

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

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Psalm 10:17

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



AVHG First Year Anniversary

As written in Sandy's journal in January, 2011. "One morning in October after a time of devotions and prayer, I asked Seth what he would like to see us doing someday. He said, "Wouldn't it be cool if we had an RV and drove around the AV? I'd drive it and you could share the Gospel, telling people about Jesus." Jokingly I added, "And we can paint "Jesus loves you" along the

side of the RV." Just as the words spilled from my mouth, I wanted to rewind and slurp them back in. I hated living in the AV. Why in the world would I want to drive around this town in an RV that said, "Jesus loves you"? The Word of God tells us that God's ways are not our ways and little did we know that He was up to something bigger than we could ever imagine."

God birthed His ministry in Seth & Sandy's hearts & created within them a love for the people of the AV. They praise Him for the courage & humility He's given them to accept the call. They thank Him for those who have supported the vision and prayed. They commit to continue on until He says differently.

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

Beanies/hats/gloves

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.

Paypal Account Is Set Up

God's timing is perfect. Just as AVHG approached its first year anniversary, notification was received that Antelope Valley Hope on the Go is an established and legally standing church/religious organization with non-profit status filing in progress. A tax ID number has been provided and financial contributions are now tax deductible. Beginning January 2012, receipts and a statement of your financial contributions will be sent annually, unless requested otherwise. A PayPal account has been set up at www.avhopeonthego.org Our mailing address is on the back of this newsletter. Thank you.



This Month's Testimony



"I'll never forget how special I felt when someone helped me when I was homeless."

Meet Carol

Meet Carol. This dear woman is filled with the joy of the Lord and has a passion for the Night Shift Homeless Ministry. At 60+ years old, she has more spunk than most people half her age.

Carol first came to the park fellowship time back in the spring of 2011. She lives in the community and came by after a neighbor invited her over. "I've been hooked ever since," Carol says loudly. She's another park friend who testifies that God has been good to her and it's time she gives back to her community.

Carol shares her story as often as people will give her opportunity. She's not ashamed to talk about the 15 years she spent living on the street, addicted

to alcohol and drugs. "I lost a lot of time out there on the streets, but God is giving me the years back," she explains.

When Light of the Desert Church opened in July 2011, Carol announced proudly at the park, "I want to be the first person baptized at the new church!" And that she was! She shared with the church that night how God delivered her from the grip of addictions and restored her life and relationships. "And if God can do that for me, then He can do that for you!" she said to the sound of much applause from her church family. "Praise God for the hard times because He is always with you and He will see you through to the other side if you have faith and believe," she

adds.

Carol recently celebrated her 16th year clean and sober. She has been enrolled in school for over a year and inspires people at the park, at bus stops and at church. "I tell these young kids, 'stay in school'. If I can do it, you can do it."

Carol is the Mission & Outreach Leader at Light of the Desert Church. Each week she & others share updates and requests for the Night Shift Homeless Ministry. "I'll never forget how special I felt when someone helped me when I was homeless. I want others to know they're not alone and people care." She admits she's not perfect and asks God to help her in her ways. Carol inspires just by being herself.

One Year Anniversary Reflections; Pastor Seth & Rev Sandy³

From Sandy's journal dated January 9, 2011: *As Pastor Ken (Hart, Highlands Christian Fellowship, Palmdale) closed today's service I sat in my seat thinking, "Lord, I don't know what it means, I don't know what it will look like, I don't know when. But I know that you've been preparing us and we want to go, Lord. Use us to bring the Good News and your love to the people of the Antelope Valley."*

It's amazing to read these words and reflect on all that God has done in the one year since He began AV Hope on the Go. Has it been scary at times? Absolutely. Were we intimidated in the beginning? Definitely. Have we been challenged and frustrated at times? Undoubtedly. Did we make mistakes along the way? You bet! But God has been faithful to provide, equip and lead, just as He promised He would. I

Request For Prayer For Wisdom & Discernment

"... we are prayerful and active in identifying leaders who are "full of faith and the Holy Spirit" to whom some of the responsibilities can be delegated."

When we think of the early Church and the rapid spread of the Gospel throughout Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and beyond, it may be easy to romanticize and imagine a smooth operation without struggles or challenges.

But we are reminded in Acts 6 that challenges existed then, just as they do now. Read these words Luke recorded in the beginning of Acts:

"But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. Those who spoke Greek complained against those who spoke Hebrew, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food."

Even while God's work was being done

never would have imagined that within one year He would have me ordained as a Reverend, lead Seth and I to Pastor a church and have us witness up close and personal how He showers His love on the people of the AV. The friendships and relationships God has given us through this ministry is nothing less than His provision and blessing to meet our relational & emotional needs. The miracles of restored hope, reconciled relationships, decisions for Christ, baptisms, discipleship, freedom from addictions and physical healings always result in glory to God. We stand in awe, alongside the many volunteers who have responded to God's invitation to participate in what He is doing through AVHG. What a privilege it is to serve our awesome God.

successfully, cries of discrimination and injustice were heard from among the people. Cultural tension, diversity in backgrounds and different economic statuses were the underlying reasons for the conflicts and accusations of favoritism. Fear and insecurity arose.

Over the last year since AVHG has facilitated fellowship in the park times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the Spirit has moved to turn hearts back to God. Testimonies of first time commitments and rededications to Christ have been shared. Baptisms and church attendance demonstrate the transformation that God continues to do in His children.

Likewise, just as with the early Church, challenges arise which usually stem from cultural tension and the diversity of the people. Similarly, as the number of people who gather grows, so do logistical and administrative demands.

Following the apostles' lead in Acts 6:2-4 we are prayerful and active in identifying leaders who are "full of faith and the Holy Spirit" to whom some of the responsibilities can be delegated. In this way we can be free to "give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:4)

Won't you join us in prayer for discernment, wisdom & guidance as we continue to lead & build up God's people?

Night Shift Homeless Ministry Update:



The response to the Night Shift Homeless Ministry has been overwhelming. Every Tuesday night no fewer than 15 volunteers board the RV and head out to homeless camps in Lancaster. “These people can be doing anything else on a Tuesday night and they choose to go out into the dark cold night to bless other people,” explains Seth. “Each week is confirmation that we heard God’s direction clearly to start a night shift ministry to the homeless in the AV,” he adds.

A regular volunteer recently nicknamed the group, “*Fireflies of Hope*,” because that’s what it looks like from afar to see the volunteers holding their flashlights while they walk through homeless camps in search of people to whom they can offer hot cup of noodle soup, hot cocoa, toiletries, snacks,

jackets, blankets, beanies, gloves and of course, prayer. “It’s awesome when we pray for them and they pray for us,” says Danny, another volunteer who was once homeless for a time. “I love what we’re doing, man, because it gives hope and that will lead to change,” he adds.

Each week *The Fireflies of Hope* minister to a minimum of 2-3 dozen men & women who sleep on sidewalks and in fields in Lancaster. “Serving with dignity & respect is emphasized,” explains Sandy. “No one should be made to feel like a charity case. We remind volunteers to exchange names and spend time getting to know their new friends who are no longer simply statistics,” And they do. If you would like to donate items, make a financial contribution or go on an AVHG Night Shift, please contact us at 661 305-3874.



“... there is no shame when we fail; it’s an invitation by God to choose Him.”

Never Too Late To Stop Running

Nearly a year ago a man in his late 60’s strolled into the park fellowship area. He lives in the neighborhood and was looking for somewhere to pass time. His wife had passed away a year earlier and his church had recently relocated an hour away. It was apparent that he was

lonely and missing his beloved wife. Each week, all year, as the music played, people prayed and he made new friendships, this man’s hope and zest for life recharged. It wasn’t long before the words, “Praise God” were on his smiling lips all the time. When

Light of the Desert opened, he quickly rose to being a church leader. “All my life I knew God was calling me to minister and I ran. I’m done running,” he shares. Now, in the park, he is the one you will find with the mic in hand, sharing & leading others in prayer.

Choosing Again

Eight months ago a single mom sat off in the distance at the park by herself. She was crying. When offered a bottle of water she tells of losing her children into the foster care system. “I made a mistake but I will do everything I am

supposed to, to get my kids back,” she cried. Over the month’s she’s encouraged, prayed for and becomes a part of the park fellowship group. She is consistently reminded that there is no shame when we fail; it’s an

invitation by God to choose Him. She stays the course with her requirements to be reunified with her children. On Christmas Eve she steps into church for the first time and accepts Jesus as Her Savior. Recently, on her baptism night she shares, “Jesus changed my life.”

Do You Remember Me?

A middle-aged hispanic man walks over to Sandy with a huge smile. “Do you remember me?” he asks. Instantly God brings to mind not only this man’s name but the moment in which they met at the Metro Link Station nearly a year ago. “Of course I remember

you,” she says, shocking the man by stating his name. He says he heard that she and Seth were at the park and wanted to stop by to say hello. As they talk over a cup of coffee the man explains that he has two weeks off of work until the New Year.

He ends up returning both weeks to the park, twice each week. During his final visit he says he’s enjoyed himself and made some new friends. He adds, “Thank you for praying for me that day at the train station. I didn’t tell you then, but I really needed it.” Praise God.

AV Hope on the Go

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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



RV Has a New Name ~ And Look

The hope-mobile made a grand appearance on the streets of the Antelope Valley last month with the words “Jesus Loves You!” written across both sides and the AVHG logo on the back end. “Everywhere we drive now people honk and wave so I honk and wave back,” says Seth, who is the solo driver of the donated 35 ft RV. “Even the cops honk and wave and I especially like that,” he adds.

naming the RV “Miracle” in honor of how God answered a very specific prayer to confirm a mobile ministry was what Seth and Sandy were to start. (See related story, The Miracle of the RV at www.avhopeonthego.org)

And so, the hope-mobile has a new look and name, *Miracle*, as she enters into her second year of ministry with AVHG.

of the RV was something Sandy wanted for a long time. “I imagine someone having a bad day or feeling discouraged when suddenly they look up to see in gigantic letters, the Truth, that Jesus loves them! There is power in the name of Jesus and when the Spirit reveals to someone that they are loved by Him; wow!”

A special thank you to our friend, Earl, who donated his time and materials to bring this message to the AV. No one can miss us coming

An AVHG supporter and friend recently suggested

Having the words, “Jesus Loves You!” on the sides

now. Don’t forget to honk & wave.

