



BAIRRO PITÉ CLINIC

Bairro Pite Clinic, Dili, East Timor
Phone: (001-670-390) – 3324118 P.O. Box 259, Dili
<http://bairropiteclinic.tripod.com/>

Clinic News

May 2005

Demonstrations conducted regarding religion and moral subject for a total of twenty days are now over peacefully. The Government has agreed to continue with religious education, having met with church representatives, including Bishops from the Baucau and Dili Diocese.

Both parties have signed an agreement on this issue, which is fundamentally important for religious life as well to economic and political development. Most of the population in East Timor is Catholic, and the church has been played an important role in independence.

Although Church members are not politicians, they have become involved in political issues during their work to defend the people's right and political ideology. The Church has a strong history of defending the rights of the East Timorese throughout the long period of resistance and a re strongly tied with the development of the country. If there had been no Church involvement, East Timor would not get this independence when it did and there may well have been more victims of oppression.



An East Timorese nun gives a piece of candy to a soldier during an anti-government protest. AP photo

The Church used to be shelter young people who bravely sacrificed their lives for the freedom of their lovely country. Even the Priests, Nuns and the Bishops, were courageous when confronted with the Indonesian military and local militias. With the objective “*We Want to be Independent*” East Timor finally we got what was dreamed of for such long time.

Furthermore, on Wednesday, 11th May a new issue arose throughout the capital concerning a possible Al Qaeda Movement bomb at the Parliament Building. At that time, the Head of Police commanded police staff to be on alert and requested all the Parliament members to leave the building for a while and let them check all rooms in that building. Although they did not find any bombs they did confiscate three illegal pistols albeit without bullets. They then recalled all the Parliament members to restart their activity as usual.

None of these problems that happened during this month influenced clinical activities at Bairro Pité Clinic. Everything is running well. The humanitarian work of BPC continues both within Dili and the surrounding countryside. We still see many patients every day which keep us very busy.

1. Donation Delivery

We have received donations from America, through the volunteers who arrived recently, which included some medicines, medical supplies, clothes and a few toys to give to the patients.

Donated medical supplies that make it through customs supplement medication that can be obtained from the Central Pharmacy

The clothes and toys we left with Dr. Daniel in the General Consultation Room to be share to every child who comes to the clinic for consultation.

On behalf of all staff and Dr. Daniel, I would like to present our thanks to those persons who have supported our clinic by sending this donation to the clinic.

2. Most Important Diseases

Pneumonia and **malaria** are still the main diseases affecting the population, especially the children. The numbers of affected appear to increase each day.

3. Volunteers Development

Some medical students have just returned to their country such as Louise, Rachael, Ramesh, Ben and Yang.

New volunteers just arrived from USA are Dr. Ferrous, and three pre-medical students: Aaron, Shawn Brown and Sara La March. They are the people that brought the donation from America. Simon and Anna still here until the middle of June 16th.

Kishani and Johana will spend few days more until the end of month. Leesl, she is conducting well her daily activities and she is always in a good condition, no malaria yet.

Greg a volunteer who last year came to work for four months, now he has become a Doctor, he has returned to work at Bairro Pité Clinic until August.

A doctor from Burma, Dr. Tom, will stay here for one year. NGO Alola Foundation will pay for all the accommodation cost during one year. Regarding to the agreement with this NGO, they can extend the visa for one year more, but should depend on the situation.

4. Antenatal Care

BPC midwives have attended three times as many deliveries compared to February. To assist wi

Dr. Daniel has employed Marcelina, a former midwife at BPC, to be the head of maternity services. Midwives paid by the Ministry of Health will soon be moving to a new government clinic located not far from BPC.

Dr. Daniel employs Marcelina and her assistant Augusta for nine dollars each delivery. Between 35 to 75 babies are born each month at BPC.

5. Medicine Issues & Problem

Family planning medicine is in short supply particularly Depo Provera or medroxyprogesterone. We recently had to pay more for this medication to buy it through a private pharmacy.

This medication is given by injection every three months and allows East Timorese families to plan for their next child. This medication is not supplied through Central Pharmacy making the clinic supply dependent upon donors.

During this month, electrical power often fails. In the morning power can be off for one to two hours and at night as long as four hours. The price of diesel fuel for the generator has increased from \$0.62 to \$0.69 a litre adding an additional burden to the Clinic's overstretched budget.

6. Patient Record

Month	General Consultation	Maternity	Post Partum	Family Planning	Immunization	Dental Care	Inpatient	Total
February	4355	431	20	232	422	378	88	5926
March	5637	539	52	Depo Provera 495 OCP 21	Tetanus Toxoid 269 Other 445	1824	100	9382
April	2548	504	69	Depo Provera Injection 353 OCP 14	Tetanus Toxoid 241 Other 396	237	76 Malaria 73, Negative 762 Nutrition Programme 1835	7208

7. New Mobile Clinic Programme

Recently, the volunteers were advised by Dr. Daniel to restart mobile clinics to Hatubuilico, in the Sub District of Ainaro. BPC visits to Hatubuilico had to be halted because no staff was available to provide this service.

Visits are planned for the first week of each month with a group of seven people; Ben, Simon and Anna medical staffs; Inaço a translator, Yang; a volunteer pharmacist (also Ben's wife); Teresa, a nurse; and Paula a midwife. They group spend a night there with the Timorese staying at Nun's Home and the expatriates at Hatubuilico Pension. They easily see more than a hundred patients.

On the most recent visit they group attempted to climb Mt Ramelau, the highest mountain in East Timor at 2963m, but had to turn back as Simon was unwell with symptoms of dengue fever. Ben and Yang have since returned to the USA. They are happy with this medical mission even it take a tiring journey to reach the people who need our assistance.

Dr. Daniel has further plans of using volunteers to arrange new places for mobile clinic to visit such as Ainaro (which did start May 6th) and Liquiça. BPC provide medical consultations as well as immunizations, antenatal health and nutrition programme.

Now we visit two districts in the Liquiça district, that is Metagou, Bazartete, Loes, Leorema, Fahilebu, Hatubuilico in the Ainaro district as well as in Dili, Metinaro and Hera. Other places we visit include Manleuana, Manumeta Raihun, Kasnafar, Hudi Laran, Ailok Laran, São José Village, Rai Nain Village and Cacauidun.

On Wednesday, 18th a group of volunteers returned to Hatubuilico for the second time mobile clinic. This group contained of six people, including Dr. Ferrous, Kishani and Johanna, a Timorese midwife, an interpreter and nurse. They did the consultation in the next afternoon. They consulted more than a hundred patients. Most of the diseases are common cold with a few cases of tuberculosis. The next morning they attempted to climb Mt Ramelau, but this time turned back because of a landslide. They got down late in the afternoon ready for a long trip back to Dili, arriving safely at the clinic in the that evening.

Have a look at the following link to see some pictures of Mt Ramelau

<http://www.ictpd.net/bj/easttimor/pilgrimage.htm>

8. Research Project

We had received a proposal from the National University of East Timor regarding laboratory testing of parasites. There is a new project launched between the University and the Scientific Institution of Brazil to do testing of two types of parasites; ectoparasites and endoparasites, which cause five different diseases. The project aims to obtain baseline data for future research and provide experience for our laboratory.

The research project will be start at the end of May, 2005.

Research students involved with the project will be able to put theoretical knowledge to a practical test. It is a great opportunity for the students in order to increase their own capacity as well improve the scientific development of our nation.

Recently, on Tuesday, 25th May we provide medical care for a group of 32 university students and nuns who had stayed at St. Madalena Convent. Most were ill with symptoms such as diarrhoea, fever, vomiting. Some were recovering but a worrying number remained unwell after several days. After seeing a local doctor the head of the Convent took the most unwell to BPC. We did our routine investigations including a malaria smear. Although the source of the illness remains uncertain, it was probably related to poorly prepared food. A MoH team is visiting the convent to further investigate.

By: Ana Jeánnie Magno de Corte – Real Araújo !!!

Edited by Mark Raines



Sister Lourdes - Faith In A Nation

Sister Lourdes is a hero of East Timor's revolution and a radical nun who inspired the enemy to help her country's poor. She has started a new mixed religious group who are now trying to motivate the new nation's people to undo the damage of a 500-year history of colonialism and military occupation.

<http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s1379910.htm>

We would like to thank for all your kind help to our clinic