

PRAISE & PRAYER



SEE Timor Leste students met on the beach for food and fellowship in February



INTO ALL THE WORLD

*“When we are together, we are strong.
When we are together, the Lord is among us.”*

Student ministry has been re-pioneered in three cities by an IFES movement in a sensitive Eurasian country. Groups are small and scattered across huge cities meaning that students can feel isolated, but in November, students from groups across the three cities gathered to study the Bible. There was joy on their faces as they held hands and worshipped God using the words above.

Egas, a student at Universidade da Paz, Dili, Timor Leste, started attending Campus Community, a city wide Christian student group run by the IFES movement there. Egas shares: “I learned a lot from the Bible and grew in my faith. My friends and I wanted to have this kind of student fellowship on our campus too. So we tried to start it. Initially we met under a mango tree,

yet it was hard. We only had 30 minutes before we were chased away. We decided to see one lecturer and ask if our fellowship could meet inside the campus and to our surprise, he gave us a place. We couldn’t believe it but we know God has answered our prayer. Since then, we meet regularly and through the group, we can see our Christian and even non-Christian friends come and learn more about the Bible. Pray for me – most students here are scared or timid when they are invited to come and learn about Christ. Pray that through my daily life example, my friends would be curious and come to know more about Christ.”

Pioneering ministry is hard for students and staff. The IFES East Asia team supports pioneering workers in some very difficult contexts. Regional Secretary Lisman Komaladi shares: “Pray for a spirit of not giving up. You don’t just take two, but sometimes four steps backward for every one forward. There can be economic challenges, opposition from majority religions, other worldviews, and the

GBU Equatorial Guinea, now established in Malabo, is looking to plant groups in Bata and Djibloho ▼



authorities. Pioneers need resilience, tenacity, an attitude of ‘This didn’t work, try that...’. They need to keep trusting God, believing that he has a plan. Pray that they would not lose hope.”

Pioneering ministry is vital for the seeking student who doesn’t know whom to ask about Jesus. It is essential for the student who doesn’t have the support of another Christian on campus. Connecting students with Christ and with each other is what IFES has been doing for more than 75 years, but there are countries, territories, regions, and campuses where no student witness yet exists, where Christian students feel isolated and non-Christian students have never heard about Jesus.

Students and staff throughout our fellowship are working to reach those places with the gospel. On 17 April, IFES Global Giving Day, will you partner with us by donating so that they have the resources they need? You can read some wonderful stories of what God is doing and give at ifesworld.org/gg



▲ IFES training for pioneers – Breaking New Ground network



IFES training for pioneers – International Student Ministry; EPSA staff with pioneering delegates from Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome at World Assembly

CURIOSITY AND WONDER

Righteousness and human genome editing. Theology and anthropology of e-Learning. The relationship between theology and food and nutrition security. Psychosocial and theological approaches to the mental health of students traumatised by war. Animal scientists as agents of change.

As we all know, the Bible speaks into all of human experience. Our God cares about the biggest and smallest issues which concern students – and all of society. The IFES Logos and Cosmos Initiative aims to spark curiosity and

wonder about theology and the sciences – and projects like these show precisely that.

Discussions about science and religion are dominated by scholars who have spent their careers in elite Western universities and seminaries. Their work has greatly enhanced the quality and richness of these dialogues but does not benefit from the

diverse experiences and perspectives of those in the majority world. The global reach of IFES makes our national movements ideal contexts for nurturing this new, much needed, generation.

So, in 2020, IFES launched the Logos and Cosmos Initiative in Latin America and Francophone Africa. The program is equipping

Catalysts from Francophone Africa and Latin America discuss their projects together ▼



its 'Catalysts' to be global thought leaders by providing them with mentoring, training and resources to run theology and the sciences projects in their universities in collaboration with their IFES national movements. Praise God for the insights, training programs and witness to Christ already seen through the projects and the benefits to local groups and movements, the wider IFES community, Catalysts' universities and national and international academic networks.

Find out more about these creative and passionate young academics, their projects and how they are impacting students and local communities at lci.ifesworld.org



▲ *The LCI delegations at IFES World Assembly*

IFES PERSON: LISMAN KOMALADI

REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIA

In May 2023, Lisman became IFES Regional Secretary for East Asia. He came to faith as a teenager through his local church in Jakarta, Indonesia and then went to university, where he found student ministry to be like a "first love" experience as it was "the essential formation period of my belief, my character, and my passion for God's work". After graduation, Lisman worked in industry for ten years in Singapore, continuing his involvement in student ministry as a volunteer and board member before following God's call to full-time ministry. He led the FES Singapore staff team for 13 years and joined the IFES East Asia regional team in 2021 with responsibility for training, resources and graduate ministry.

In the last year, Lisman has made 20 visits to support the movements in his region. He has been encouraged by an enthusiastic new generation of staff workers, and has come across emerging issues facing movements, like increased busyness of students, changes in learning styles and the need for new ways to serve movement leaders, particularly in the area of rest and holistic spirituality.

Lisman asks for our prayers: "Rather than ask God to be with me, ask that I would be with Him. Pray that I would be moving at the same pace and in the same direction as the Spirit of God. Pray too for my elderly father's protection when I am away travelling, and that I would not be anxious about him."

CONTACT DETAILS

ifesworld.org

IFES International Services (UK)
5 Blue Boar Street
Oxford OX1 4EE
United Kingdom

+44 (0)1865 263 777



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