

EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Bulletin of The Peter Trust

Registered Charity No. 1080159

Autumn 2016

Trustee Norah visits Peter Trust Projects in East Timor

In June-July this year our long-serving Trustee Norah Small (78) travelled to East Timor and for three weeks undertook demanding journeys around the territory to see as many of our projects as this period of time allowed. Often this meant exhausting trips taking several hours along bad or nearly non-existent roads.

Wherever she went she received many earnest expressions of gratitude from beneficiaries for the support the **Peter Trust** is providing for health care and in education around the territory. Not long after her return Norah was able to make the autumn Appeal for the Trust in the churches of Our Lady of Kirkstall Parish in North Leeds and the text of this is reproduced below. At the AGM on September 25th she is ready to give a more detailed account of her visit and illustrate that with a selection of the many photos she took, some of which are reproduced in this issue of *East Timor Update*.

Peter Trust Priorities

From its inauguration in 2001 *The Peter Trust* has prioritised projects in health and education. In this issue of *Update* we look at the continuing need in East Timor for our assistance in these areas.



Norah among some of the 'veggies'!

THE AUTUMN APPEAL

(by Norah Small)

As most of you know I have been to East Timor for three weeks this summer and I visited many of the projects which you support.

The improvement since my previous visit 3 years ago is unbelievable. I have been asked to say 'Thank you' from everyone there.

Time does not allow me to talk about all the projects so I have chosen to talk about three particular areas:

The first is the **Dominican Orphanage** which we have been supporting for the last 10 years:

The kitchen garden site was once a wild overgrown area the size of two football pitches. Over the years we have provided the tools to cultivate it, fruit and vegetable seeds, wells and piping for irrigation, and the animals: hens, pigs, goats, ducks and cows.

I could not believe my eyes when I arrived on site this time! There were fruit and vegetables growing in abundance with a high fence to keep the animals in their own well-provided quarters.

The children three years ago were thin and listless and could not blow up the balloons I gave them. This year they chased me around the play area with unlimited energy. When I commented to Sr Mila OP who is in overall charge on their improvement, she said simply: 'Feed a child...'



Sr Mila OP takes a long shot of part of the kitchen garden

Continued overleaf



Some orphans feeding the livestock



Dr Benilda attending village patients from the mobile clinic

I then went to see **Dr Benilda**, whose salary is paid by the many people of this parish who donate £5 per month by direct debit to the **Peter Trust** for this specific purpose.

On my last visit I travelled with her mobile clinic to two of the villages, where she attends to between 100-200 patients each day.

This year I accompanied her to a remote area where villagers could not get to attend even this clinic.

At one site a patient was a ten year old boy who had had his eye cut with a flying piece of metal. She was able to contact the hospital in Dili and arrange an operation for him.

Then she contacted the "Mission Aviation Fellowship" (MAF) to arrange transport for him to the hospital by one of their light aircraft.

So from these two examples you can see that your contribution is not just helping, it is life *changing* and also life saving. Do please

appreciate how much you are doing for these people and how grateful they all are!

The last situation I would like to talk about is in the east of the country where I had not been before. An old priest, Fr Eugenio Locatelli, made the journey to Dili city to see me and asked if I would go with him to see the work he is doing there.

Fr. Locatelli arrived in East Timor from Italy as a newly ordained Salesian priest - the religious congregation founded by St John Bosco - 52 years ago. He has been in this district ever since. It is the poorest area I have ever seen.

When Fr Locatelli arrived he first of all built a church. Since then he has headed up the establishment of a technical college for 120 students, a primary school which has 656 children, an orphanage for 130 children, a senior school, and a vocational technical school for cookery and hospitality which has

167 students. At the present time he is building a nursery school:

Fr Locatelli supplies every single child/student in these institutions with a meal each day from the extensive fields and gardens he has developed. He has acres of land and all the unemployed men in the surrounding villages work the soil. He cannot pay them for their work but they and their families receive a meal each day. Their wives work in the storage sheds, stripping the corn and rice and shelling the beans and peanuts to store for winter use:



Village women at work in the vegetable stores

Fr Locatelli treats everyone in about a 20 mile radius as his family and provides food for them. You cannot believe how much this one man does for the local people!

In conclusion I would like to encourage you to continue your support for these and the many other projects funded by the Peter Trust. My appeal is especially for the feeding programme of Fr Locatelli SDB.



The 'Youth Bulge' In East Timor

International Youth Day is celebrated on every August 12th. UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, participates by reaffirming and recognising the central role of young people in promoting the well being of their families, communities and nations.

This year's theme: 'The road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption' couldn't be more relevant and timely for East Timor where the 'Day' was celebrated in the small township of Liquica on the North coast from August 8-12th. The UNFPA reports:

Timor-Leste (East Timor) is currently facing a youth bulge, with young people representing more than a third of the adult population – and the youth population is increasing. They usually leave school at 19, get married at 21 for young women and 25 for young men, have their first child at 22, and find work between 22 and 25. To be the active agents for positive social change, Timor-Leste's young population needs to be educated, healthy, productively employed, and civic-minded. For young people in particular, challenges remain without adequate knowledge of nutrition



Male and female students sponsored by The Peter Trust at an SDB Technical College in Dili

and public health. Adolescent fertility is high in comparison with neighbouring nations, smoking rates are the highest in the world and the number of people infected with HIV is increasing. Too many young women suffer from the consequences of early marriage and teenage pregnancies. Too many young men suffer from alcohol abuse and road accidents. Timorese youth face many risks in trying to maintain a healthy lifestyle, which requires good knowledge, strong life skills and access to quality services. All of these challenges constrain them in their efforts to contribute to

their own development and that of their communities by the absence of adequate opportunities to participate fully in the broader process of development. Priority must be given to enhancing the role of youth in all areas of social and economic development; this not only benefits young people themselves, but also fosters a sense of community and promotes national development.

The Peter Trust supports Technical, Agricultural and Vocational training, and spiritual development at several institutions across East Timor:



Dr Benilda with SPC Sisters and lay helpers for the Mobile Clinic



Fr Eugenio Locatelli SDB watches the building of the Nursery School

OTHER NEWS

Prime Minister of East Timor meets Pope Francis

On March 3rd 2016 Rui Maria de Araujo, Prime Minister of Timor Leste, was received by Pope Francis in the Vatican. His Excellency subsequently met with the Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin who visited the country last year.

Pope Francis greets Rui Maria de Araujo, Prime Minister of Timor Leste, March 3rd, 2016. [Photo EPA]



A statement from the Holy See Press office called the discussions cordial and said: ‘the good relations between the Holy See and Timor-Leste were evoked as well as the historical contribution of the Church to building up the nation and collaboration with the civil Authorities in various social areas such as education, health, and the fight against poverty’.

At the end of the meeting with the Secretary of State in the Hall of Treaties in the Vatican Apostolic Palace, there took place the exchange of instruments for the ratification of the Accord between the Holy See and the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, signed in Dili on 14th August 2015. Cardinal Parolin addressed those gathered and noted that this Agreement is the result of many years of negotiations backed by a common spirit of dialogue and co-operation, recognising the important role the Catholic Church plays in the life of the Timorese people. ■



Many thanks to all our donors!

The Trustees, pictured opposite, express their deepest appreciation to all who have contributed and are contributing to the Peter Trust funds. ■

Despite some creditable developments East Timor remains the poorest country in SE Asia and one of the four poorest in the world - so a little financial help goes a long way.

- Every donation of whatever amount significantly improves conditions for the people.



l-r (back) Eddie Lumley; Kevin Grundey (Treasurer); Michael O'Donnell; Fr Pat Smythe (Secretary); Simon Myers (Chairman); Philip Stewardson;

l-r (front) Norah Small, Laura Lumley; Philomena Moreland