



LIFE *On* MISSION

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Sydney*

Can three little boys from Sydney build a house?

*In everything I did, I showed you... we must help the poor,
remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said;
'It is more blessed to give than to receive'." Acts 20:35*

You've heard of The Three Little Pigs and The Big Bad Wolf? Well, this story is about three little boys. There was no wolf in this story but there was another huge problem they faced, a problem which meant there might be no house at all! Let me tell you about it...

Once upon a time there were three boys who heard a sad, sad story. A missionary had come from Cambodia. He told the church about the poor people who lived in cardboard boxes, under tarps and in stick houses near the river. Sometimes, when they were asleep at night, the river would rise, and their beds and belongings would float away leaving them cold and with nowhere to sleep. The Missionary told the church people that houses were being built for these families and it cost only \$600 to build a home for a family in need. Some grown-ups put their hands up straight away and offered to build houses and handed the missionary their credit card details; but there were still more families who needed homes. The boys wanted to help but \$600 was a lot of money for little boys, where were they going to get so much money from?

When the boys got home, let's call the boys Bill, Bob and Ben, they rushed upstairs, opened their money boxes and counted out all they had.

"I've got \$20," said Bill.

I've got \$15 and twenty cents," said Bob.

I've got \$32 and 80 cents," said Ben.

The boys added it all up. They had \$68! \$68 was a lot of money for three little boys, but it wasn't enough to buy a house in Cambodia. They couldn't help a family. The boys were sad.

Bill, Bob and Ben were very quiet over lunch, they were thinking about the poor children who would have nowhere dry to sleep come rainy season.

"Are you ok?" their Mum asked, "You've hardly said a word since we got home."

"We want to build a house in Cambodia, but we don't have enough money," Ben said, sadly.

"You could fundraise," suggested their father.

"Like making cookies to sell door to door?" said Bill.

“Well that is one way,” said their Mum, imagining how her kitchen would look after cooking several batches of cookies with her boys, “perhaps there is another way?”

“I have a birthday coming up; maybe, instead of getting presents, I could ask my friends to bring money for Cambodia?” said Bob.

“I could do that for mine too!” said Bill.

“And mine!” said Ben.

“We could run a street party and ask all the children in the street to bring money for Cambodia!” Bob said. They were getting very excited.

So that is what they did. Each of the boys sent out their birthday invitations asking for donations instead of gifts. The parents and children coming to the party thought this was such a good cause they gave extra money to help build the house. By the time Bob, Bill and Ben counted up all the money they received from their birthdays and the Street Party they had \$700 to donate to Cambodia.

When the Missionary finally came back they were so excited to give him the money. As the Missionary counted out all the notes his eyes filled with tears. He said he would choose a very special family to receive a home from the boys and the extra money would buy the family some chickens and a safe place to keep them.

The missionary hugged each of the boys and said, “Adults have given from what they had, but you have sacrificed by going without. To me, that makes your gift extra special.”

It made the boys feel good to know they had made a difference for a family. That night, when they went to bed, they talked about the special family who would also have a warm, dry place to sleep.

“And some chickens!” said Bob.

A few months later the boys heard about a group of church members who were going to Mongolia. They needed money to buy sewing machines. This would allow poor families to start a business to make money to buy food. The sewing machines cost \$200 each.

The boys looked at each other and smiled.

Questions:

What can you do to help people?

Do you have money or things you can donate to people in need?

Are there special projects you can help with at your church?

Can you think of a way you can raise money to make a difference for others?