have some dental treatment done with the use of local anaesthetic, never before having had treatment with pain relief. A total of 116 were treated at Marcelo 02 Eskola during the visit. Peter and Jill Case, both experienced teachers, taught oral health education to each of the 21 classes in the school. This was the first step in the ongoing prevention of tooth decay and the teachers at the school will continue these lessons."

Another positive change from 2016 to 2017 was the removal of the shop that was located beside the school. It had previously sold a wide range of sweets and junk food to the students, which was exacerbating their dental issues.

► Sanitary Packs – A Gift of Grace

As we prepare for Christmas this year TCF offers you the chance to give a 'gift of grace' and empower young girls and women in Timor Leste to continue their education without having to take time out each month for their menstrual cycle. TCF continues the partnership with a local Dili enterprise Bele Kria. Local Timorese women are employed to sew sanitary pads and deliver them to Rev Moises da Silva who distributes them to the female students when they collect their scholarship money at the beginning of each year. Each pack costs AUD\$30 and we will be ordering 200. Your support is greatly appreciated. Tax deductible receipts can be issued if required.



► Greater Sunrise Gas Field

In mid-October it was announced that Australia and Timor Leste have drawn up a draft treaty setting out their maritime borders, aiming to end the dispute over lucrative oil and gas fields.

"Timor Leste and Australia have reached agreement on the complete text of a draft treaty" in confidential talks in The Hague over the past week, the Permanent Court of Arbitration said in a statement.

Without giving any details, the court hailed the draft treaty as a *"pathway to the development of the resource, and the sharing of the resulting revenue."*

The governments in Timor Leste and Australia will now have to approve the treaty, with the two countries set to meet again before the end of November in Singapore aiming to set a date for a signing ceremony some time in 2018.

Peter Taksoe-Jensen, the head of a conciliation commission set up by the tribunal to help steer the negotiations, praised the *"constructive"* atmosphere of the talks. Dili and Canberra were *"standing together to ensure that the resources of the seabed are developed to the benefit of both peoples,"* he said.

Please continue to pray for this process so that an equitable resolution is found. **Source: AFP – SBS Wires**