



The Caravan

CaravanFriends.org

Madu

[MA'dyoo] /noun/ a Malaysian word meaning "honey."

Like most Sun Bear cubs, Madu is lively and rarely sits still. While he scampers through the forest near his home in Malaysia, Madu loves to imagine adventures for himself, especially adventures from the Bible. His mother often finds Madu among the trees, pretending to be Moses parting the Red Sea or Noah giving orders to the zebras on the ark.

Madu didn't always know the Bible stories. One day, a missionary told Madu's family stories from the Bible and he listened eagerly to tales about Jesus Christ. The missionary said Jesus walked on water, made a dead man come to life, and healed ten lepers all at once! The most important thing that Madu learned from his new friend is that Jesus is God's son who came to earth to pay the price for the whole world's mistakes. Madu likes to tell this to his other friends. Sometimes, they don't want to listen. But then Madu just bravely continues to share the story, pretending he's Paul (Christ's first missionary).

Malaysia. A country in Southeast Asia, Malaysia is split between mainland Asia and an island in the South China Sea. It shares its borders with Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei. There are more than 25 million people in Malaysia! Most of those people, 60 percent, practice Islam, while 19 percent practice Buddhism. Only 9 percent believe that Jesus Christ is God's son and that He can take away their sins.

Islam. The people who follow the religion of Islam are called Muslims. They believe in one supreme God but don't know that Jesus is God's Son who was sent to die for their sins. Muslims consider Jesus to be Isa, a prophet and teacher but not God or the promised Savior. The most important teacher for Muslims is the prophet Mohammad. Mohammad taught that people are sinful and that they need to live a very strict religious life and do good works for God to forgive them.



Madu



Sun Bear. The Malaysian Sun Bear is the smallest species in the bear family and often has a "U"-shaped patch of gold fur on its chest. The rest of its coat is black. Sun Bears live in the tropical and sub-tropical forests in Southeast Asia in countries like Vietnam, Laos, Burma and, of course, Malaysia. They eat fruit and small animals such as lizards and nesting birds. They also love honey.

Favorite Verse

“ If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ”
Romans 8:31b (NLT)