

Greetings to you from Lospalos, Timor-Leste. What to say about our life here in Timor? We have been in Lospalos about 6 weeks now and it is a relief to be out of Dili. Lospalos is very remote, much smaller and more mellow. We have no internet here and electricity is only on at night. But unlike most of Timor, we usually have water available (except on Sunday). We are settled into our work but only somewhat settled into our living situation. We are still living in the quarters in back of Immanuel Clinic where Monica works. Eventually we will be living across the street in a house that is more separate from the clinic but it is not yet finished. The clinic is a ministry of Immanuel Protestant Church, which is also in the same "compound" with the clinic. Immanuel is part of the IPTL (the Protestant Church of East Timor) which is an ecumenical partner of the UCC.

The clinic sees about 70 patients a day on average with all kinds of health problems from wounds to various infectious diseases, etc... The community here is very strong and we really like it. They are very committed to their ministry in the clinic and their life of prayer and study which we are also very involved in. Day to day Monica is working in the clinic until late afternoon and I am teaching English 4 hours a day. So that is what we "do" daily but we both feel like the work is also very much about the relationships we are building with people in the church community and learning about their journey. Teaching English has been a great and engaging change of pace for me and Monica is also finding her work interesting and challenging. We are doing some homeschooling with Hannah as well, but most of her "education" is learning languages from the other kids and learning about their lives here. We've had our share of challenges and disappointments to be sure....and witnessing the poverty and disease of a great many on a daily basis is a strain. But God is good and grace is also abundant in so many ways...so we are also always thankful, especially knowing of your support and prayers for us.

Shalom,
Tom, Monica and Hannah Liddle
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