



## Director's Corner

Hello to all our Friends and Family,

Welcome to the May edition of the Jobs of Hope newsletter. We appreciate all of you, and thank God for all your prayers and financial support. We are all partners in impacting our community for the Gospel!

This month has been busy! I had the opportunity to share about Jobs of Hope at Fellowship Church a few weeks ago. It was an honor to speak to our supporters there, and to meet Pastor John Compton. I also had the opportunity to record a video with Cornerstone Community Church to be shown in upcoming weeks. Both of these churches have been steady supporters of Jobs of Hope through prayer and financial support. I would love to meet the congregations and pastors of all the churches that support us. Please reach out and let me know if I can meet your church as well.

Please keep our men in your prayers as we approach these summer months. We have started planning for summer activities for our men. Our very first event is a BBQ night on June 2nd. We will be bringing our men together for a night of great food, games, music, and fellowship. It's important to provide opportunities for fellowship for our men as they work on the steps of their plans. It is easy for

them to feel isolated and alone. We want to visibly demonstrate the love of Christ to them through these events and activities so that they can feel and know that we are a family! We have plans for a bowling night, a baseball game, concerts, etc. If you are able to make a financial contribution to help offset the costs of these events, we would certainly appreciate it.

I want to thank you for reading through our May newsletter. We hope that you can get a sense for the important work that is happening in the lives of our men. We cannot do it without you! Please continue to pray for us. If you are able to support us financially, we will continue to be good stewards of your support. Please visit our website, and find us on Facebook and Instagram.

God Bless You and Keep You,



Dan Ordaz  
*Executive Director*



## Coffee and Conversation: Patience

*Patience*—I think most people use some improvement in this area, in every aspect of their daily life. I know I could. Merriam-Webster defines being *patient* as “bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint” and “steadfast (firm, unwavering, committed) despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity.” God’s Word speaks of patience as one of the nine fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and in Proverbs 14:29 it states that, “Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick tempered displays folly” (NIV). This is a great example of what patience really means to God. Patience is part of the masterpiece of spirituality that exists to instate calm, reverence, clear thinking, and altogether a stronger character in a person. Patience, or being patient, allows us to remain in the understanding of a situation, to guide a process with self-control, thoughtful action, and to be still in the moments of waiting. Even if the situation is stressful or agitated, or exciting and positive, patience brings compassion, peace, and strength to any situation.

Being patient allows God to do his work—in me, in you, in others, and in every situation. Patience allows God the time he needs to make things happen, the time he needs for us to hear his guidance and rest in his loving presence, assured that all is well and that he is working. When we are not being patient, we open the door for the enemy to take our fleshly actions and use them for his purpose. We lay down our defense and become a puppet to people, places, and things at the enemy’s hand. This does not produce fruit but produces more havoc. We belong to God, not the enemy.

So be brave and choose patience over anger, choose patience over frustration. Choose patience, goodness, and self-control over being controlled. Let God work in you and through you! It is important to remember that true completion of any situation only comes when we let God do the work and we do our part by following the steps he lays out in front of us. Patience is one of those steps.

I believe here at Jobs of Hope, we as a staff are given the opportunity to practice patience in how we work with the men of our program. Change is challenging, and removing or reshaping old behaviors that are deeply ingrained into a person’s thinking is a challenge. As a staff, we are trying to positively impact our participants in every way, and while it can be easy to become frustrated when we see those efforts lost to the way of the “streets” or to the way of “self” in our men, patience with the process of change is one way that we can continue to empower our men and show them faith in action. When we are patient with our men, they can be patient with themselves, and learn to be patient with others.

Yours Truly,

Opal Hatfield  
*Jobs of Hope Case Manager*



## Q&A With Jason, Continued

I've done administration in programs like this. I've been a program director and all these different things, and I do love working in the administrative office of Jobs of Hope, but my passion is being with the guys, whether one-on-one or in groups. That is more of my focus, that's what I like the best, being able to be there and influence their lives.

### **Are there unexpected lessons you've learned while interning at Jobs of Hope?**

The organizations that I've worked in in the past were much bigger, so at a smaller nonprofit there were a lot of adjustments that I had to make. I've been responsible for millions of dollars in budgets before at nonprofits, so coming here was very, very different. And seeing that some people had to wear multiple hats, instead of having a person in each one of those positions was different for me.

Also, the House of Hope itself being a place that's rented and just a sober living house is different for me.

Everything that I did was completely residential, meaning the clients lived there and they couldn't leave unless they were going and doing things. So seeing where we have the program of Jobs of Hope, and then the House of Hope, and not everybody in the program lives in the house was very unique for me, very new. And I like it; it's different, so I had to adjust, but I like it.

### **What are your plans moving forward?**

I'm going to be graduating with my bachelor's in psychology in December, but at the beginning of the fall semester I'm going to be applying for graduate school for rehabilitation counseling. I still want to work with the same population as we work with at Jobs of Hope. My ultimate goal in life is to get my Ph.D. or Psy.D. of psychology and do prison psychology.

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

At Jobs of Hope, we recognize that mental health and incarceration are deeply intertwined—according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 44% of people incarcerated in jails and 37% of people incarcerated in state and federal prisons have experienced mental illness at some point. Although many people experience mental illness prior to incarceration, the traumas of incarceration can also impact on a person's mental health due to isolation, dehumanization, and poor living conditions. The negative impact on a person's mental health often remains long after a person has reentered the community.

During this Mental Health Awareness Month, we ask that you pray with us for the men in our program who struggle with their mental health as a result of incarceration, traumatic experiences, and other factors.

Want to read more about the relationship between incarceration and mental health? Visit <https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Policy-Priorities/Improving-Health/Mental-Health-Treatment-While-Incarcerated> or <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2021/05/13/mentalhealthimpacts/> to get started learning today.

## Prayer Points

- We thank you for bringing Jason to Jobs of Hope and we pray that you will guide him as he continues on in his professional and educational journey.
- We pray that you will provide hope and healing for the participants in our program who struggle with their mental health.
- We pray that you will help all of us—staff members, program participants, and supporters of Jobs of Hope—to practice patience in every situation, trusting that you are in control of everything.

## Become a Monthly Partner

We ask you to consider supporting us financially so that we can continue to provide life-transforming services for Jobs of Hope participants. If you would like to donate, please visit [www.jobsofhope.org](http://www.jobsofhope.org), or scan the QR code below.

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