



MYSTERIOUS TELEVISION TRUTH

April 19 | Mandela Hector lives in Trinidad.

Mandela Hector is a young man living in Trinidad. He had no special interest in religion and knew nothing about Adventists. But God used a surprising means to get his attention.

Mandela had attended several churches while growing up, but he had never committed his life to God. When his cousin invited him to attend a charismatic church, Mandela agreed. Mandela realized that he wanted God to be part of his life. He bought a Bible and began reading it.

Questions arose in his mind as he read, and he asked his cousin's pastor for answers. But when the pastor's responses did not satisfy him, he searched elsewhere for answers.

Televised Truth

Mandela found a television station that broadcast religious programming and began watching it. One preacher preached about prophecy, and this caught Mandela's interest. Mandela had read Revelation but didn't understand it. He listened carefully and was impressed that every word was backed up with Bible texts.

Mandela was hooked. This unknown station became his only television station. Several preachers spoke, and they made

the Scriptures so clear. Mandela took notes and copied Bible texts to read when the program ended.

Then one evening the television speaker spoke about the Sabbath. He read from the Ten Commandments the verses that apply to the Sabbath and explained that Jesus kept the Sabbath while He lived on the earth. Then he explained how the Sabbath was changed to Sunday several centuries after Jesus suffered and died.

Mandela was impressed and told his boss he would not work on Saturdays. He knew of no Sabbathkeeping church, so he rested at home and worshipped in his cousin's church on Sunday.

Mandela told his friends and coworkers about the television channel he was watching, but they had never seen it and could not find it on their televisions. Only later did he learn that he was receiving this station through his neighbor's satellite dish!

A Name at Last

When he learned that the station was affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, he went in search of a church. He asked the woman who had sold him his Bible. Although she wasn't an Adventist,

she directed him to the church.

On Friday Mandela told his boss that he would not work the next day. Then he left to find the Adventist church. He saw a young woman opening the church and asked her when services were held. She told him and invited him to come.

The next morning Mandela got up early, excited to celebrate the Sabbath in God's house with other believers. He felt at home, even though he knew no one in the church. One of the church elders invited Mandela home for lunch and asked him what had brought him to the church. Mandela told him about the television programs he had seen, and the man was amazed. That is when Mandela realized that the television station that had taught him so much was not generally available in Trinidad at that time. God had led him to the one small area of the country where he could watch the Adventist television station and learn the truths of God.

Mandela quickly made friends in the church and cemented his relationship with Christ. He knew the fundamental doctrines of faith and was baptized a few months later.

A New Calling

Mandela was no longer satisfied being a carpenter. He wanted to share what he had learned with others. But how could he do this? Someone introduced him to the Adventist Book Center, where Mandela was surprised and pleased to find so many books and magazines explaining the Bible. He bought several books and began reading them.

Then he met the conference publishing director. As they talked, Mandela saw a banner behind the man's desk that asked, "Do you want to become a literature evangelist?" Mandela asked what a

literature evangelist was, and the man explained. Mandela realized he had found his calling.

He signed up that day to begin training to become a literature evangelist. When Mandela told his boss he was quitting, the man asked, "How will you support yourself?" Mandela told him that he was doing God's work and would trust God to provide for him.

He set out to share his beloved books with others. To his surprise, not everyone wanted the books. But God strengthened his faith. He met people who had dreamed that God would send someone with a book or magazine to answer their questions just before Mandela arrived. These testimonies assured him that he was where God wanted him. "This is truly God's ordained work," Mandela says. "God has shown me that some people are eager to have these books, and I want to find them.

"When I think of how God led me to His truth, I'm amazed that He could care so much for one person. I want to share that with others."

Our mission offerings bring God's Word to people in many different forms. Mandela and millions of others say thank you for sharing God's truths with them. 🌐

FAST FACTS

- The islands that make up Trinidad and Tobago lie near the South American coastline.
- Some 52,600 Adventists worship in Trinidad, making the Seventh-day Adventist Church the largest Protestant denomination in the country with one Adventist for every 24 people.