



“The bread became the traditional breakfast for the Timorese”



“The first term of the school year in Escola Dominicana at Hera showed a promising sign that God has truly designed this school to serve the community,” writes Sister Elsie from Hera.

“The school Team with our mission partner Mr. Gerald Kenneally of ATLAS offered to support the microfinance business of the Women staff at Escola Dominicana. This initiative of bread production would benefit the community for a supply of clean and fresh bread. Mr. Gerald supported the school project to fund the bread mixer. For the first month, the three staff - Beatrice, Alice and Lydia, baked bread only for 300 pieces a day, as the customers were only the parents and students. After a month there was an additional demand for bread, as this time customers expanded to the community. The women had to open the canteen as early as 6:00 a.m. since bread has become the traditional breakfast for the Timorese. They prefer bread and tea in the morning and love the taste of our bread.” *(cont.p.3)*

Photos show the bread-making venture at Hera.

News from Fatuhada and Maubara

St Therese's Orphanage at Maubara and Fatuhada

Thanks to you, our generous donors, ATLAS is able to continue its financial support for the care and education of the children at Maubara and the senior students residing in premises provided by the Carmelite Sisters at Fatuhada. This enables the girls to complete their courses, either academic or vocational, at Senior High Schools in Dili.

Earlier this year, we received a report from Sister Inacia, who is responsible for the administration of the orphanage, together with a letter of thanks to all donors. Two of the final year students also sent messages of appreciation. We are delighted to share these communications with you. We also add our thanks and assure you that, it is through your generosity and with your help, that these children from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds are given a home and an education which will not only prepare them for life but enable them to contribute to the development of their nation.

Josephine Mitchell
Project Group Convenor

Dear Donors

I am Teresa Ximenes de Araujo Fernandes. I am a student in the Carmelite Orphanage in Fatuhada.

I thank you deeply for all your hard work and sacrifices to support me since I was a baby till now I am a girl. I thank you for your financial support for my studies until now I have finished secondary school. I thank you for all your hard work and love to help make me mature as a woman, now and in the future learning so much about the process of my life.

Thank you so much and God bless you all.

Teresa Ximenes de Araujo Fernandes

Dear Carmelite Orphanage Donors

My name is Jacinta Quelu Quefi, I'm a student from Carmelite Sisters' Orphanage in Fatuhada and I have now finished my study in secondary school now.

Firstly I want to thank God for all blessings that I received in life, particularly during twelve years of my life under the roof of the Orphanage of Carmelite Sisters and for all education till I finished Secondary school in Saint Paul VI College. The Sisters have educated me I have learned a lot from them which has made me mature as a woman.

My big thanks also to all donors for your care on me, your love, your sacrifices and your generosity and all your financial support during twelve years so that I can get a secondary school Diploma.....

Once again, my love, big hug and prayers to all of you. Thank you so much!!!

Jacinta Quelu Quefi

Comparisons can be odious, but also instructive

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a United Nations measure for assessing progress in three areas:

- a long and healthy life is measured by life expectancy
- access to learning and knowledge is measured by expected years of schooling
- a decent standard of living is measured by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

Timor-Leste's HDI value for 2018 was 0.626, which is a medium range.

Timor-Leste occupies the position of 131 out of 189 countries that are assessed.

Between 2000 and 2018: Timor-Leste's HDI value increased from 0.505 to 0.626, an increase of 23.8%.

Life expectancy at birth increased by 20.8 years (!) Expected years of schooling increased by 2.6 years;

Gross National Income per capita increased by about 85%. It is \$7,527.00 per annum

Australia's HDI value for 2018 was 0.938, which is a very high range.

It is positioned at 6 out of the 189 countries and territories.

Between 1990 and 2018: Australia's HDI value increased from 0.866 to 0.938, an increase of 8.3%.

Life expectancy at birth increased by 6.3 years, expected years of schooling increased by 4.8 years.

Gross National Income per capita increased by about 59.3%. It is \$44,097 per annum

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries>

(cont. from p.1) Sister Elsie continues:

“The administration augments the minimum salary of the three women taken from the net income of the bread. It is a great help for them since they are the sole providers for their families.

Beatrice has three children and the husband is in still in prison. Lydia has gone through a painful life; she has three children, ages 6, 5 and 4 year olds. A widow, Emelita, is 22 years old and is the eldest of her seven siblings; she stopped schooling when she was in Senior High School. The family could not afford her education. She shares her salary with her family in the mountains while she also saves for her studies next year.

We hope to expand this bread making to a Bakery Shop. We can sell a variety of pastries that are nutritious, and affordable for the community who are living on the margins and below the poverty line. But we need a bigger size oven to facilitate the supply well.

For now we have only the two small ovens and not enough to produce more bread in a day. Everything starts from a small beginning. Maybe after a year we can purchase a bigger oven. On the other hand, the women will develop a sense of confidence in their selves and live a dignified life. This will become like a ripple. The local women can do it themselves with tangible results. I guess this is what it means to accompany people on the journey of life. It gives sense and meaning to our presence among them.



Making great strides with the bread machine in Hera



Children at Maubara orphanage

A message from Sister Inácia

Dear Friends in Christ, donors for Orphanage Maubara and Fatuhada, we send you our greetings and gratitude.

We are beginning the New Year 2020, working together to support the life of the children in our Orphanage. On behalf of the children we would like to give thanks to you for continuing to care for us. We pray always that God may bless each of you in your whole life for your dedication to fund the children.

At Maubara, we continue to provide a home with care and education for 34 children and this year we have 15 senior girls studying at Fatuhada. In 2019, all passed their examinations and five senior students completed their secondary school studies. This year (2020) Maubara sent five girls to Fatuhada to continue their studies at secondary or vocational high schools in Dili.

During the year, apart from formal education, the children received education and training from ATLAS volunteers from Australia. These covered learning English, health and hygiene, nutrition and art. A trained nurse, Ms Jenny Shepherd, also carried out health checks on all of the children, including hearing and eye tests. For all this, once again thank you so much. We continue to work together to provide a home, care and education for these children.

Sr. Inácia Mafalda Fátima
(Responsible for the project)

Bernard Collaery's new book "Oil Under Troubled Water" is an incisive history of the Australia/Timorese relationship. Geoffrey Robertson QC says:
"East Timor is the country on our conscience."

It is available from [Melbourne University Press](#)



Great Supporters - Lidcombe Josephite Associates

For many years, the Lidcombe Josephite Associates have given financial support to the care and education of the children at St Therese's Orphanage, Maubara.

Earlier this year Rayella Haines and Josephine Mitchell were invited to meet with the group to share information about ATLAS's commitment to this project. It was a very happy meeting with these interested, generous supporters. We were warmly welcomed by Rhonda and Tony Tanti, who together co-ordinate the group. Rhonda is pictured here presenting a further donation to Josephine. We were able to share a presentation which, in a small way, linked them with the children they so kindly support. The letters of gratitude from two senior girls from the orphanage printed in this newsletter were warmly received. The meeting concluded with a delicious morning tea and the shared hope that our work together for the orphanage children would continue.

Lance Bomford, of the 2/40th Battalion which joined up with 2/2nd Independent Company in September 1942, wrote:

"Each of us had his native, called a "criado". They carried our packs so we were free with our guns, and without them we just couldn't have fought like we did. The natives would spot when the Japs were making a move and relay the message to us so we could set up ambushes. Even at the end when it was tough we were dependent on them to keep one jump ahead of the Japs.

It wasn't just the criados, there were lots who helped us. Early in December we got orders to move to the coast. It was a great feeling to be going home but it was a sad parting from the Timorese boys who'd done so much for us. Quite a few of us had tears in our eyes. I'd have loved to have taken my little fella back with me. He cried when the time came to leave. I gave him a note [praising him], what a good lad he was, gave him a few odds and ends. What happened to him Lord knows."

(Taken from Michele Turner's book "Telling".



Rhonda Tanti and Josephine Mitchell

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Due to the current situation with COVID-19 it would be appreciated if donations to ATLAS Projects could be made by Direct Deposit or Credit Card. For banking details please phone 02 9833 8152 or email info@atlaseasttimor.com.au