Meet Bamlak, a vibrant twelve-year-old girl from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She has a unique talent for storytelling. As a passionate teacher, Bamlak leads the children’s Sabbath School class that meets in a humble shipping container beside the church.

Bamlak and her peers often invite their friends to come and join in the fun of singing, playing games, or engaging in Bible trivia.

One of those friends is Teodrow, who lives near the church. He first heard the singing from his house and decided to follow the sound. Captivated by the atmosphere, he became a regular Sabbath attendee with his siblings.

As the children grew more enthusiastic about their faith, Teodrow’s parents noticed the change in their children and became curious. Upon visiting the church, they were impressed and realized it was the perfect place for their family. They remain grateful to their children for introducing them to the Adventist Church, even fifteen years later.
Bamlak and the other children in the Sabbath School container are praying for more space to accommodate more friends. Church leaders recognize the value of ministering to children and often provide a designated area like the shipping container to protect them from harsh weather and other distractions. After all, children often lead their parents to Jesus and can help build the church from the ground up.

Whenever your “Promise” offering is distributed as suggested by the Combined Offering Plan, between 50-60% of it is destined for the Local Church's budget and may be used, among other things, to renew or expand the church's facilities. The remaining portion of your offering will be sent to regional and international missionary funds. These funds may also support development projects like building new churches in unentered areas.

If you are a tither, one day you decided to regularly set apart ten percent of your income to honor the Lord. But according to God's guidance, the tithe should be used exclusively to support the authorized ministry. Offerings, on the other hand, can be used to support all other kinds of missionary expenses. That is why we need both for the expansion of the gospel, tithes, and offerings.

What about partnering with God to save souls by setting apart another percentage of your income as a “Promise” offering besides the tithe? That percentage may be equal to the tithe, more than the tithe, or less than the tithe. You decide prayerfully. After deciding to give offering as a percentage of your income, you no longer need to decide “when” to give. Your giving practices will become more consistent because you will no longer depend on your feelings and perceptions. Now, every time God gives you something, there will be a tithe and “Promise” offering.

It is your offering that may help people like Bamlak to work more efficiently to God. By partnering with God in that way, He knows that you have become a channel for His blessings to flow to others. Then, if He needs more resources to be invested, He may give you more! By regularly returning to Him a percentage of your income, you'll be amazed at how God can use you to do great things to proclaim His love. May we put our desires last and God first.