



## Servant's Corner

July 2014

### The Defining Difference

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

What does a benevolence effort that is **distinctively Christian** look like? Some of the most insightful thinking I have encountered regarding this question comes from Lois Tupy, Director of Love INC of Treasure Valley in Nampa, Idaho. Lois makes a compelling argument that the way the government (and the church) in America handles people in need actually serves to keep them in need instead of lifting them out of poverty. She calls her philosophy of Christian benevolence, "The Defining Difference". Resources that explain this philosophy of benevolence can be found at: [redemptivecompassion.org](http://redemptivecompassion.org). Here are the six core principles behind this philosophy of helping people in need:

- See everyone's value.
- Invest relationally in others.
- Help everyone achieve their God-given potential.
- Require mutual contribution and participation.
- Respond with wisdom and discernment.
- Serve in ways that transform.

So, does this way of helping people in need really work? It does. I attended a graduation ceremony in Nampa of those who had spent a year in their Relational Ministries Program (our Budget Mentoring Program was modeled after this). One graduate after another shared their story about how they moved from despair and dependency into freedom and healing as a result of their year in the program. Lives were transformed as people in need were befriended by Christians willing to mentor them in responsible living. Churches that are dissatisfied with poor results from their current way of helping would do well to learn from a woman who has listened to the Lord while working in the trenches of poverty alleviation.



## Servant's Corner

July 2014

### The Defining Difference

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

What does a benevolence effort that is **distinctively Christian** look like? Some of the most insightful thinking I have encountered regarding this question comes from Lois Tupy, Director of Love INC of Treasure Valley in Nampa, Idaho. Lois makes a compelling argument that the way the government (and the church) in America handles people in need actually serves to keep them in need instead of lifting them out of poverty. She calls her philosophy of Christian benevolence, "The Defining Difference". Resources that explain this philosophy of benevolence can be found at: [redemptivecompassion.org](http://redemptivecompassion.org). Here are the six core principles behind this philosophy of helping people in need:

- See everyone's value.
- Invest relationally in others.
- Help everyone achieve their God-given potential.
- Require mutual contribution and participation.
- Respond with wisdom and discernment.
- Serve in ways that transform.

So, does this way of helping people in need really work? It does. I attended a graduation ceremony in Nampa of those who had spent a year in their Relational Ministries Program (our Budget Mentoring Program was modeled after this). One graduate after another shared their story about how they moved from despair and dependency into freedom and healing as a result of their year in the program. Lives were transformed as people in need were befriended by Christians willing to mentor them in responsible living. Churches that are dissatisfied with poor results from their current way of helping would do well to learn from a woman who has listened to the Lord while working in the trenches of poverty alleviation.