

OVERSEAS MISSIONS

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

A DEPARTMENT OF THE UPCA



THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF
GROWTH IN **TIMOR-LESTE**



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FROM THE OSM DIRECTOR

REV. JONATHAN DOWNS

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully supported Overseas Missions throughout 2025. Your giving and your prayers are making a real difference. This year we have seen God move powerfully in Timor-Leste. Many people have been filled with the Holy Spirit, baptised in Jesus' Name, and new preaching points have opened. The church is growing, and our brothers and sisters in Timor-Leste continue to show an incredible passion for reaching their nation with the gospel.

We are also excited about the progress happening in Afalocai, where our residential Bible college is being built. The site has been excavated, the ground is settling, and work has started on a 30,000-litre water tank which is an important first step for the whole project.

In October, I visited Afalocai for the laying of the foundation stone. It was a very meaningful moment because it has been exactly 50 years since the original Pentecostal church in that area had to close due to war and unrest. During the invasion in 1975, Pastor Bernardo Guterres was even imprisoned for preaching the gospel. We know the significance of "fifty" in the Bible. Now fifty years later (a biblical Jubilee year), we believe God is restoring what was lost and opening the door for a new season of growth and revival. Afalocai is a mostly Pentecostal village in a country where most people identify as Catholic (97%), and they are thrilled to know a church and Bible school will soon be in their community. Our prayer is that Afalocai will become a hub for training future pastors and evangelists who will bring revival fire to Timor-Leste.



We also want to thank all the Australian teams who travelled to Timor-Leste this year: Women's Ministry, Youth Ministry, the Easter Conference team, the Evangelism team, and those who taught at the Ministers and Leaders Conference. These trips have strengthened the strong and very genuine connection between the United Pentecostal Church of Australia and the United Pentecostal Church of Timor-Leste.

Our Global Missions Director, Rev. Adam Hunley, is encouraging the worldwide church to pray and believe for "Pentecost Every Day". This is a vision of three thousand people coming to God each day, just like in Acts 2. It's a big challenge, but we believe Timor-Leste is ready for a great harvest. The people are hungry, the doors are open, and God is moving.

As we look toward the future, I encourage everyone to keep supporting Overseas Missions through prayer and giving. Your support is helping build the Kingdom of God. In 2026 we will also be taking a **special Faith Promise Pledge**, and I ask you to begin praying now about what you can commit for the year ahead. Every gift, big or small, helps us move the mission forward.

Thank you once again for standing with us. Together, we are helping bring revival to Timor-Leste, and we believe the best is still to come.

OUR MISSIONARY



REV. MARCELA FERRARI

Appointed to Timor Leste.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE TOWARDS OVERSEAS MISSIONS



VARIOUS WAYS TO GIVE TOWARDS FAITH PROMISE

1. Follow the QR code for the pledge form
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3. Online via direct deposit into our UPCA account (details stated below).

Account Name: United Pentecostal Church of Australia Ltd

BSB: 062 908

Account No: 1069 7012

Identify your donation as 'OM Faith' along with your name and/or church name.

TIMOR-LESTE: A HARVEST IN MOTION

BY REV. MARCELA FERRARI

Across the mountains, valleys, and coastal villages of Timor-Leste, a quiet yet powerful work of God is unfolding. Over the past year, teams have travelled repeatedly into this young nation, and each visit has revealed the same undeniable truth: the fields truly are white unto harvest. Hearts are open, the church is growing, and God's Spirit is moving with unmistakable power.

This year, five teams travelled to Timor-Leste to contribute to the growing work of God in the nation. I want to thank all those who partnered with NWM, NYM, and NCM. Every mission trip has been a testimony of God's faithfulness. NWM and NYM brought teams that ministered specifically to women and youth, while NCM provided valuable resources to strengthen the national Children's Ministries.

Some of the highlights that marked a Year of Revival

In April, ministers and saints from Baucau, Baguia, Viqueque, Nasuta, Liquica, Hera, Manatutu and Dili gathered for a time of teaching, worship, and revival. The hunger of the people was unmistakable. Children filled the Friday night service (nearly 60 of them) responding to the presence of God with sincerity and tears. Over the weekend, three received the Holy Ghost and six were baptised in the name of Jesus. The atmosphere was charged with faith, unity, and renewed commitment to the mission.

July brought another wave of refreshing. A team of ministers delivered training on soul-winning, altar ministry, and discipleship, equipping leaders from across the regions. Gospel tracts translated into Tetun, titled *Jesus Is Calling You* and *Jesus Paid It All*, became powerful tools in the hands of local believers.



Street ministry flourished, home groups strengthened, and in the preaching point of Nasuta, hope grew for donated land that could one day become a permanent church.

That same weekend, two more were baptised, seven received the Holy Ghost, and many were renewed in the Spirit. One young lady testified that years of struggling to receive the Holy Ghost ended the moment she chose to forgive her family, an unforgettable example of God's healing grace at work.



And the miracles didn't stop when the team returned home. A few days later, news arrived that five more souls had been baptised. The brethren—on fire to win souls—continued taking the Word out with passion and faith, and God blessed their efforts.

In November, a larger ministry team returned with a focus on leadership development, teaching for married couples and single ministers, and doctrinal consolidation. The national leaders gathered to review their Strategic National Plan—celebrating completed milestones, adjusting future goals, and giving thanks for all God has done.

Whether in teaching sessions, revival services, or personal fellowship, one theme remained clear: the church in Timor-Leste is maturing, unifying, and pressing forward with purpose.

Again, the Lord confirmed His Word—two were baptised and five received the Holy Ghost during the services. Evangelism bookmarks titled *Step Into the Mission* were distributed, equipping saints with scripture-based tools that are now being used across the nation.

One of the most significant developments this year has been the advancement of the Afaloicai Bible School Project. Student enrolment continues to grow, including those with limited literacy, yet the desire to learn God's Word remains strong.



Construction plans for the Bible School are moving steadily, with the national church now preparing to build a water tank and lay the foundation for the school buildings. Once completed, this centre will allow regional students to be trained, equipped, and released into ministry, strengthening the work for generations to come.

Jesus' words in John 4:35 echo throughout every village and service: "Lift up your eyes... the fields are white already to harvest." In Timor-Leste, this scripture is more than a promise, it is a reality.

The dedication of the national ministers, the faith of new believers, the openness of entire families, and the hunger of young people demonstrate that God is preparing a great harvest.

Thank You, Partners in the Gospel

None of this would be possible without the faithful support of the Australian churches—your prayers, giving, and love for missions are making an eternal difference. Every kilometre travelled, every Bible study taught, every revival service, every baptism, and every leader trained is fruit that you are part of.

Together, we are seeing the Kingdom of God expand in Timor-Leste.

Together, we rejoice in every soul He is drawing to Himself. And together, we keep stepping into the mission, because the harvest is ready, and the Lord is at work.

Various pictures from the work in Timor-Leste, including the flyer and the bible School property.





KALTARA CAMP - INDONESIA

BY CHARLOTTE CHADUNGOG
MEMBER OF MISSIONS TEAM

From June 24th to 27th, 2025, I had the honour of serving on a missions team at Kaltara Camp in Indonesia. It was a privilege to minister alongside Br. Greg Hackathorn, Br. Akbar Muliono, and Br. Romeo from Timor-Leste during this impactful time of ministry and fellowship.

During the second day of camp, I was given the opportunity to speak for an hour in the Youth Breakout Session. I preached from Daniel 3, encouraging the youth not to bow down to the world or compromise. The following day, I spoke again in another youth session, this time sharing about God's perfect love and reminding them of their identity in Christ.

On the final night of camp, just before Br. Greg preached, I was asked to exhort for five minutes. I encouraged everyone not to leave the same way they came but to leave camp changed. I also shared an exhortation at UPC Elim in Bali on our last day in Indonesia, where I testified about my snowboarding accident in 2022 and the importance of trusting that God's ways are higher than ours.

Alongside ministering the Word, I was also involved in capturing the special moments of camp. Using the UPCA Sony camera, I photographed throughout the meetings and activities. I filmed and edited several



videos and reels that were later posted on social media, and one of the highlights for me was filming fun videos with the Children's Ministry.

This missions trip taught me valuable lessons about flexibility and preparation. For example on the second day, I discovered that I would not have a professional translator for my youth session. Instead, a team member from Singapore, whose Bahasa was limited, assisted with translation. Because of this, I had to simplify my message in real time to ensure it could be translated clearly. I also learned the importance of discerning the audience, especially when working with a translator for the first time.

Overall, the experience was incredibly enjoyable. There is something special about capturing the moments when God is moving in someone's life. I am returning home with many lessons that I can bring back to my ministry at my local church.



MEMBER OF THE MISSIONS TEAM TO TIMOR-LESTE: REV BEN FINN



Dili is a hot and bustling city; the warmth of the people though is what makes Timor Leste such a great place to minister. The conference started Friday morning, and I taught the singles *Chosen for His Call - Waiting for His Best*, a lesson on dating etc. in the upstairs room at the church. They had insightful questions, and the young people seemed to be very engaged in the subject and content of the lesson. I then sat in Bishop Downs session on church administration, after morning tea. An extended Q&A followed. That evening, I preached a revival message aimed at the ministers and leaders titled *Dig Again the Wells*. The response seemed to be good.

The next morning (Saturday) we went to church to continue the conference sessions. I taught the first session on the Oneness of God, focusing on three common questions we are asked. The Q&A however unveiled other questions that we also covered. Bishop Downs taught the second session on Speaking in Tongues. I taught the third session on Social Media and its effect on our walk with God and our relationships. My focus was mainly on how we should prioritise God, family and the things of God ahead of social media. I provided practical tips and utilised Dr Tom Trimble's book *Digital Dominion* quite extensively. Those in attendance were very engaged and many questions followed. That evening Bishop Downs preached, and two young men came forward to commit to being baptised the next day.

On Sunday morning Sis Marcela preached with many other items involved in the service, including a baby dedication. After lunch many of us from the church went to attend the baptisms of the two young men conducted at Tibar Bay about a 15-minute drive west of church, just outside Dili. Myself and Bro Luis baptised the two young men in the bay in the name of Jesus while the church worshipped in song on the shore.

On the Sunday evening, we had the final service of the conference, where several people from other trinitarian churches were also in attendance. The youth choir sang wonderfully and the praise and worship was powerful. I preached on the 'Fire of the Holy Ghost' and the response at the altar was very good. Five young men were filled with the Holy Ghost for the first time, including the two that were baptised. Testimonies followed and presentations to the ministry team made by the Timor Leste church also occurred. It was a great way to finish off a blessed conference.

YOUTH MISSIONS TEAM TO TIMOR LESTE:

REV. PAUL COPIAN



In September, I had the privilege of traveling with Bro. Chris Dunstan, Sis. Charlotte Nightingale, and Sis. Gloria Stahl to Dili, Timor-Leste, where we ministered to the church and local youth. From the moment we arrived, we were warmly welcomed by Pastor Sylvester, Sis. Olinda, and Youth President Bro. Romeu. Their generosity, hospitality, and support made our time both fruitful and deeply memorable.

Over four nights and three full days, the Lord opened many doors for impactful ministry. Each day was filled with devotionals, Bible lessons, testimonies, and times of preaching and teaching. On Friday and Saturday, our team delivered multiple lessons that stirred thoughtful questions and sparked meaningful conversations long after the sessions ended.

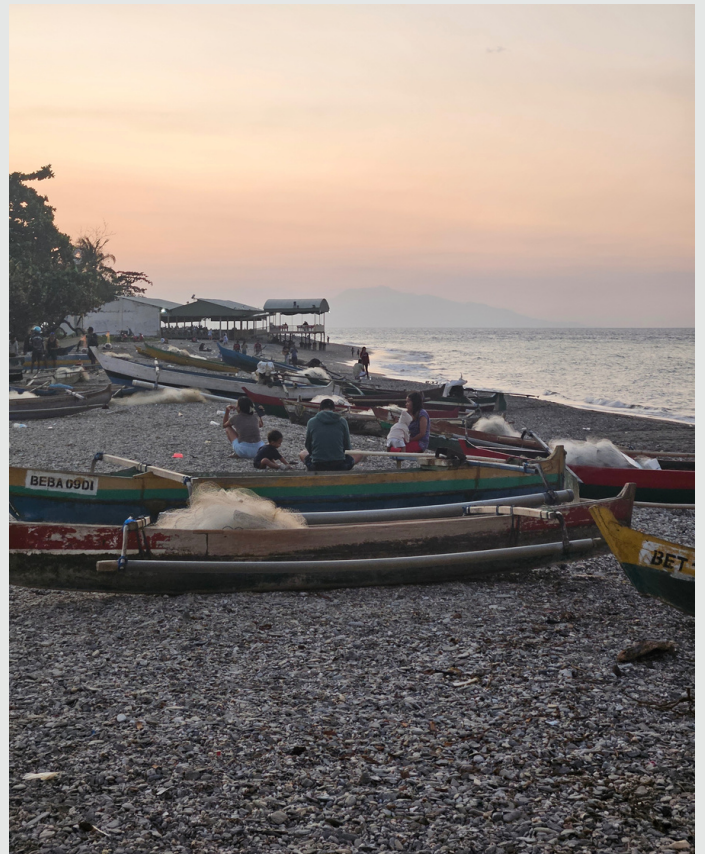
We were also blessed to participate in three revival services where God moved in a powerful way. Five individuals received miraculous healings, two were baptised in the Name of Jesus, one was filled with the Holy Ghost, and many others experienced a fresh touch of the Spirit.

Throughout the trip, every team member stepped confidently into their calling. Whether speaking, teaching, ministering around the altars, or simply connecting with the youth, each one demonstrated a willingness to move beyond their comfort zone in order to serve. Their desire to be used by God was evident in every opportunity that arose, and I would gladly recommend each of them for future missions work.

Equally impactful was the fellowship we shared with the young people of Dili. Their eagerness to learn, openness to the Word, and sincere love for God left a lasting impression on our hearts. The friendships formed over the weekend will remain with us, and we believe they will continue to encourage the youth of Timor-Leste as well. We are deeply grateful to the Executive Board, Overseas Missions Director Bro. Jonathan Downs, Missionary Sis. Marcela Ferrari, and National Youth Director Bro. Jonathan Majdlik for entrusting us with this opportunity.

Our prayer is that the seeds planted in these few short days will continue to grow and strengthen the church in Timor-Leste in the months and years ahead.





REV SILVESTER RANDUT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF IPUTL

Thank you to Overseas Missions–UPCA, who always support God's work in Timor-Leste in every way.

Thank you also for faithfully sending an amazing teams and speakers from UPCA each year for our conferences and other events. This has been very helpful in encouraging everyone to rise up and continue in discipleship and evangelism.

God is good. He continues to work in every situation, and what He has done this year is different from last year.

We are grateful for the **36 souls who were baptized** in the Name of Jesus and the **16 people who were filled with the Holy Ghost** this year. They came from different places: Ermera, Manatuto, Hera, Nasuta, Uatulari–Viqueque, and Venilale–Baucau.



Last year, the saints in Nasuta and Hera travelled from Dili every Sunday afternoon. This year, we are holding services there every Sunday morning at the same time as in Dili, and those of us from Dili take turns going there each Sunday morning.

We are thankful for our **11 Certificate-level** Bible School students and **5 Diploma-level** students this year. We hope they will be able to graduate next year.

We are also grateful that the construction of the Bible School campus in Afaloicai has begun. We long to see many more people called to attend Bible School and be prepared for the work of God. We truly need more workers in the ministry—those called to the fivefold offices (apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, and pastors). The field is opening, but there is a lack of labourers. We pray this school will give birth to men and women who are called and committed to His work.

Thank you very much for the prayers of the saints in Australia and for all your support. Thank you for starting with us and continuing with us in the work of God in Timor-Leste. We will continue to rejoice and praise God for the great things He has done, is doing, and will do in Timor-Leste.

REV LIE A MIN FORMER GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT UPC INDONESIA



Greetings in Jesus' Name. I am writing to express my appreciation to UPCA for your continued investment and support for UPC Indonesia. UPCA has shown great generosity and love toward Indonesia, and we are truly grateful.

At our recent UPC Indonesia General Conference, I met around 50 SAAA alumni who are now serving full-time in ministry—as pastors, pastors' wives, and regional leaders. We especially want to thank Bro. John Downs and the UPC Australia Board for allowing Sis. Bellette to come to Indonesia. Much of this fruit is the result of Sis. Margaret Bellette's work in starting and establishing the SAAA Bible School.

Over the past 12 years, SAAA has graduated approximately 140–150 students. We are very thankful for UPC Australia's contribution and love for Indonesia.

Looking ahead, we plan to restart the SAAA Bible School next year in collaboration with Pokok Anggur Theological College. Through this partnership, future graduates will be able to receive an official government-issued bachelor's degree.

Thank you again, and God bless you for your ongoing support.

Overseas Missions Purpose



Your giving will ensure the work of God continues to yield fruit in our region!

We sincerely appreciate the involvement of many churches and individuals throughout Australia

The Overseas Missions Department of the United Pentecostal Church of Australia has touched many nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ since its inception in 1973.

The purpose of the Overseas Missions is to:

- preach the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world;
- to establish new churches;
- to send forth missionaries;
- to endeavor to perform any other duties connected with religious work;
- to help in any way possible to meet the needs of local churches;
- to translate, publish and distribute religious literature.

The success of the Overseas Missions Department of the UPCA is a direct result of a co-operative effort between local assemblies, missionaries and this Department

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