



LIFE *On* MISSION

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Sydney*

A Gift to God

(optional intro): Today's children story is a true story of a little girl who is a missionary in Sydney.

Mia is 7 years old, and she lives with her family in Sydney. Her family loves Jesus! They pray for the people in their family, neighbourhood and city, and seek to share Jesus with others so that many more people would hear about the love of God.

Mia loves singing songs to Jesus! One day the music floated through the house as Mia and her family were singing praise songs:

"Everything I am; everything I have... Everything I do, is a gift to You".¹

Mia suddenly stopped in the middle of the song and looked questioningly at her mum.

"Mummy, what does that song mean when it says that I can give a gift to God? I am little. I only get a tiny bit of pocket money. And there's no way to give Jesus a special toy or my Bible as He's all the way up in Heaven. I want to give to Jesus. But how can I give a gift to God with *everything* I am and have?"

Mummy came and knelt down close to Mia. "God has given you so much. A family who loves you. A safe home, food, clothes and toys. And also the opportunity to go to school and get an education. It's wonderful to hear that you don't just want to keep those gifts to yourself, but that you want to give something back to Jesus! –"

"But how do I do that mum?" Mia interrupted.

"You can do your best in everything and use everything you have to be a blessing to others. You can also share with people how much God loves them and wants them to be in Heaven", her mum said encouragingly.

"Do you know that you are already giving a lot to Jesus?"

"Am I?" Mia replied.

"Yes! Every time you pray for people to know Jesus, give money to church and mission projects; also the way that you serve so lovingly at our community playgroup, or put invitation cards in people's letter boxes in our neighbourhood, or make new friends with kids who don't Jesus and share His love with others – you are giving a gift to God!"

“I guess so. But that’s all little things mum”.

“Little things done with lots of God’s love shining through, can end up being really powerful though. Remember how you made friends with Cristal, a little girl at the park whose family recently moved to Sydney from overseas? As we made friends with their family, and started praying for them and hanging out with them, God opened up opportunities for them to come along to our Kids club at church. They got to know other families and made friends. And we’ve since had several opportunities to pray for them and share Jesus with them through various books and conversations. But that never would’ve been possible if we hadn’t been praying for God to help us meet new friends to share Jesus with. It also wouldn’t have happened if we hadn’t been brave enough to approach them at the park and intentionally be true friends to their family”.

“You’re right mum. That is so cool!”

“Yes, it’s cool how Jesus can use whatever we can give to Him, no matter how small or big. He loves it when his followers use what He has given them to brightly shine His love in their communities!” her mum explained.

You know boys and girls, God has given you many gifts too. How can you use what you have to be a blessing in your family, school and community?

Never forget, that whether you’re young or old, have a little money or a lot, *every* time you pray for someone to know Jesus, and for Him to use you to shine His love to others, He will hear your prayer and use that in big ways! So be brave and start praying with your family and looking for ways to really love others, make friends, and introduce them to your best friend, Jesus and the wonderful plans He has for their lives.

It’s the most exciting way to live, and the greatest gift that you can give to Jesus!

¹ Song “A Gift to You” by Betsy Hernandez. Suggestion: This song can be found on Youtube and played during offering at your church, or as a special item after the children’s story.