

Vacation Planning

How many of you already have your vacation planned? How many of you wish you were on vacation right now? We all need a break from time to time. We are fast approaching summer which for many of you means your annual break from slaving away at the salt mine to laying on the beach or visiting your favorite theme park. More than 1/3 of Americans are planning a vacation this year of 50 miles or more from home.

Studies show that the average amount we spend on vacations for a family of four is around \$4,000 a year. **Vacation spending equals about 2% of the total budgets of all U.S. households annually. That 2% number corresponds with the same percentage that Americans give of their disposable incomes to the Church annually.** That is a sobering statistic. We spend our money on what we value. Tragically many people value their pleasure over changing lives.

You are different! We have some of the most generous people on the planet right here. As a result of your generosity we are planning an amazing summer of outreach. **High light some of your summer plans.** We could never do what we do without your faithful giving.

Listen, we WANT you to go on vacation. You deserve that break. For families a vacation is not an expense but an investment of memories that your kids will carry with them for the rest of their lives. So have fun!

Yet as you plan for your summer vacation let me encourage you to take one other step of planning by planning to give even though you are gone. You see if you will set up your offering to be automatic you can still give to help fund all our missions and ministry initiatives this summer EVEN though you are not here! It is simple to set up. Just go to our website, look for the give button, click on it and follow the easy steps. So, with all your vacation planning make sure that your gifts continue to help us fully fund our summer endeavors. Your faithful giving helps us change lives and that will last a lot longer than your vacation souvenirs.