



Servant's Corner

July 2011

Redeeming Your Summer

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

*...making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:16b*

“Do you ever feel further from God when you get back from a vacation than before you left?” That was a question I asked a group of pastors shortly after I returned from a family vacation a few years ago. My oldest son was graduating from high school and my wife and I realized this might be the last vacation that our whole family would take together. We decided to make it a big one. We spent a week surfing, snorkeling and generally “vegging out” on Maui.

One seasoned pastor from the group commented, “I usually feel that way when the focus of my vacation has been self-indulgence”. “Ouch!” His comment stung because it was true. My big family vacation on Maui had been very “me” focused. The times of tension on our vacation boiled down to **me** trying to convince everyone else to do what **I** wanted. I was so busy pursuing my own desires on the trip that I neglected my habitual spiritual disciplines. It all added up to a toxic spiritual cocktail.

Did you know that summer is typically one of the most difficult seasons for Love INC to find volunteers to help clients? Ironic, isn't it? More free time, yet less time to serve? My Maui vacation taught me that while it's good and necessary to “come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31), it's never good for me to take a vacation from my calling to be a servant.



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