The Little Preachers
December 2

Jaheel and his friend Joseph live in the beautiful country of Belize in Central America. They never got bored with so many exciting places to explore! They may swim with fish in the ocean, walk through the jungle to spot animals, or even stumble upon an ancient carved stone left by people who lived in the area hundreds of years ago!

Jaheel and Joseph also attend the Adventist school in Southern Belize, where they play with their friends during recess. The boys love playing marbles while the girls jump rope. They study various subjects like math, English, Spanish, history, and Bible.

Sometimes, the teacher asks Jaheel to present a short sermon to the other students during worship. When it happens, he always asks Joseph to sing for the class. Jaheel gets a little nervous when it is time to speak in front of a group, but he knows God will help him. As soon as the teacher introduces Jaheel and Joseph to the class, Jaheel no longer feels nervous. Sometimes at the end, the other kids’ ask him questions about the stories he shares. The pastor at his church also invited Jaheel to preach there too! Of course, Joseph will be there to sing alongside him. Jaheel dreams of becoming a pastor someday, but he knows he has to finish school first.
Numerous stories similar to Jaheel’s are unfolding worldwide within the network of over 9,000 Adventist Schools (9,419 schools). Among the 2,000,000-plus students currently enrolled (2,044,709 students), thousands are being equipped to assume roles as missionaries, such as pastors, teachers, nurses, or physicians. This symbiotic relationship between strong Adventist Education and a robust Adventist Church is evident. The 111,360 educators within Adventist Educational Institutions are expected to seamlessly blend faith with instruction, and between 2009 and 2018, this integration resulted in 463,000 people baptized at Adventist Educational Institutions.

Adventist Schools are important missionary agencies. According to an interesting study, a young person who does not attend an Adventist School is 13 times less likely to join the church. And while among many demographic groups, around 50 percent leave the church by their mid-20s, the Valuegenesis Study revealed that the more years in Adventist Education, the greater their belief in the Fundamental beliefs of the church and the more likely they are to remain Seventh-day Adventist at age 40.

We can also help support this work by returning our Tithes and Promise, regular and systematic offerings. If distributed as suggested by the Combined Offering Plan, part of your Promise offering goes towards building and maintaining mission schools in over 100 countries. By regularly worshiping God with a percentage of our income as an offering, and distributing that offering as suggested by the Combined Offering Plan, we can make a difference for eternity in the lives of children and adults worldwide. May we put our desires last and God first.