



OBRIGADU BARAK!

The Newsletter of the Seattle East Timor Relief Association
Issue #8 Winter 2007

East Timor Coffee is BACK!!

We now have a reliable supply of our flavorful, organic, fair trade coffee grown in Timor Leste and we are taking orders for holiday entertaining and gift-giving. Purchasing coffee from SETRA helps the people of Timor Leste in two ways. First, coffee is the primary export crop of this tiny island nation, and supports a large percentage of the rural population in the coffee growing western mountainous districts. Secondly, when you purchase it from SETRA we send all our profits directly to help projects in Timor Leste. Currently, we are supporting HIAM Health's nutrition and health education programs in Dili, Kay Rala Secundaria High School in Manatuto, and Just Coffee's Seed Project. We are always seeking more organizations to support in Timor Leste that give direct aid to small health and educational projects. Find out more about these projects at our website, www.TimorRelief.org

SETRA Thanks 2007 Donors

The following individuals and groups gave their generous support during 2007: Duncan Autrey, Barb Balden, Wendy L. Barteaux, Chris Beuhlen, Julie Bowen, Joel Cain, Gisela Calabria, Monica King, Zoe and Thomas Carpenter, PQ Host Pat and Julie Carr, Lela Clark-Paterson, Steve Curtice, Jim Darkow, Jean Darsie, Jane Ann Doughty, Bear Dyson, Jane and Wlater Enterline, Wayne and Clydene Evans-Wenzel, Aram Falsafi, Edith Farhalla, Heather Graham, Louse Hafen, Carol L. Hawkings, Peter Henry, Health Alliance International, John Hurd, Karen Jones, Margaret King, Karen Konzen, Nancie Kosnoff, Tom Larsen, Clara Latham and Adele Mitchell, Sue McGann, Ken Lewis, Tom Liddle, Mary Anne Mercer, Barbara Phinney and Brent McFarlane, Allene and Meryl Niehaus, Phinney Neighbors for Peace and Justice, Clare O'Conner, Joe O'Malley, Don and Helen Read, Kirsten Rooks, Ellen Sahman, Donna J. Sahman, Cindy Sherbert, Jenna Stephens, Laura Stern, Betsy Tong, Joan and Lou Truskoff, Rich and Diane Turner, Trinity United Methodist Church, Ralph Wallin, Middle School Grop of the West Seattle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Connie Wilbert, L. Brooke Winter, and the SETRA Board of Directors.

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR HELPING TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF TIMOR LESTE!!

2008 Calendars Support Manatuto Women's Scholarship Fund



reprinted from the calendar, see more at www.michael.tl/calendar/2008.pdf

Once again this year, SETRA is offering beautiful calendars made by one of our friends in Timor Leste, Michael Jones. In 2005 Nova students met Michael in Manatuto, where he was working in the Peace Corp. Michael stayed and has been living in Timor for over 3 years now, working presently in Baucau. Your purchase of these beautiful calendars supports women from Manatuto who are attending the University of Timor Leste in Dili. **The 2008 calendars feature photographs depicting "Livelihoods of Timor Loro Sa'e"**. Calendars are \$10 plus \$2 for shipping. Orders of 10 or more can be shipped for free, or we can include one in your non-bulk coffee order for no additional shipping charge. You can see a PDF of the calendar and read about the Women's scholarship fund at www.michael.tl/commentary/fund/scholarship.htm
SEE ORDER FORM to place your holiday order!

The Seattle East Timor Relief Association (SETRA) is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization registered with the WA Secretary of State, Reg #21908. SETRA works to make reparations to the people of East Timor, by helping with health, education and sustainable, sensible development projects in Timor Leste. We are an all-volunteer organization and 100% of profits go to support these projects

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OBRIGADU BARAK (*Thank You Very Much* in Tetum) is published 3 or 4 times each year to inform our donors and the public about the projects we support in Timor Leste.

For more information see our website at www.timorrelief.org

A Greeting from Victor Soares, Public Relations Director, Kay Rala Secundaria

(This essay was written in December of 2006. It is partially reprinted here to give a perspective from an educator in Timor, and some history of our relationship to Kay Rala Secundaria)

I heard people say that victory is not the end of the struggle but victory is the beginning of the struggle. I think that every one in the world knew that when the Indonesian military left East Timor, they destroyed nearly everything, including the roads, electricity, telephone, water and sewer systems, and many, many buildings.

First when we descended from the mountains after the violence following the Referendum we felt so sad, because everything had been destroyed by the Indonesian military. But soon we felt happy because we did not see any more Indonesian military but instead we saw International Force for East Timor (INTERFET). Soon many international humanitarian organizations came from all over the world to help us with food, clothing and help to begin re-building.

What have I done to free our people from illiteracy and poverty?

November 11, 1999 Father Domingos asked me to teach in a private school, Saint Antonio High School, in Manatuto. In this school only 4 classrooms were still good, and the other classrooms had been destroyed. I taught in the morning and afternoon and made no salary during 3 months from November to January 2000. In February 2000 UNTAET Mission started to pay us \$100 per month. I also learned English and computer skills with a student from an Australian college for several months and learned more English with an English teacher.

On January 2001 Father Domingos and the headmaster made a decision that students at Saint Antonio High School had to pay \$5 dollars per month for tuition. I did not agree with their decision because in my observation the student's parents did not have money to pay the tuition. \$5 dollars every month is a great deal of money in East Timor.

This situation inspired me and Felisberto to write a proposal to the president of the CNRT (National Council of the Resistance of Timor Leste) Kay Rala Xanana and the Department of Education about establishing a public High School that would allow poor people to continue their study. The Department of Education approved the proposal and President Kay Rala Xanana, also allowed us to use his guerrilla code name for the school. The school was named Kay Rala High School.

In September 2002 we started with 120 new students to study in Kay Rala High School and 6 teachers. We did not have a building, but we borrowed space in the Junior High School. The other students studied in the morning and Kay Rala High School studied in the afternoon during two years 2002 and 2003.

As a public school the tuition is \$3.50 per month. In this school we faced more new problems because some students could not pay their tuition, because some of them did not have any parents, and some of their parents did not have money to pay their tuition because they did not have a job.

Finally I went to the Alola Foundation, an organization to help women in East Timor that was founded by President Xanana's wife, to ask for scholarships to help our students in Kay Rala. Alola Foundation gave scholarships to Kay Rala each year for 20 female students. Soon the Alola Foundation introduced Kay Rala School to Nova School in Seattle, Washington, USA through High School student Ashley Barnard. Ashley wanted to know more about Kay Rala High School and she sent e-mail messages to Alola with several questions. I tried to answer Ashley's questions and I explained the situation in Kay Rala to Ashley over the next two years. Ashley and her teacher Joe Szwaja, his wife Debra and many students at Nova High School collected money to help their sister school in Kay Rala to provide scholarships, chairs, desks and other school supplies.

In September 2003 Father Francisco Sequira called me to help to establish another private school named Dom Basilio High School. The school is located in Laclubar Sub District 49 KM from Manatuto. This school gives more opportunity to young people that want to continue their study in High School in their area, because they could not continue to study in established schools because they were all so far away from their sub-district.

What am I doing now?

Currently I am teaching in Kay Rala High School and Senior Economics High School. I regularly send information about the situation in Kay Rala to Nova High School through Debra and Joe, so that Nova students can continue to have a relationship to that school. Also, I continue to find new scholarships to help 30 students from Kay Rala that passed their tests to get into the National University of Timor Leste (UNTL).

What I want to do in the future?

In the future I would like to open more English Computer courses in the afternoon for teachers and students at Kay Rala High School, so that in the future they can speak English, use a computer and access the internet. Personally, if I graduate from UNTL next year I would like to continue my study if I get a scholarship or some people could sponsor me to continue my study, possibly in the United States. I would especially like to study in Seattle, if I had the opportunity.

Finally I would like to thank Ashley Barnard, Debra Morrison, Joe Szwaja, all the students at Nova, and all our friends in Seattle because all of you have worked hard to help us to free our island from Indonesia. ETAN supported our struggle in the resistance, and now Nova and SETRA continue to work hard to support us to free our people from illiteracy and poverty in East Timor by helping support Kay Rala High School.

Update from the Editor: *Since graduating in April of 2007, Victor now has a lecturer position at the University of Timor Leste, and continues to serve as our liaison to Kay Rala Secundaria. The school has nearly doubled in size since it's beginnings, and now the government funds tuition for all students there. Victor's bravery and optimism continue to be an inspiration to all of us.*

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR ORDER

I'd like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to support SETRA's projects

I'd like to support the Manatuto Women's Scholarship Fund Please send me _____ calendar(s) @ \$10 each + \$2 shipping (orders of 10 or more shipped free) = \$ _____

I want to buy Kafe Timor Loro-sa'e Fair Trade Organic Timor Coffee

_____ bags regular @ \$10/14oz bag for a total of \$ _____

_____ bags decaf @ \$10/12 oz. bag for a total of \$ _____ Decaf is delicious, but not from Timor Leste

Shipping and Handling on orders less than 5 lbs is \$9 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please grind my order

OR _____ lbs. "bulk" (5 lb. minimum) regular @ \$11/lb \$ _____

_____ lbs. "bulk" decaf @ \$12/lb \$ _____ Decaf is delicious, but not from Timor Leste

TOTAL \$ _____

BULK ORDERS ARE SHIPPED FREE DIRECTLY FROM THE ROASTER!!

Please include _____ bags

Call me and I'll pick up my order Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Sign me up to receive **OBRIGADU BARAK** by e-mail _____ @ _____

Make checks payable to SETRA and mail this form in the enclosed envelope to:

**SETRA
2021 NE 75th St
Seattle, WA 98115**

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