

COMPILED BY
ROBERT MCCONNELL



CHILDREN'S CORNER

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'

1 John 1:9

On 13th February, 1997, a cargo ship called the 'Tokio Express' left Holland, bound for New York. After only a short time at sea, stormy weather caused huge waves to batter against the ship. Despite being well secured, much of the ship's cargo broke loose and was swept overboard about twenty miles off the coast of England. One of the big steel containers lost was full of Lego...five million pieces!

An avid beachcomber called Tracey Williams was the first to spot pieces of Lego along the beach where she lived in Cornwall. This same Lego was also washing up on beaches in Ireland, Holland, and Denmark. The toy company Lego was able to give an exact inventory of every single piece of Lego that was lost. What made things even more bizarre was the fact that much of the lost Lego had a nautical theme. For example, there were 13,000 spear guns, half a million pairs of diving flippers, 350,000 sets of scuba gear, and 50,000 sharks. It is estimated that 1.6 million pieces of more dense bits of Lego are stuck on the seabed, too heavy to float. However, even some of this has been found, caught up in fishermen's nets.

It takes approximately three years for debris to float across the Atlantic from England to the

USA, so over the last 27 years some of that lost Lego could be washed up on any beach anywhere on earth. Being made of hard plastic, they have the capability of drifting about for centuries. What happened nearly 30 years ago cannot be reversed or undone. Most of those tiny pieces of Lego will never be found. The beaches and seabed will never be free of this environmental nuisance. Although not actually at fault, even Lego, which is a powerful multi-million-pound company, can do nothing to fix this problem.

This story reminds me of another even greater problem that faces all mankind, which is highlighted in the Bible, and that is sin. Very often the word 'sin' in the Bible is in the plural. Isaiah 59:12 says that 'our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us'. It is impossible for you to clean up your life, and reverse and undo all the sins you have committed. However, with God nothing is impossible. He alone can forgive all of your sins, and put right every wrong. Acts 3:19 says '...repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out'. The Lego might have been lost, but thank God, because of His mercy and willingness to forgive sinners, you don't have to be left in that self-same sad condition. ■

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QUIZ

**FROM THE NAMES BELOW,
WHO HAD NO ASSOCIATION
WITH BOATS OR THE SEA?**

Jonah

Peter

Paul

Gideon

Noah

James

John

Jesus

Answer:

Are you 12 or under?
Send your **answer, name, address and church** to:
Rev Garth Wilson e: answer@fpvission.org