

Loving & Ministering to the Antelope Valley ... *in Jesus' Name*

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The following are current areas of need:

Cans of coffee

Cases of water

Cup of Noodles

Bibles & Gospel tracks

Packets of hot chocolate

Old blankets/jackets

Monetary donations for gas & supplies

Please call or text 661 305-3874 to make donation arrangements.

PO Box address is located at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you.

Psalm 10:17

You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry.



Pizza Party For Palmdale Students

It's hard to believe that the Palmdale High School Ministry is nearing the end of the school year. In September, AVHG volunteers began passing out free bottles of water and snacks to students walking home from school, once a week, as a way of demonstrating to them that they matter – and that they're important.

Additionally, students

are offered prayer while praise & worship music blasts in the background from an IPOD. "It's overwhelming the requests these students share," Pastor Sandy expresses. "They desire prayer for family reunification and restoration".

On Wednesday, May 23rd students walking

down Ave R past 26th St East will be treated to an end of the year pizza party. A youth worship band is scheduled to play live praise & worship music and local Youth Pastor Bryan Hawkins will share the Gospel. "God put this idea in our hearts. We're going to do it and stand back to watch what He does," says Sandy. "Jesus loves the youth,"

Sixteen Year Old Girl Serves As Missionary

Seth and Sandy had the joy of hosting AVHG's first "missionary" this month. For an entire week, a sixteen year old gal named Kathy came to stay at their home and served both up front – and behind the scenes with the mobile ministry. Seth and Sandy have been friends with Kathy, her parents and brother, Kenny (10) since Kathy was just 7 years old. "Kathy has been in love

with Jesus for as long as we can remember," says Sandy. "And she's always had a heart to serve." This Spring Break, rather than hit the beach and amusement park with her friends, Kathy felt led to spend her week off from school serving others as well as learning the ins and outs of running a ministry. Here are excerpts

from the message she shared at Light of the Desert, the night before she returned home to Orange County.

"I've gotten to participate in all of AVHG's ministries, like the Homeless, Metro Link, Palmdale High School, Senior Living and my favorite, the (Courson) Park Ministry. (See rest of story on back page)

This Month's Testimony



“Even our kids look at us like something strange has happened. And we tell them ‘What’s so weird about it?’ We have God in our lives now ”

Meet Kristy & Richard

Meet Kristy and Richard - This is the first time AVHG highlights a monthly testimony of *a couple*. Kristy and her boyfriend, Richard, first stopped by Courson Park in Palmdale ten months ago. They shared that they were looking for a resource for groceries and they came by the park, hopeful that the group in the RV could help.

After receiving their free groceries through the AVHG Food Ministry, Kristy and Richard were asked if they’d like prayer. Almost immediately they began to cry. Richard shared a bit about the struggles they’d been experiencing and was moved by the prayer extended to them. Kristy and Richard were told, “God has

plans for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,” (Jeremiah 29:11)

A few months later Kristy and Richard shared that the day after they received prayer for their lives, they both decided that it was time to take God up on His offer for a new life. Since that day, until present ... Kristy and Richard have faithfully attended recovery meetings daily and praise God for their 10 months of sobriety.

“We know we could not have done it without God. He is changing our lives”, says Kristy, who recently declared her commitment to Jesus Christ publicly by being baptized at Light of the Desert Church in Palmdale.

That night she shared from the pulpit, “If God can change my life, He can change your lives. Give Jesus a chance. I’m glad I did”.

Her boyfriend, Richard smiled and cried as he listened to her testimony. And Kristy’s church family rejoiced loudly as they were told that it was Kristy who led Richard to Christ one day last month after she returned home from her weekly Bible Study with them.

“We are making changes in our lives to live the way the Bible tells us we should,” explains Kristy. “Even our kids look at us like something strange has happened. And we tell them, “What’s so weird about it? We have God in our lives now.

Pray For The Vision To Come To Fruition – The Vine Refuge ³

Statistics show that the Lancaster State Prison holds a large percentage of inmates who were “emancipated” foster youth. Due to lack of support and preparation for life, these youth ended up committing crimes and being imprisoned. Prostitution, drug dealing and homelessness are also examples of the lifestyles these young adults choose because they find themselves lost, desperate and confused.

In response to the need to help these kids and young adults, a Lancaster resident is saying yes to God’s invitation to open a home where He intends to heal the brokenhearted.

The Vine Refuge will be a place for emancipated (aged-out) foster youth to find just that: a refuge. They will be and feel cared for and needed. They will learn values that will strengthen the character and allow them to make better choices for their future.

The Vine Refuge is the vision the Lord placed on Erica Gloria’s heart, a member of The Highlands Christian Fellowship and Celebrate Recovery Leader. By God’s grace, **The Vine Refuge** will be a faith based non-profit organization that will serve the emancipated foster youth in the AV. These young adults will have the opportunity to learn a trade, learn how to handle their finances, become aware of all this world has to offer them and best of all, learn and experience life the way God intended it to be; filled with hope, love, joy, gentle courage and a giving heart. “God is amazing,” says Erica. “He continues to confirm the vision He shared with me,” For information on this upcoming organization & facility, please contact Erica Gloria at 661 794-0205.

Using Oreos As An Evangelism Tool

“Met a young man at the Metro Link Station today. Loved his honesty because it got us talking straight out....

I offered him a pack of Oreos. He asked why I would give him something for free. I said, “Because Jesus loves you.” He said, “Well, I don’t really believe in Jesus, so it wouldn’t be right for me to accept something. I don’t want to take anything from Him.”

I couldn’t resist: I replied, “The next breath you’re about to take is from Him, did you know that?” He looked stunned. I got on a roll: Can you see me? Where’d you get your eyesight?” He smiled.

“Ohhhh ... He gave you a

great smile, I see.” He laughed. “And you can hear my voice, can’t you? You’re not “making” yourself hear, right?”

I was being playful and he was receiving. We both laughed. The he said, “It’s just, I’m not religious – so I don’t know if I should take it.”

I couldn’t help it. I said, “Dude, it’s a cookie; not communion.”

What fun I had hanging with that young man while we waited for his bus. He took the Oreos and even a bottle of water. We had a nice time chit chatting. Finally, he said, “You really just wanted to give me free cookies? Why?”

I said, “Same answer

dude. Jesus loves you. The cookies gave me the chance to tell you.”

When his bus came, he shook my hand and said, “Thanks for everything. Maybe I can appreciate Jesus more after today.”

My prayer for that guy is that God will reap a harvest from the seeds planted by the Spirit today.

And I’ll always think of him when I have Oreos.

What’s your favorite cookie or snack? Can you find someone with whom to share? And when they ask why you’re sharing, tell them ... “Because Jesus loves you.”

“I couldn’t help it. I said, ‘Dude, it’s a cookie; not communion’.”

Rev. Weinberg

Night Shift Homeless Ministry Update:



Palmdale Night Added To Schedule

A man in his early 50s walks up to the pulpit at the church where he recently began attending. He holds the mic in his hand as he looks out at the group of 50 + people. Then, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, the man shares how God has changed his life. “Two weeks ago I was drunk, like I’ve been for years and living out in the desert,” he says. “Tonight, I want to give glory to God for the nine days I’ve been sober,” he adds. “He is helping me get through each day and all of you have been a part of that help,” he adds. “I never want a drink again and I can’t believe the new start God has given to me,” he continues.

This man’s story of homelessness is common. He worked as a stable employee for many years within the aerospace industry. He’s educated and articulate. His social circle once included businessmen and women. The grip of alcohol robbed this man of the gifts God had given him – his job, home, car, etc... “Everyone has a story,” says Pastor Seth “And we just want people to know

that God has not forgotten about them.

With his new found sobriety, recommitment to Christ and passion to serve others, this man is now in the process of doing what he needs to in order to get back on his feet with some steady work and a place to call home. Additionally, he is becoming a part of a community with a new church family. “There are times in life when we all need a helping hand,” says Seth.

God is the God of mercy, grace and compassion. AVHG volunteers meet homeless men and women every Tuesday night and offer soup, blankets, toiletries and sleeping bags – items which are all generously donated by people who want to make a difference in someone’s life. The greatest thing offered is prayer. God is the One who makes the real difference.

AVHG volunteers travel together in an RV and alternate weekly between serving the homeless in Palmdale and Lancaster. For more information please call 661 305-3874.



No Longer Timid And Withdrawn

His voice can be heard across the patio as he loudly welcomes his pastors when they arrive in the RV at the park, "Hi Sandy!" "Hi Seth!" His enthusiasm is a reminder of God's goodness. Last summer this same man would not have said a word to anyone at the park. He was timid and withdrawn,

depressed and filled with anxiety over his joblessness. Today, he still has not found a job (though there's a great prospect we're all praying for) but the joy this man carries in his heart is contagious. God is bringing transformation in him as he serves others and learns more about God's love for him. This guy serves alongside Pastor Ken working on bikes for people in the

community. He attends Light of the Desert regularly, where he steps in to serve in anyway asked. His heart is filled with gratitude for what he has. Recently, he led everyone in prayer at the park. Once so shy – now he doesn't hesitate to give God glory publicly.

"His heart is filled with gratitude for what he has"

Testimony Tuesdays

On Tuesdays friends in the park are encouraged to share how God has blessed them and continues to make Himself real in their lives. Ceci, AVHG's disciple of hope and fellowship facilitator on Tuesdays at

Courson Park, shares how people step up to the mic to brag on God's goodness. "Sometimes there are many testimonies and sometimes just a few. But there is always someone who wants to share about Jesus," Ceci says.

Gratitude is an expression of God's goodness and we all want to nurture this attribute

daily. We do so by staying mindful of all that God does for us and simply Who He is. As long as people gather in the park on Tuesdays, the mic will be open for testimonies. The Spirit compels even the most timid people to boast about Jesus.

An AVHG friend blows a shofar in worship to the Lord during a Courson Park Fellowship time.



See our website at www.avhopeonthego.org for ministry days and times.

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Antelope Valley
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www.avhopeonthego.org

What is AV Hope on the Go?

A ministry of listening

A ministry of compassion

A ministry of hope



Teenage Girl Shares After Serving With AVHG

“I also got to help with buying groceries and supplies and delivering food to people in between the actual ministry times. And I helped with loading and unloading, loading and unloading and ... loading and unloading the RV with Seth and Sandy.”

“I’ve met so many people this week ... every single person I met and every outreach I participated with, blessed me in a special way.”

“My experience this week included positive things like seeing people change, get help & hope and praise the Lord. But it also included some sad moments – like when I was offered drugs. And when we were not able to help everyone. The neat part of those stories is that I got to see how God works.”

“My prayer was that God would use somebody to bless my life, which all of you did, and also that I would bless someone else’s life, which I hope I have accomplished.”

“One reason why I wanted to come out to the AV and serve with Seth and Sandy is because one day I hope to start a Hope on the Go in Santa Ana, where I live. Thank you all for making me feel so welcomed and for always, “keeping it real”!

Since returning home, Kathy has sensed the Spirit inviting her to start a ministry to serve those in need in Santa Ana and Fountain Valley. Please keep her in prayer, as the Lord guides and confirms the vision He’s set in her heart. What He intends to do, He accomplishes.

