

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

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AVHG is grateful for the donations of food, supplies, clothing, monetary gifts & volunteer hours which have impacted hundreds of lives.

The following are current areas of need:

Cans of coffee

Cases of water

Bibles & Gospel tracks

Monetary donations for gas & supplies

Thank you for your faithful prayers & volunteer hours. This is a continual & critical need as we serve the Lord & the Antelope Valley together.

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.



Baptisms in the Park

Jesus Himself said, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matt.28:19) If Jesus said it, then it must be important! *And* Jesus Himself was baptized! (Mark 1:9)

The AVHG park community at Courson Park in E. Palmdale came together last month to witness and

celebrate the baptisms of two friends who said they wished to be baptized as a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ who is their Lord and Savior.

Christian baptism is a public expression of what happens spiritually to the believer in Jesus once he accepts Him as Lord. The old self has died, been buried and the new self is

resurrected with Jesus, (Coloss. 2:12, (2 Corin. 5:17) All who profess Jesus as Lord are instructed to be baptized. "Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized."(Acts 2:41) Since this day 3 others have said, "I'm next." We praise God for friendship evangelism, commitments made to Christ, baptisms & the discipleship which is happening in local churches!





*“When God asks
you to do
something, you
do it!”*

This Month's Testimony

Meet Linda. Linda became a friend of AVHG five months ago. She lives in the neighborhood near Courson Park and strolls on over with her buddy Carol (another beautiful AVHG disciple of hope) and her grand daughter, Shawnquell, when she is visiting.

Linda explains that she's lived in the area for about a year. She enjoys cooking and spending time with her neighbor Carol. But when Carol returned to school earlier this year, she found herself bored at home. “This ministry brought me out of the house and into the community,” Linda shares.

Linda's love for God and people inspired her to become an AVHG disciple of

hope, herself. When she serves others she knows that it is as if she is serving Jesus, Himself.

Linda is a faithful helper with the food & clothing ministries at Courson Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Whether it's bagging donated food or hanging up donated clothes for others to look through and select, Linda serves with joy and patience.

Linda has learned to give and receive in the name of Jesus, since becoming part of the AVHG faith community. When her brother died a couple of months ago, friends in the park took up a monetary collection for Linda. “The expression of love and concern for a hurting friend is what

we witnessed,” says Sandy. “Linda is highly respected and the Lord has given her great influence as she ministers to others,” Sandy added.

Last month Linda attended the first staff meeting for Light of the Desert Church where she serves as a greeter and secretary. When we are faithful with little, God gives us more, all for His glory. She attends Desert Winds Community on Sundays, as well.

Linda is a beautiful example of how lives become fulfilled and complete when we remain open to God's leading and respond to His call. “When God asks you to do something, you do it!” she says with a smile. “And you do it in love,” she adds.

Hair Cut Ministry Blesses Stylists Too

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Cherie from Desert Winds Community Church is contagious! Her heart for service is contagious, that is! Inspired by the Lord to bring her hair salon talent to the AVHG park community one day, Cherie came with scissors in hand and began giving free hair cuts. It wasn't long after that when Linda from The Bridge Church joined her, as well as Linda's daughter Lainie. Men, women, boys & girls are blessed each Thursday with hair cuts! Men get mustaches and goatees trimmed! It's a beautiful ministry that serves the community well. Meanwhile, friendships are developing and all three hair stylist have shared that they are the *recipients* of God's blessings.

Cherie shares, "I first heard of AVHG through a friend. I read on Facebook that a lady was trying to think of what she could bring to help. She had extra chicken so she brought it and offered it. I knew I wanted to come to offer what I could too! Funny to be inspired by a lady I don't even know bringing something so practical. Everyone is part of this ministry, all are so welcoming and God is working!" Linda shares, "I feel so blessed to be a part of this ministry! It's more than what I expected!"



Elevate Is Coming Soon!
August 12th 5-10 pm
Get Ready To Get Wet!!

Save the date: Friday, Aug. 12th from 5-10 pm on the campus of Westside Christian School. An evening of FREE summertime fun for everyone with a wipe out slide, velcro wall, bouncer & other interactive games! Games at booths & in the video game room will also be FREE! For more info about Elevate, contact Pastor Joe @ The Bridge Church at 661/ 703-9825.

ELEVATE
PRESS ONWARD.
Phil. 3:14

Worship Pastor Has Neighbors Singing With Joy Over Fixed Bikes



Pastor Ken began hanging out with the AVHG park community earlier this year and it wasn't long before he saw and heard for himself that many of the neighbors used bicycles as their only form of transportation. If their bikes broke down, they were left having to walk. The Lord inspired the worship pastor from Desert Winds Community Church to bring some tools and help people in a practical way by repairing their bikes.

Now, months later, Pastor Ken's faithfulness to the few who showed up with their broken bikes has opened the door for the Lord's favor on this special ministry. Adults & children alike are blessed with free bike repairs and sometimes trade-ins for their unfixable bikes.

Assistants have stepped up to help with the workload. Dozens of bikes & parts have been donated thus far. And most importantly ... relationships are being established while seeds about Jesus are planted.

A guy in his 30's attended DWCC for the first time this past Sunday. "For a complete stranger to give me a bike in exchange for

my old one; I was like, wow," he said. "I didn't believe him at first when he said he would bring me another bike. But he did! No one has ever done anything like that for me before," the guy added. "So when he invited me to his church, I said, 'OK'". When asked if he will return to DWCC, the guy said, "You know it!"

The beauty of this bike ministry is that it's not about the bikes. It's about the people who ride them - seeing Jesus, in action; caring for things that are important to them.

If you would like to be a part of this awesome ministry of God's please contact Pastor Ken at DWCC at 661/266-3400.

And please consider giving to the bike ministry any the following items: WalMart gift cards (for tires, tubes, helmets, cables, etc....) boys' & girls' helmets (*new*) 20", 24" & 26" tires, tubes & rim strips. New & used bikes to repair and give away. Thank you!





Baptisms Stir The Hearts of Young Adults

A young man steps into the RV minutes before the baptisms are to start. He confesses his attempt to commit suicide. He hangs his head in shame. “Come outside & hear the message & listen to people share why they want to get baptized,” he’s told while being

hugged. After the baptism the same young man asks for a Bible & prayer. He wants to learn more about this *Jesus*. (He is now an AVHG regular.) Another young man walks up with tears in his eyes. “I’ve been in prison but God owns my life now. I want to help kids stay away from gangs & drugs.” He’s

invited to Light of the Desert where he can be a witness & mentor to youth. “Really?” he asks. “Yes. Really.” A young woman runs up, “Sister Sandy, I want God to use me too!” A week later another young man shares, “I want to get baptized!” All glory & honor to our Lord!

Misses Train To Go On Ride With God

The woman admits that she initially declined the free bottle of water offered to her because there are a lot of weirdo’s in the world and “you never know”, she explains. “But I watched you all give out bottles and pray with people and I said to myself, ‘I’m gonna

get me a bottle too.’” Soon a free bottle of water leads to prayer for the woman and her mother whose health is ailing. As the woman and an AVHG disciple of hope pray together, the train pulls in. But she’s not ready to leave. She desires more prayer; more

time to share her story. So as the train leaves, the two women continue to talk & pray. While being driven home in the RV, the woman receives a new Bible. She is smiling. “I can’t believe God waited for me to come back to Him,” she says. “I’ve been wanting to for so long.”

Testimony Tuesdays!

Last month after seven days of prayer walks around Courson Park, the Lord invited the AVHG community to set aside a time for anyone to share what He is doing in and through them. Thus began, *Testimony*

Tuesdays in the park. One at a time, in English and Spanish, AVHG friends in the park take the microphone to share of God’s goodness and how He’s making Himself known to them in their lives

right now. Everyone rejoices together! Their testimonies prompt new friends to ask for prayer. There is no agenda: the Spirit directs the day’s events as He establishes His people as they praise His name! (Psalms 135)

“... there are a lot of weirdo’s in the world and ‘you never know’”

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What is AV Hope on the Go?

A ministry of *listening*

A ministry of *compassion*

A ministry of *hope*

Light of the Desert – Inaugural Celebration



On Sat. July 30th friends & family filled the tiny church in E. Palmdale which has the Star of David on top, to worship the Lord & celebrate His call to open Light of the Desert church. Seth & Sandy were anointed & prayed over by the Spanish pastors who serve at

Centro Cristiano Luz del Desierto church. The corporate prayer is for the Holy Spirit to come & lift up the name of Jesus: in our churches, in our hearts, in our homes, in the Antelope Valley & *everywhere* we go! “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done” is the

prayer by which we wish to live! The Spirit moved, spoke & touched hearts. He will do it again & again for this is God’s will! Join Seth & Sandy & the AVHG community of friends every Sat. night at 6 pm for worship service & 7 pm for fellowship.

Water Bottle Drive A Success!

Many thanks to all of you who donated cases(s) of water bottles to be distributed throughout the AV in June & July! May the Lord bless you for your faithfulness to His Kingdom!

