

# Partnerships For Training Pastors In West Timor, Indonesia

September 25- October 8, 2017



## October 2017 Update #2

**Thoughts From Dave** - It's a long way to Kupang, West Timor, but worth every mile traveled. Despite typhoon warnings for Japan and a volcano eruption warning in Bali, I managed to arrive safely and on schedule. This main part of this trip was the result of a partnership with Artha Wacana Christian University and the Grimes family. My primary purpose was to teach an *Introduction of the Old Testament* intensive course to first-year students. It was an exceptional time working with Ben Grimes, Dr. Adriana Tunliu, and seventy-five emerging leaders studying theology at the University.

I was impressed by the student's grasp of biblical narratives and their attentiveness to the lectures and class participation. My task was not only to emphasize how the Old Testament fits together, but highlight the *context* in which these ancient and relevant biblical books are found. Also, I was asked to speak in a "Reformation Day Chapel" as well as talk to an upper level class on "The Journey of a Pastor". The pictures and comments below illustrate the wonderful interaction I had with the students and faculty. Discussions about teaching a 2018 course have begun.



*First Year Theological Students from Areas Across the Timor Region*



*Students holding the Kupang-Malay New Testament Translation given by Partnerships For Training Pastors*



*The classes started at 7:30 am because of the extreme late-day heat. Cheerful greetings met Ben and me as we walked into the classroom and these inquisitive students produced 10 pages of questions on Genesis alone, which Ben and I took seriously.*

**Why Give the Kupang-Malay Translation to the Students?** Kupang-Malay is a regional trade language used to communicate between ethnic groups in West Timor. It has about 200,000 first language speakers and almost one and a half million second language speakers. Using this low prestige and low status language for the Bible and ministry is a clash with traditionally accepted norms. It pushes people's comfortable assumptions that ministry and God's Word must only be in "higher" Indonesian language. The Kupang-Malay Translation is readable and encourages basic biblical understanding and a vision for practical church ministry. Thanks to all who have contributed to "Partnerships" for your role in providing this Translation to these first-year students.

*Our vision is to encourage and equip less-resourced Majority World pastors through biblical teaching and resources. Beginning in Uganda, we will assist national church leaders and mission partners as they nurture pastors and develop emerging leaders to the glory of God.*

Visit [www.partnershipsfortraining.org](http://www.partnershipsfortraining.org) for more information on the vision and work of Partnerships For Training Pastors



**Thoughts from Ben Grimes:** “Here in Timor there is strong social expectation to ‘showcase’ your status, whether it be wealth, education, position or experience. This can make it hard for pastors to demonstrate humility, and can lead to pastors and elders teaching in a way that emphasizes how smart they are, rather than delivering teaching designed to meet the needs of the congregation. One of the benefits of having Dave here is that he’s able to demonstrate a countercultural way of serving the congregation through teaching. Despite his experience and qualifications, he demonstrates humility and puts the learning needs of the participants first rather than using his position as teacher to draw attention to himself.”

“Learning how to demonstrate countercultural humility is best learned by seeing someone practice it rather than just talking about it, and these lessons will stay with the students and elders long after they have forgotten the details of the study materials.”

**Speaking at Chapel for October’s Reformation Activities and at the Saturday Seminar** was a great honor. (I tell Ben that he is an amazing interpreter, but I could be wrong because I don’t know Indonesian). Dr. Evy Pada is Dean of the Theological Faculty (next to me in middle picture below), who along with Dr. Adriana Tunliu and Professor Bobbi Litel Noni expressed their appreciation to Ben and me for our part in that special Reformation chapel service. Then, on the final day of classes, I had the joy of giving several books on the Old Testament to Dr. Tunliu and the school’s library. These resources, along with giving the students the Kupang-Malay Translation, fulfills our vision of providing biblical resources for the training of emerging leaders and pastors!

*Selfie with Upper Level Students after “The Journey of A Pastor” Presentation*



**Beautiful Timorese Hospitality** was extended by the faculty and students. On the final day of class, the students gave Ben and me a **Kain**, which is a handwoven traditional cloth signifying the tying together of the giver and the receiver. The spoken (and unspoken) implication is that because we are tied together we must visit again (left picture below). After the cloth is placed around the neck, a traditional greeting entitled **Cium Hidung**, is done by rubbing noses (middle picture). This **Kain** was made by a student’s mother and he wanted a picture for his mother.



**What’s Next at the University** – An invitation has been extended to return to the University for several weeks in late April and early May of 2018 to teach Pastoral Counseling and Preaching courses. Joyce and I ask for your prayers as we consider how this invitation will fit into the entire 2018 schedule.

#### **Personal Prayer Requests**

- As Joyce and I wrap-up 2017 and look to 2018, pray for God’s wisdom to lead us each step of the way.
- Pray for our deepening understanding of the majesty and mystery of Christ’s purpose for His church.
- Pray for effective study of God’s Word in preparation to communicate in diverse cross-cultural settings.
- Pray for God’s continual resource provision as we move into a new phase of ministry together.

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