

The Seas Tell Us

If you have visited the Holy Land, or know much of its geography – particularly through Bible studies – you know that Israel has two seas:

- The Sea of Galilee, which has an inlet and an outlet.
- The Dead Sea, which has only an inlet. It does not give out; it only receives. Consequently, it is, indeed, dead.

It's a principle we all should recognize: Those who do not know the joy of giving out have only stagnation in their lives – spiritually, emotionally and socially.

Not only should we be ready to share from the abundance of our blessings, but the Bible tells us, in II Corinthians 9, that God loves a cheerful giver. People who contribute to others with that kind of attitude demonstrate God's love in a manner that becomes contagious. As folks came to the Campbell Center during Operation Christmas Child, I was buoyed emotionally by each one who presented his or her shoe boxes (including children) with smiles and enthusiasm as they considered the impact their gifts would have on the boys and girls who receive them. Greeting these spirit-filled individuals and sharing their joy is one of the special highlights of Operation Christmas Child for me. Their exuberance always sets the tone for the holiday season.

As we enter December and the swirl of church, social and family activities the month presents, let's be mindful that the best celebration of the birth of the Christ Child is how we honor one another with our giving in a variety of ways – not in the calculation of how much material goods we can receive.

--Beecher Hunter