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Hello, Back Pack Blessings Volunteers and Partners!

We hope you had an awesome summer and wanted to catch you up on all the action now that school is back in session. After having operations interrupted for 18 months due to the pandemic, we are so excited to once again be providing students with back packs and love!

Enjoy this newsletter and THANKS for all you do to support our mission!



Tony's Corner

Back Pack is back in action!

We have now successfully completed several weeks, starting again on August

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From sourcing food and the increasing expense of that food to working with school protocols, we will have to remain diligent and flexible.

We do know that God is on our side and the need is there. We will be entering our 11th year serving elementary school children who are food insecure. We can't think of this as a "post-COVID" time, though; I'd like to think of it as "COVID-aware". Our plan is to operate as safely as possible and within the guidelines set by the school.

What I do know is that we have a faithful, dedicated team and, of course, the best volunteer base ever!!! I can answer for everyone associated with this ministry: "we are inspired by the challenge and with the guidance of Jesus Christ, we will prevail and demonstrate his love to these children and their families on a consistent basis."

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support!

STACY'S SCOOP



We are so excited to start our 11th year of Back Pack Blessings and our 10th year (had to take last year off, due to COVID) at Fair Oaks! We have come a long way since the start 11 year ago -- we have added new partners and are serving more students than ever before. We are so grateful to our volunteers and donors that make this possible!

As the new school year is upon us, we have a few new faces at Fair Oaks.

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Oaks. Cathie Seibert is the new principal at Fair Oaks. Several years ago, she was an assistant principal at Fair Oaks, so she was very familiar with Back Pack Blessings and welcomed us with open arms. We are so excited to work with her and see all the awesome things she will do at the school.

We have a few weeks under our belts now and are navigating some headwinds in supply chain and increased food costs, due to the pandemic. We are having trouble securing food orders each week, but we will take what we can get and pack as much food as we can each week. We've also proactively made a few changes to make sure we are being as safe as possible. We are asking all volunteers to wear masks while staging and packing at the Cagle House. We made the decision to pack in disposable plastic bags, instead of the blue backpacks, for the foreseeable future. As for delivery, we are not going into the school and delivering from classroom to classroom, as in the past. We are unloading the U-Haul in the bus lot and the students come out and pick up their bags from the open bins, in a "grab and go" style. We felt this was the best solution for delivery, as we are outside, we keep a safe distance from each other, and we get to still interact with the students (which is the BEST part of delivery!).

We are off to an amazing start and cannot thank you enough for your continued support of this Ministry. Our mission has remained the same, after all these years, to provide food to students that are food insecure and share the love of God. Our motto also remains the same...hunger does not take the weekends off! Thank you again for your continued support of Back Pack Blessings!

Our volunteers and students in action -- August and September 2021:

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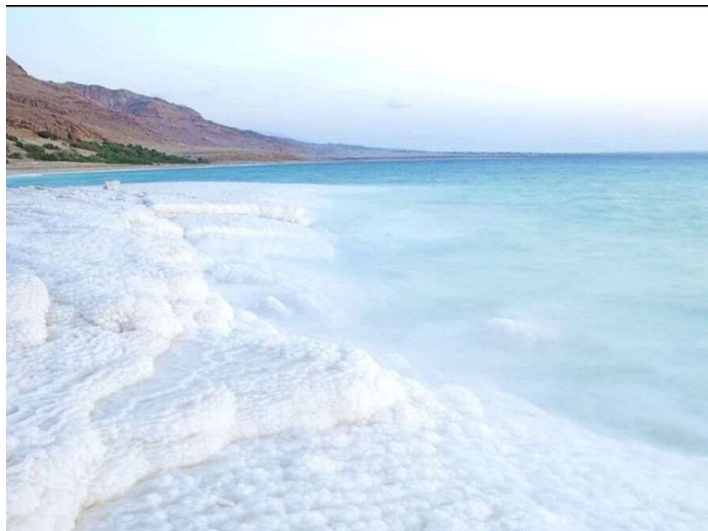
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THE STORY OF THE DEAD SEA

In Israel there are two major bodies of water. One is the Sea of Galilee, a beautiful lake 13 miles long and 7 miles wide, filled with fish and surrounded by lush foliage. It is Israel's largest fresh water lake and very picturesque.

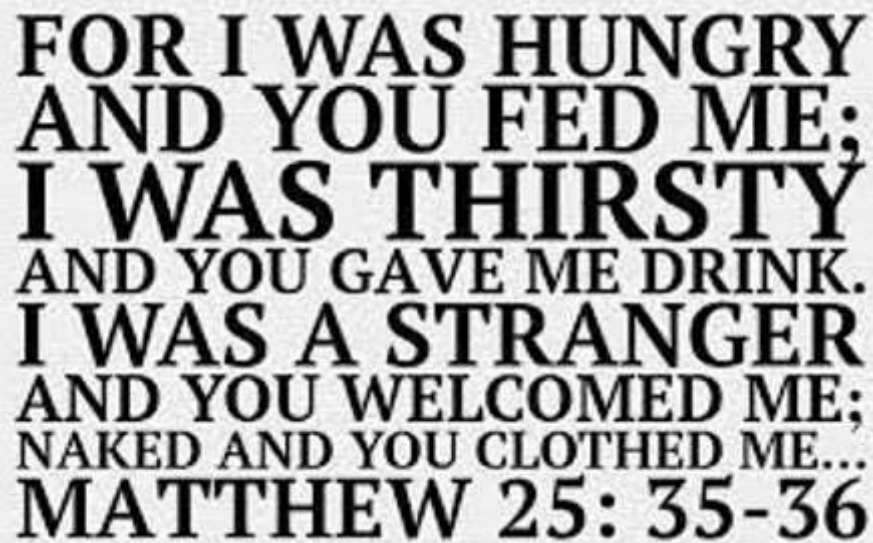


The other body of water is the Dead Sea, 50 miles long and 11 miles wide and it's shoreline is 1300 feet below sea level. It is estimated that seven million tons of water evaporate daily from the Dead Sea, and the saline or salt content of the Dead Sea is 10 times saltier than the oceans of the world. The Dead Sea lives up to its name. No seaweed, plants, fish or any living thing of any kind live in or around or near the water. Fish accidentally swimming into the waters from

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Both the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea are fed by the Jordan River. There is really only one difference between these two bodies of water; just one thing that causes the Sea of Galilee to be beautiful and alive while the Dead Sea is barren and lifeless. That difference is the Sea of Galilee takes water from the Jordan River and then it gives water back to the river. The water simply passes through the Sea of Galilee. The Dead Sea, on the other hand, takes water but it gives nothing back. Those two bodies of water bear witness to a truth of human life. It is in receiving and then giving back that life and hope are sustained. The Sea of Galilee is a conduit, while the Dead Sea is a container. The first is full of life, the second is full of death!

The same is true in our spiritual life. If we have spiritual input but no spiritual output, we will become stagnant, lifeless, bitter, and caustic. However, if, like the Sea of Galilee, we are receiving and giving back, we become vibrant, healthy and life-giving. This is the wisdom and reality of Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."















**FOR I WAS HUNGRY
AND YOU FED ME;
I WAS THIRSTY
AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK.
I WAS A STRANGER
AND YOU WELCOMED ME;
NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME...
MATTHEW 25: 35-36**

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When should I stay home during the COVID-19 outbreak?

If I have any of the following symptoms of COVID-19:

FEVER OF 100 DEGREES OR HIGHER	COUGH	SHORTNESS OF BREATH	CHILLS	FATIGUE	MUSCLE PAIN	HEADACHE	SORE THROAT	NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL	NAUSEA OR VOMITING	DIARRHEA	CONGESTION OR RUNNY NOSE
											

We appreciate our volunteers and their dedication to service. We are committed to everyone's safety during these pandemic times, so please wear a mask while serving and don't come to serve if you have any of the symptoms of COVID.

How You Can Get Involved



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Back Pack Blessings
4385 Lower Roswell Road
Marietta, GA 30068

www.backpackblessings.org

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