

Week 3 (Maubisse)

We visited Annabella who lives in a traditional thatched roof hut near Maubisse. Inside was the bare minimum.... couple of sleeping beds (no mattresses – more like a platform with a strong woven mat on top), the fire was in the middle of the room on the earth floor. It was very dark inside and it took my eyes a few minutes to adjust so I could see. I can now see why the solar lighting idea is a good one!



dry beans out of their pods. It was a very slow process but many hands... It was also very different – the value of each small bean! We then went and helped them plant beans in this field that they had dug up and already planted some shade trees. Later they will plant coffee under the cover.

Being Easter there seemed to be many well dressed people on the road. Many Timorese are Catholic and so Easter is a significant time for them. Morning noon and night there seemed to be mass to attend.

distances to school, to church to the market.

It was great to help during the day and I found it very humbling to sit around the mat getting the



Few people have transport so most walk or use the trucks which are often full of people and produce. People say they are more comfortable when full because you don't move around so much! People walk long



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Week 4 (Dili)

The house where we stay is quite a large Portuguese style concrete walled house with 7 sleeping rooms, a kitchen, 2 bathrooms, a living room and outside cooking, sink and undercover driveway. I think the kids sleep in the same room as their parents. Fiona and I share a room which has an old bed and an even older mattress on the floor (I suspect better than most beds in the house though). Each mattress has a fitted sheet and a mozzie net and pillow and that is it. We needed the fan – we have had it on every night (except one when there was no electricity).



bucket. You use this water to flush the toilet. There is also a flat tiled area where you stand to shower by using the dipping bucket and throwing it over you. Being so hot here the cold water is not a problem.

asleep on couches and mats on the floor... There are always lots of people (maybe up to 20) staying here each night.

The bathroom is basic with a full size toilet but no lid (unusual as most houses have the squat type). Each bathroom has a mandi, a large tiled storage tank for water and with a dipping



Most nights when I go to the loo I walk through the living room to find maybe 3 different people