Christof’s family had grown tired of city life and moved from a crowded place in Germany to a small mountain-top village in Portugal. Their goal was to be closer to God and one another. The family decided to learn the Portuguese language by helping their neighbors.

One day, Christof met Antonio, a goatherder, and asked him if he could help care for his goats. Antonio agreed and began to teach Christof how to care for the playful animals. When Christof learned that Antonio could not read or write, Christof offered to read to his friend. The next time Christof visited Antonio, he brought his Bible.

Antonio listened as Christof read stories from the Bible and was happy and excited to have someone read the special messages from God. He told Christof that he believed that there is a God in heaven and that years ago, his grandma had believed in the Sabbath as God’s day of rest and worship. As the nearest Adventist church was too far and the roads too rough for Antonio’s old bones, Christof’s family came to Antonio’s home to worship and read the Bible with him.
As word spread through the neighborhood that Christof was reading the Bible to Antonio, several people from the village joined Christof’s family in worship. More and more came and found God’s love. Throughout the mountains of central Portugal people are hearing God’s message because a young boy shared God’s love with a goatherder.

Our faithful Promise offerings, given as regularly and systematically as the tithe and distributed as suggested by the Combined Offering Plan, introduce people who live in mountain villages and large cities to Jesus. The Combined Offering Plan suggests that 50 to 60% of your Promise offerings should help support the missionary work of your local church, 20 to 30% should support the regional missionary endeavors of your conference, and 20% always support the World Missionary Fund (or World Budget). This fund supports overseas missionaries, missions, programs, projects, and institutions focused on preparing more missionaries. As we return our Tithes and “Promise” offering, let's pray for the Global Mission Pioneers. May we always put our desires last, and God first.