



CENTER OF HOPE

December 2024

# Center of Hope Newsletter

Sowing Seeds of God's Love...Physically and Spiritually

## Inhaling Patience, Exhaling Kindness by Adam Hofer



### What does love look like in action?

This is a loaded question in today's age because we all have different opinions of what "love" is. Is love an action or a feeling? Is love acceptance and tolerance? Does love mean we turn a blind eye to the sin of others, or is there space for accountability in love? Is living a life of love a life of self-denial? Is love selfish? We all have opinions when pondering these questions. However, our opinions lack foundation if they are not rooted in the Word of God.

One of the most well-known passages about love is 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. The Apostle Paul addressed love because like us, the Corinthian church lacked consistency on what love looked like in practice. Paul's concern for the Corinthian church began several years prior when he visited Corinth for his first time seventeen years after the death and resurrection of Christ. The city started humbly as a Roman settlement of freed slaves. Yet, over time, the city grew quickly and became one of the largest political and trading centers of the Roman empire. Wealth and prosperity grew quickly, which attracted many people of different faiths, cultures, and worldviews. The city formed the reputation of being one of the most corrupt and immoral cities

of the Roman Empire. Due to this reputation, a new word was made "*korinthiazomai*" which meant "to live immorally like a Corinthian." Paul had reason to believe the church in Corinth would mature. Yet, that was not the case. Instead of maturing in the faith, divisions broke out between Christians who believed compromising their Christian beliefs was essential to maintain peace with the overall culture and Christians who believed isolation from the overall culture was essential to preserve the holiness of the church. The tension between these groups of people grew out of control, which endangered the future of the Corinthian church.

Out of his concern for the Corinthian church, Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 13. Verse 4 begins by addressing what love is: patient and kind. Some would argue that patience and kindness are the pillars of love, which I agree with. Yet, the way I think of love is this: **Love is inhaling patience and exhaling kindness.** When we think of patience, we often think of waiting for something. However, in this passage, the Greek word for "patient" is *makrothumeo*, which can be quite literally translated as "long-tempered." In other words, one who is patient is slow to anger. Patience is when you are supposed to get mad, but choose to be understanding instead. Love inhales offenses without exhaling offenses. Instead, love exhales kindness. As patience inhales offenses, kindness exhales gentleness, generosity, and acts of service. Kindness not only desires for people to thrive but actively works for the betterment of others, even one's enemies. People who are kind are good *to* people and *for* people. Their kindness is not based on what others

have done for them, what their spouse have done for them, what their children have done for them, what their employer has done for them, but rather is based on who they are in Christ. Love does not simply feel patient or kind, it intentionally practices patience and kindness, even when it is hard and inconvenient.

After addressing what love is, Paul then goes through the eight do-nots of love. Love does not envy but instead exhales kindness by being content. Love does not boast but instead exhales kindness by using words to lift others up. Love is not proud (Gk. *phusioo* meaning "to be puffed up") but instead exhales kindness by being humble. Love does not dishonor others but instead exhales kindness by being thoughtful and courteous. Love is not self-seeking but instead exhales kindness by being others-focused. Love is not irritable but instead exhales kindness by being self-controlled. Love keeps no records of wrongs but instead exhales kindness by forgiving others of their wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but instead exhales kindness by rejoicing in the truth, a truth that is not found on social media or on TV but is found in the innate Word of God.

So what does love look like in action? Love is inhaling patience and exhaling kindness. Love is an intentional action that we are all called to do, even when it is hard, even when it is inconvenient, even when we don't feel particularly loving towards someone. We are called to love regardless. And no one embodied this love better than our Lord, Jesus Christ, who came as a baby to this unloving, sinful world.

**Have a Merry Christmas!**

## End of the year stats (Jan.—Nov. 15)! We had a great year of service thus far!

Praise God for HIS faithfulness this past year! This past year has been a wonderful, record-breaking year of service at the Center of Hope. In total not including the thousands of people who come into our Care Center each year, we had 5,402 completed services as of November 15, and we have the rest of the year to go! We had 2,055 pastoral counseling sessions (**393 increase since last year!**), 986 bicycle repairs (**186 increase since last year!**), 135 Prison Transition Aid backpacks full of resources distributed (**new program!**), 557 Earn-Your-Way participants (**126 increase since last year!**), 880 bicycles distributed (**111 increase since last year!**), over 210 patients in our free clinic for the uninsured, and more! Your contribution to our ministry IS changing lives. All for HIS glory and honor.



### Sharing Christmas 2024

Time to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, this Christmas season through acts of service! Sign up to volunteer, provide new toys, and/or support the Sharing Christmas program

financially. Join the Center of Hope and The Community Outreach as we care for families this Christmas season in the Sharing Christmas program. If interested, please reach out to Adam Hofer via email at [adam@centerofhopesf.org](mailto:adam@centerofhopesf.org).

### Christmas Celebration Week! Desserts needed!

We will be celebrating Christmas with our guests the week of December 9-12. During the week, we will be offering desserts to our guests as they come in! Partner with us by making or donating desserts for our guests. Please drop off dessert donations at Center of Hope on Monday, December 9. For many of our guests, this is their one and only Christmas celebration. Thank you in advance!



### Let's Connect—Mission Moments, Pulpit Supplies, and MORE!

Out of our gratitude, we want you to know that we value our partnership in ministry. If you are a pastor, elder, or deacon of a church, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need pulpit supply help or if you want us to update your congregation on what God has been doing at the Center of Hope. We would love to join you for worship! **All for HIS glory and honor.**

### Join Our Team as our Bike Ministry Coordinator!

Our Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry is in need of a Bike Ministry Coordinator. The ideal candidate would have a passion for both bicycles AND ministry. Their main job duties would include: 1) sharing the Good News of Jesus, 2) recruiting, training, and assisting volunteers, 3) assisting children and adults with bicycle repair, and 4) preparing bicycles for guests. If interested in joining our team, please send Adam Hofer your resume and cover letter via email at [adam@centerofhopesf.org](mailto:adam@centerofhopesf.org).

#### **Mission:**

The Center of Hope exists to walk alongside people, to bring spiritual and physical health, and ultimately to change the community one life at a time.

#### **Vision:**

The Center of Hope encourages and mentors people with the hope of redemption through Jesus Christ. Our focus is holistically addressing physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of individual that can only come through creating relationship and accountability. We work in partnership with community organizations to engage in a consistent and positive interaction with guests.

#### **Principles:**

1. All people are created in God's image.
2. Self sufficiency
3. Holistic Ministry
4. Reconciliation
5. Partnering to Serve

## **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

*Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Memory of — Marlene Timmer and Enulene Kroon*

### **Your Gifts SPREADS HOPE:**

**Stock or Commodity Gifts**—Talk to your financial advisor about gifting stocks and commodities to the Center of Hope.

**Make it Double**—Check with your employer to see if they will match your charitable contributions to the Center of Hope.

**Be a Sustainer of Hope**—A monthly gift will bring stability to individuals and families. Give online at: [www.centerofhopesf.org](http://www.centerofhopesf.org)

**In-Kind Gifts**—Clothing, Winter gear, Bicycles, Hygiene items, Backpacks for people transitioning out of prison, encouragement cards/letters, office supplies before donating)

### **Financial Update**

*Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2024-25*

*April—To Date. Income*  
**\$271,653.89**

*2024-25 Budget Need*  
**\$409,672.04**

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