

A SCHOOL FOR BRENDAN

Mother wanted a good school for Brendan, but she got more than she planned.

Brendan lives on the island of Trinidad. [*Locate Trinidad on a map.*] When he was ready to start school, his mother wanted to find a good school that teaches Bible principles. Her pastor told her, “If you want good Bible teaching, try the Adventist school.”

She visited the Adventist school and talked to a teacher. “If my son attends your school, will you teach him the Bible?”

“Yes,” the teacher promised. “We have Bible classes every day.”

“Good!” Brendan’s mother said. “This is the school for my son.”

LIFE HERE

- The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the largest Protestant denomination in Trinidad.
- In Trinidad one person out of every 24 is a Seventh-day Adventist. That is good news, for many people know about Adventists. But it also means that 96 out of every 100 people are not Seventh-day Adventists. So a lot more people need to hear our message before the work will be done.

Brendan Teaches Mother

Brendan loved school. He often told his mother what he had learned in class. But when he told her things that he had learned in Bible class, she became worried. “Mommy, we’re going to church on the wrong day!” Brendan said one afternoon. “The Bible says that Saturday is the Sabbath, not Sunday.”

“Nonsense,” Brendan’s mother said. “Everyone goes to church on Sunday.”

“My teacher goes to church on Saturday,” Brendan said. “He read from the Bible about the Sabbath. You should read it too.”

Mother remembered a family who had lived near her when she was young. They attended church on Saturday.

A few days later Brendan came home and said, “My teacher says we shouldn’t eat pork because it comes from the pig, and the pig is unclean.”

“Now, that’s enough!” Brendan’s mother ordered. “I don’t want to hear another word about what your teacher says!” But Brendan’s mother remembered that her childhood neighbors wouldn’t eat pork. She remembered that they had quoted from the book of Leviticus when she asked them about their eating habits. Mother got her Bible and found the book of Leviticus. She found chapter 11 with its list of the unclean foods. *Hmmm!* thought Mother. *It says right here not to eat certain animals. Maybe they’re right about the Sabbath, too.* Mother began to read her Bible to find out what else it says.

Bible Studies and a Struggle

One day Brendan’s mother was talking to an Adventist man at school. She told him that she was searching her Bible to

see what it had to say about the Sabbath.

“Would you like my wife and me to study the Bible with you?” the man asked. “We’d like to help you discover what the Bible says.”

Brendan’s mother agreed. She studied the Bible with the Adventist couple and found many things she didn’t know were in the Bible. Then the family invited her to attend some evangelistic meetings. Mother and Brendan went to the meetings and learned more about the Bible. Mother wanted to follow Jesus and keep the Sabbath. She began taking Brendan to Sabbath School. But something kept her from following Jesus all the way. Next week we’ll learn how Brendan helped his mother overcome one more difficulty.

The mission offerings that we give each week help people learn about Jesus in many ways. Some of our offering helps build schools where children can learn about God. I’m glad we can help others find God. 🌍

COCONUT BAKE

This quick bread is popular throughout Trinidad and the Caribbean. Treat the children in Sabbath School with this warm-from-the-oven bread.

1½ cup water

Meat of one fresh coconut, grated
(or use 1½ cups canned coconut milk)

1 pound flour (about 3½ cups)

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon sugar

4 teaspoons baking powder

2 tablespoons margarine

1½ tablespoons solid shortening

Add water to grated coconut and mix. Squeeze coconut milk out and reserve. Sift flour, salt, sugar, and baking powder into a medium sized bowl. Add margarine and shortening and work into the flour until it looks like fine bread crumbs.

Add coconut milk to flour to make a soft dough. Knead lightly to form a smooth ball. Roll out on floured board to form a round loaf. Transfer to an ovenproof dish or baking sheet and bake at 375° for 20 minutes.