Jerry is a farmer living near the beautiful Lake Sebu, of central Philippines. The land is rich and abundant, growing an array of fruits and vegetables, while the lake provides a bountiful source of fish for the people.

Jerry and his water buffalo work the fields from morning until about 2:00 pm each day, after which his faithful companion takes a much-deserved rest, and Jerry begins his second job: studying the Bible with his neighbors.

Living among the T’boli tribe, a community with a unique language and culture, Jerry is welcome to learn and share God’s message with the tribe. Trained as a Bible worker by a pastor who led him to Christ 20 years ago, Jerry has been spreading the gospel and sharing the word of God through Bible studies.

However, Jerry struggled with sharp pain in his side. After visiting a doctor, he was told he needed surgery and medication but couldn’t afford either. With no other option, Jerry decided to sell his precious water buffalo, the one that helped him work the fields and provide for his family. This was a heartbreaking decision for Jerry, but it was the only way to conquer the pain and regain his health.
Despite his hardship, Jerry's faith never wavered, and he met an Adventist pastor who encouraged him to turn the situation over to God. Jerry asked to be baptized; on the day of his baptism, when he came up from the water, Jerry's pain was gone! As he didn't have to sell his buffalo, he could continue farming and provide for his family. Since then, he has become a dedicated Bible student, working with other Bible workers eager to share the Adventist message with the T’boli people.

But there is still much work to be done. While the Bible workers are growing in number, they still need more support to meet the needs of the people near Lake Sebu. They need a training center where they can learn together as a group and deepen their knowledge of God’s truths. Many T’boli people are eager to hear the gospel, but there aren’t enough trained Bible workers to teach them.

Through our prayers, tithes and Promise, we do much to advance God's kingdom. Promise is our regular and systematic offering, and if distributed as suggested by the Combined Offering Plan, it supports a wide range of missionary needs, including the Bible workers who are needed to teach God's truths. As we return our tithe and Promise, may we put our desires last and God first.