

WEEK 15 • APRIL 15, 2023

Timor-Leste: Bino's New School

Proverbs 22:6—“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Even before Bino was old enough to talk, his mom wanted him to study at an international school. Public schools in Timor-Leste are free, and the teachers speak Portuguese. Going to an international school costs money, and the teachers teach in English. Learning English is an advantage when the children are ready for university or international business.

Bino's dad found several international schools, but they were too expensive. Then one day he saw a sign on a church fence advertising the Timor-Leste Adventist International School. He called the school for more information and learned that this school didn't cost as much as the others he'd visited. Bino's parents were not Adventists, but they had heard that Adventists are good and trustworthy.

When Bino was ready for school, his parents enrolled him at the Adventist school, and soon he began to learn English. When Bino returned home after school, Mom asked him to teach her the English words that he was learning at school.

English was not the only thing that Bino learned at school. He learned Bible stories and told his mom about David and Goliath, Jonah and the big fish, and Jesus and the little boy whose lunch fed more than 5,000 people. Mom loved hearing her little boy tell Bible stories.

Bino's parents began reading the Bible. Sometimes they had questions about what they were reading, so they asked the pastor of the Adventist church to help them. The pastor helped them study the Bible. The day came when Bino's parents asked to join the Adventist Church.

Today, Bino and his parents go to the school together. Mom and Dad work as the school's caretakers. Thanks to the Adventist school, the whole family now speaks English; but more importantly, they love Jesus with all their hearts.

Bino's school is growing rapidly. Many children wanted to attend the school but lived too far away. So, a dormitory was built so the children could live at the school and learn about Jesus.

Part of our Promise offerings will help this school grow and many people on the island of Timor-Leste learn about Jesus. Some of these children won't be from Adventist homes, but they will have a chance to learn about Jesus, and maybe they will give their hearts to Him.

Every time our Promise offering is distributed as suggested by the Combined Offering Plan, we partner Jesus in reaching people for Him locally, regionally, and around the world.

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