



## Servant's Corner

August 2013

### Who's In Your Circle?

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

*...do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Romans 12:16 b*

Does your circle of friends include any poor people? Before I took over as Love INC Director, I pretty much lived in a middle class bubble. I had no meaningful interaction with low income people. I certainly didn't count any poor people among my circle of friends. I don't think I was that unusual. I think most wealthy and middle class people stay in their bubble, not having genuine friendships with those who live at a lower income level.

In the verse above, Paul commands us to "associate with the lowly". Lowly means "those of humble circumstances" i.e. the poor. Specifically the command here is to associate with our poor brothers and sisters in the church. The church of Jesus Christ is to be a place where class distinctions melt away in light of our common adoption into God's family.

Notice what Paul says can keep us from being at home around poor people—pride. When we think we are better than those of a lower income status, it's no wonder we don't associate with them. On the other hand, making friends with the poor can engender in us a sense of humility. We realize that they aren't that different than us, and may, in fact, have a stronger faith than we do (James 2:4-5).

If you've been living in a bubble, Love INC can help you fulfill this command to associate with the poor. Yes, you will help them, but you'll find that you are enriched by the experience.



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