

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

4 January 2023

Asia-Pacific Region



Timor-Leste

The Church of the Nazarene began work in Timor-Leste in 2001. Timor-Leste, or East Timor, is a Southeast Asian nation that occupies half the island of Timor. It is ringed by coral reefs teeming with marine life. Landmarks in the capital, Dili, speak to the country's struggles for independence from Portugal in 1975 and then Indonesia in 2002. It has a population of approximately 1.3 million people, and the official languages are Portuguese and Tetun.



121 Members



1 Fully Organized Church and 3 Not Yet Fully Organized church



1 District Licensed and 2 Ordained Ministers



PRAYER

- Due to the economic effects of the pandemic, hundreds of Timorese young adults are leaving the country every month to look for work in other countries, including Australia, South Korea, and Portugal. Pray for the churches as they adjust to the reality of this migration and try to support some Nazarenes who have joined this migration abroad.
- Pray for the Church to continue on with the momentum of its impact with NYI.
- Pray for God to give wisdom to pastors as they continue to lead the church.



PRAISE

- We praise God for the success of the first-ever youth camp that was held in the country.
- We praise God for the recent baptisms that have taken place. Dili Church of the Nazarene baptized 8 young people and Los Palos Church of the Nazarene baptized 2 adults in December 2022.



East Timor District holds first ever youth camp



The NYI of the East Timor District held its first youth camp 31 October - 3 November 2022. More than 80 youths participated in the 3-day event themed “Dare to be Different,” which was taken from Romans 12:2. Those who attended felt blessed to worship, learn through workshops and seminars, and have fellowship through various fun activities and games.

The district youth council intentionally chose to hold the camp at the same time as East Timor’s celebration of “Finado Day,” marking all souls day. On this day each year, East Timorese return to their hometowns to pray for blessings from the spirits of their ancestors and give offerings at shrines called “spirit houses.” The youth council wanted to use this opportunity to reach out to the young people and challenge them to “dare to be different.”

Some community members were unhappy and tried to stop the event, but the youth leaders remained committed until the event was finished. With the success of the youth camp, the district hopes to continue holding the camp at the same time every year and make it a National Youth Day across the Church of the Nazarene in East Timor. The members also plan to be intentional in building better relationships with young people and their communities.

The organizers were thankful for the overwhelming support of the local church pastors and district leaders. They were grateful for the creativity and initiative of some local churches that went out of their way to raise funds, doing car washing and selling food. The school where the camp meeting was held also gave an affordable deal in support of the NYI ministry.

-By Asia-Pacific Region

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17001 Prairie Star Pkwy
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

