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Eric Muir and Mary Hodge displaying one of three new sewing machines purchased by FPET which they delivered to Atabae for the local sewing group.

Meeting with Bishop of Maliana

The FPET visitors had many significant meetings during the visit but the visit to the recently appointed inaugural Bishop of Maliana diocese, Bishop Norberto Do Amaral, was one of the most important.

We were anxious that the Bishop would have a clear knowledge of our work at Atabae and would be supportive of our involvement in his diocese. We also wanted to learn of his priorities and concerns. He nominated youth as his primary concern.

Some of the discussion related to the poor level of employment of the Baucau Teacher College graduates by the Government and we agreed to jointly work on that vital issue. These are the best trained teachers in the country but the government has been very slow to employ them.



Eric Muir presenting the Bishop with a donation from FPET to assist with the establishment of the new diocese.

Anne's English language classes popular

After only a few weeks in Atabae, Anne Chapman has already started on English language classes with several groups and interest is very high.

Anne is another PALMS volunteer that FPET is supporting in Atabae as a result of local requests for someone to provide English language training in Atabae. Anne will be in Atabae for one year to provide some training and assess the possible need for future training.

Anne already has classes starting for local teachers as well as broader community groups with various levels of English speaking skills. She will be training some of these people, especially the teachers, to enable them to teach English to others.

School furniture



(From left) David Hall, Mary Hodge and Gary Stone met with Darryl from Timor Rotary Club to inspect the school furniture before it was transported to Atabae.

The furniture had been donated from schools in Australia and Rotary organised transport to Dili. FPET then organised transport from Dili to Atabae where the furniture is in safe storage until new classrooms are completed. Some of the \$1,000 raised by St Peter Chanel school last year was used to pay the freight cost. The furniture in this container was donated from Engadine school in Sydney.

Valuable visit to East Timor

The visit by Gary Stone, Eric Muir and Mary Hodge was the first formal visit to East Timor by FPET representatives for some time. As you may see from this newsletter and our website, this has been a valuable visit which addressed many issues and helped in building our mutual relationship and understanding with our East Timorese friends.

We hope to arrange a reciprocal visit from East Timor sometime later this year. Visitors could include Fr Sipri, a Parish Councillor and a youth representative.

Pascoal's story

My name is Pascoal Salvador Marques. I was born at Atabae in 1982. I have three sisters. My eldest sister is married and has three children. My second eldest sister became a Holy Spirit nun in April 2010 after taking her final vows in the Philippines. My youngest sister is studying in Indonesia. My mother died in 2004.

I was baptised and confirmed in Atabae church. I started primary school in 1989 and finished my senior high school studies at St Joseph's High School in Dili in 2001. This was followed by my Propedeutic year at the Minor Seminary and then my Spirituality year in Dare Seminary. From 2003-2008, I studied philosophy in St Peter and St Paul Major Seminary in Dili. From 2008-2009 I studied theology and conducted my pastoral experience in the Suai Parish. From 2009-2010 I conducted my pastoral experience in the Camara Ecclesiastica parish in Maliana.



Three deacons: (from left) Pascoal, Gary Stone and Hipolito

I was ordained a deacon on the 22nd of February 2011 with two other friends Carlos Goncalves and Hipolito Maia. Many people participated in the Ordination ceremony. There were 60 priests, 4 deacons and many nuns present. The Diocese of Maliana now has 12 priests and 3 deacons.

FPET sponsored us for our studies at the Seminary. We also recently received a donation from FPET for our Ordination to become deacons. FPET's sponsorship of my studies has significantly helped me and my family. We would like to thank FPET for their sponsorship which helped me on my journey to become a deacon. Thank-you.

Pascoal Salvador Marques

Youth group is a major force at Atabae



FPET visitors with Atabae's OJC youth group
FPET supports this impressive youth group. OJC seems very effective in helping youth find their place in society and contribute to Atabae community development. We recently donated an office laptop and 60 chairs for their meeting room. At present they sit on the floor!

Baucau College trained teachers



Meeting with the teachers FPET supported during their studies at Baucau College. From left: Gary, Alice, Venevides, Sabino. Mary, Carlita (interpreter) and Eric Muir. FPET recently received the good news that three young people who FPET supported to study have been offered government contracts to teach.

These three teachers, Sabino, Antonio and Venevides, had earned a bachelor's degree for primary teaching from the Baucau Teachers College run by the Marist Brothers, which is the premier teacher training college in East Timor. FPET had sponsored these three young people to study at the College.

Following their graduation in 2009, the three graduates returned to Atabae to teach but could not find any work due to the government's stagnated recruitment processes. After meeting with Joel Hodge in Timor, a strategy was devised with FPET for the three to teach in Atabae while FPET provided a stipend to support their work. This arrangement was to last one year (in 2010) while the graduates sought permanent contracts. While it was a difficult process, the graduates have now signed contracts under the Church program to provide full-time religion teachers to all schools which the government guarantees to fund. The graduates teach in the schools in Atabae itself and Biacou (a beachside, fishing village in the Atabae parish). The graduates report that their work is going well and thank FPET for their support in securing permanent teaching jobs.

Alice Abu, who also teaches at Atabae was previously funded at Baucau Teachers College by FPET.

FPET is currently funding teacher training for a further seven students at Baucau because quality education is seen as vital for the future development of East Timor.

Joel Hodge

So, **WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?** - You choose:

- Pray for the relationship, and
- Join FPET and participate in organisation, and/or
- Support FPET financially (tax deduction optional).

Let us know your choices and we will contact you:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone and/or.....

email:.....

Mail to: FPET Inc., PO Box 281, WEST ASHGROVE QLD 4060