



A fun and easy way for kids to learn about missions.

Hello Parents,

This week, we're inviting you to read this story to your kids about one boy's daily struggle for clean water. We hope it inspires them to consider their own water situation and how they can display gratitude in their life.

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Twelve-year old Romildo is tired. He is pushing a wheelbarrow with two heavy water jugs up the dirt road. He can't push it very fast; it is so heavy. If the wheelbarrow tips in the wrong direction, the jugs will fall out and possibly crack. All of the water would be lost and he would have to go back again for more.

The load he walks with today feels even heavier than his 8-year old brother in his arms! But, Romildo keeps walking up the road, step by step. The sun is hot on his neck and his arms are tired, but Romildo is smiling. He is bringing clean water back to his house in the village of Sitio Feitosa in Brazil. Just a couple months ago, this clean water wasn't available, and as he pushes the wheelbarrow each day now, it reminds him of how tough things used to be.

Romildo's mom is waiting for him to bring this water back home so that she can wash dishes and clothes, and prepare dinner. She will use one jug of water on all of those things—the other jug is for Romildo to take a shower. And after this hard walk, he is going to need it.

Romildo helps his mom collect water every day. She has a disability and cannot walk very well. Each day, Romildo loads up his wheelbarrow with the empty jugs and starts walking to collect this important item for the family. But clean water wasn't always available here. Romildo's family lives in a part of Brazil that is very dry—it's a desert. His family has two blue water tanks next to his house, so when it does rain, they can keep what falls. But usually, that is very little.

Instead, Romildo's family would pay for water to be delivered. A truck with a large tank would pull up to their house and fill their big, blue water tanks. But this water cost a lot of money. It was so expensive that Romildo's mom would have to decide whether they would buy water or food—they couldn't afford both. If they bought water, there would be no money left to buy all of the food they needed. If they bought a lot of food, there wasn't enough money to pay for clean water to be delivered. There is a lagoon half a mile away where they could get water, but it is dirty—it could make them sick. Sadly, they had to live in this situation for years.

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Then one day, Romildo was walking by the Adventist church in their village, and saw a large truck parked in the courtyard outside the building. A long, metal arm was sticking into the ground. Romildo stopped to watch. Soon, it started to make a loud noise. RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT! Dust began swirling up where the arm was working. Romildo realized what was happening—they were drilling for water! As the drilling rig continued pounding the earth, digging deeper to find water, Romildo started running. He ran as fast as he could to his house and burst through the door. “Mom, they are drilling a well at the Adventist church!” he cried.

A surprised, excited look came to his mom’s face. But immediately, it faded. Wells had been drilled in this area before, but no water was found. Would there be any water under the ground at the Seventh-day Adventist church? And would it be sweet? Sometimes when a drilling crew hits water, it is salty, like drinking ocean water. And even if they hit sweet water, would the Adventist church let them use it? Other churches in the area had wells, but you could only use them if you were a member of that church. Romildo and his family were not Adventists. Would they be able to use the water?

Romildo went back to the church to watch the drilling. The rig was still making the loud RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT sound. This went on for quite some time. Finally, realizing this could take hours or days, Romildo headed home. On the way, he talked to one of his relatives, who was Adventist, about the drilling. His relative said that the well would be free for the entire community to use, whether they were Adventist church members or not. Romildo rushed home to tell his mom the news. “Mom, it’s going to be for the whole neighborhood!” he said excitedly. “Anyone who needs it can go and get water there—it will be there for all of us.”

Later that day, Romildo returned to the church to watch the drilling. It wasn’t that exciting, but he was nervous to find out if they would hit water. It was still just dust spraying up from the hole. After watching for some time, Romildo noticed that the dust was becoming wet dirt. There was lots of talking and shouting among the workers. They found water! And it was sweet.

Romildo ran home to tell his family the news. His mom was so thankful. “Thank you to Maranatha!” she said. “I’ve never met all of you, but I want to say thank you. And also to the Adventist Church, who has this well for us. I just want to say thank you to all of you. May God bless all of you for doing this wonderful thing for us.”

So today, as Romildo makes the hard walk back to his house pushing the wheelbarrow, he continues to smile. He smiles because even though fetching water each day is a tough job, he is grateful. This water is free, which means his family will have enough money to buy food. It is clean and won’t make his family sick. And the water comes from a church that cares about him and his family. Romildo thinks about all of those things as he walks home and is thankful for each one.

Watch Romildo collect water from the Sitio Feitosa Seventh-day Adventist Church for his mom to use at their house.

## Discussion Questions

- When was the hardest you've had to work? What were you doing and how did you feel doing it?
- If you had to choose between having enough water or having enough food, which would you choose?
- Romildo was very grateful for the water from the Maranatha well. What are some of the things you are most grateful for?

## Prayer Points

- Kids around the world who must collect clean water for their families each day.
- Ask kids what they would add to the prayer list.

## Did You Know?

- Often, when a drilling team hits water, they don't stop right away. They may continue going down further to make sure there is good water flow. At Sitio Feitosa, the crew drilled down another 50 feet after they hit water.