

## **MANY HAPPY RETURNS – AMNESTY PAYS OFF**

Recently, the National Health Service Highland in Scotland, declared an amnesty for the return of equipment to two drop-off points at Inverness and Invergordon. To the astonishment of the management board, 395 pieces of hospital equipment were returned, including 282 wheelchairs worth more than £100,000, 30 toilet seats and 36 walking frames. It was indeed a case of many happy returns bringing delight to the management board, but also a sense of relief to those who returned the equipment. The amnesty provided an opportunity for those who had harboured the equipment to return items, without any fear being charged.



## **THE DESIRE OF EVERY HEART**

Amnesty is the secret desire of almost of every heart in certain areas of our lives; an opportunity to let it all out without any fear of being shamed or punished. The good news is that the greatest amnesty of all has been declared, yet many keep away from it or are ignorant of it. Listen to these very words from the Bible “God was at work through Jesus Christ, reconciling *and* restoring the world to favour with Himself, not counting up *and* holding against men their failures but cancelling them.” (2 Corinthians 5:19). God is not holding your faults against you but offers forgiveness. The truth is God, in His genuine love and concern for us, has in every age made provision for the forgiveness of people’s sins and failures. God declares in the Bible: “I am the one who wipes out your lawless acts. I do it because of who I am. I will not remember your sins anymore.” (Isaiah 43:25)

## THE ULTIMATE PRICE

In fact, God Himself paid the ultimate price to provide forgiveness for us, when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross as our substitute. God did this so that our sins can be forgiven and then He raised Jesus from the dead on the third day so we can receive new life. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16). God is not holding your sins against you if you turn to Him with a sincere heart. “If we say that we have no sin, we lie to ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we tell Him our sins, He is faithful, and we can depend on Him to forgive us our sins.” (1 John 1:8-9). God has declared the greatest amnesty in history. Jesus says that “whoever comes to me I will certainly not turn away” (John 6:37).

## WELCOMING THE OFFER

Now it is your turn to respond. We have two options: accept His offer of forgiveness and live in the warm embrace of His love or continue to run away from His outstretched arms of love and be separated from Him both in this life and in the life to come.

Even now, you can enjoy God’s amnesty. Why not open your heart to Jesus Christ just now? You can do this through a simple prayer of commitment accepting His offer of forgiveness and love:

“Father, I thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins. Forgive me my sins, accept me as your child and help me to learn to live your way, in Jesus’ name.”

If you have prayed this prayer, endeavour to contact us at the address below and/or join an active, Bible-believing church.

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