

Mel & Carol Brown

Missionaries

Helping Missionaries with conferences,
Bible Institute material, and short-term furlough relief.



Dear Praying Friends,

What Jesus said 2,000 years ago we are experiencing as we listen and watch the news each day.

You may have heard about the uprising in E. Timor recently. We have two Filipino missionary families there, the Ferdie Flores family, (graduates of Bruce Rice's work in Mindanao) and the Nelson Fernandez family, graduates of our work in Manila.

Pastor Flores was surrounded by a large group of people and beaten for the cause of Christ. Many terrible things happened to him. He writes in his last letter: *"Since January up to the end of March, we have seen believers baptism surpassed the number of baptisms of the last four years combined. In all I baptized 73 Timorese believers. Since those unfortunate incidents last year, the Spirit of God works mightily in the lives of His people. They were very excited that they brought visitors and become a witness to their neighbors. One of those I baptized last January was Joanico da Cruz. He was a catholic youth leader before he got saved. He was so surprised how Christians endure such persecution and still serve the Lord. Since his baptism last January, he never missed a Sunday service. He was on fire to witness that he even went to some nearby villages to preach. His family was so angry that 2 of his nieces came two Sundays ago and stoned us for a few minutes before the start of our service, one of the stones narrowly missed a church member's child."*

Jesus said in Mark 13:7-9
"And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. ... for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them."

In April Pastor Fernandez writes: "The brewing conflict between the ET's west and east areas have reached its hipe when both groups turned violent by killing each other, burning houses, throwing stones and looting. Some of our converts (Timorese) houses and business shops were totally burned to ashes, but no one got killed. All services went on in spite of tension around, strict mobility and dangers on the streets, but still there were 36 souls that got saved in church services, Bible Outreaches and soul winning .

In May: We saw how people got so violent when they begun destroying and burning the houses in front, beside and behind our place. However, the Lord's protection and peace was upon us (Psalm 91:3-7) even tho' we felt unsafe and threatened; comforted, even all neighbors deserted the place; encouraged, because we can still hold services freely every Sunday with 15 people got saved. Supplies of food, water and fuel were cut off, banks went on indefinite holiday but the Lord provided our needs in a very unusual way. There was a time we slept in front of the US Embassy where lots of people camped too. Then came the C-130 from the Phil. Gov't and evacuated many Filipinos including the family of Pastor Flores and our daughter Esther.

In June: The International peace keeping forces arrived and everybody was jubilant. One by one we were able to gather our deaf who have stopped coming for awhile and some of our students. It's like starting all over again... the problem is how to bring the east and west together again but Praise God we have Prov. 3:5-6. Help us pray that this fragile country will again be mended and may they turn to the Lord Jesus as their only Saviour. May He continue to use us here until He is through with us or until He comes again. To God be the glory great things He hath done!!!"

Please pray for these families.

Thank you for investing your time in prayer and your financial support that men and women can be trained to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard. As the old hymn goes: "It will be worth it all when we see Jesus"

In His service 'til He comes,

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