

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

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### Current things we need:

Cases of WATER

Cup of Noodles

Socks, toilet paper & sunscreen for homeless men & women

Sleeping bags

Monetary donations for gas for the RV & supplies



*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."  
Isaiah 43:20*

Psalm 10:17

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



## Palmdale Students Served With Love

Last month about 100 Palmdale High School students enjoyed an end of the school year pizza party at Christ's Church of the Valley on Ave R. As students walked home from school they were invited to stop by for free pizza, hot dogs and drinks, provided and served with love by the Salvation Army.

While students ate and hung out on the lawn, high school seniors, Sarah & Kevin from

The Highlands Christian Fellowship played praise & worship music. Toward the end of the outreach event, youth pastor Bryan from Desert Winds Community Church shared his testimony about the love Jesus has for youth.

At least a dozen AVHG volunteers from various

churches throughout the Antelope Valley made themselves available this day to pray with students and share encouraging words with them.

We're all prayerful that the seeds of God's love planted in the hearts of these dear students all year, will grow into a great harvest for the Kingdom.

## Summer Ministry Schedule Update

Summertime looks a lot different in the AV than other times of year. And so does AVHG. We're on the go as God leads and there are some new and exciting ministries taking shape.

The Tuesday Night Shift Homeless Ministry has a whole new look and feel. (See story on page 4.)

The Metro Link Ministry has moved to Mondays at 5:30 p.m. We all know how Mondays can be. So what a great day & time to hand someone a free bottle of water and remind them that Jesus has their week covered.

A new ministry location sprang up: "47<sup>th</sup> St. Fellowship in Palmdale".

The RV makes a stop at 47<sup>th</sup> St E and Ave S. in the old Albertson's parking lot. Free bottles of water, food, music, fellowship & prayer is available on Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9 p.m. Check out [www.avhopeonthego.org](http://www.avhopeonthego.org) for more details.

## This Month's Testimony



*"God will lead you in a different direction if you're open to changing your life for Him. He makes things right. It's a better way to live."*

### Meet Earnest

Meet Earnest. We've known him for a few months and we're honored to call him friend and fellow disciple of hope. Pastor Sandy recalls the day she met Earnest in the RV. "After talking a bit and praying together, Earnest said he was ready to put God first in his life again," she recalls. "He said he'd been asking God to show him how to get back on track with Him and realized that God had already made a way – he just had to respond".

Recently Earnest was asked to describe how He sees God moving in his life. He shared, "I was out of touch with a faith community. Since I met you all, I've been reminded that God wants a relationship with me. He's helping

me turn away from worldly things. I thank God that I'm spending time in the Word. And the Holy Spirit convicts me and helps me change things I need to change". Earnest says he was once isolated but now has a growing group of friends he's met through AVHG and Light of the Desert. "God's made me want to learn to love my neighbor and be a good example of Him," he explains.

And Earnest is living - one day at a time – learning to emulate his Savior Jesus Christ. He serves alongside other volunteers with AVHG. He's an active volunteer with the Night Shift Homeless Ministry and recently co-facilitated the

Tuesday morning Fellowship in the Park with others within his community. "I want people to know that when things look bad, they can pray and hang in there. God will lead you in a different direction if you're open to changing your life for Him. He makes things right. It's a better way to live".

Earnest participates in classes & group discussions weekly at the Discovery Center in Lancaster. While in prison a few years back he took the Purpose Driven Life class. No doubt, God is taking all of his life experiences and his willingness to be used by God to share hope with others, and leading Earnest into the purpose God has intended for him all along.

## Got Water? AVHG Could Use Some This Summer

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AVHG disciples of hope, volunteers, pass out cold bottles of water to people at bus stops, Metro Link stations, parking lots, fields, etc.... Countless testimonies have been shared over the last year and a half since AVHG began doing this, by people who have had encounters with God, through prayer, revelation or by having seeds of hope planted. "People don't cry when they're offered the water. They often cry when they're told, 'Jesus loves you' as they're handed the bottle," Pastor Sandy explains. "We intentionally seek out God-ordained moments when people's hearts are ready to receive."

You can be part of making this happen. If everyone who reads this newsletter donates one case of water (\$2.99 - \$4.99), the disciples of hope will be equipped out here in the desert with an awesome evangelism tool. Remember the first time you truly heard those words; Jesus loves you? Please be part of sharing the message with others. Thank you.



### Metro Link Moment ~

*"The world desires to shame us and keep us dressed in the mistakes of our past. But Jesus removes our shame and offers forgiveness if we repent."*

Rev. Weinberg

Met a young man at the Metro Link Station when I offered him a free bottle of water. He had been released from jail in Lancaster and was waiting for the train so he could get downtown to where his ID, ATM card and other personal belongings were sent after his arrest.

He was wearing the jumpsuit given in jail. It appeared to be made out of paper, more than cloth. I asked the young man why he was still wearing the jumpsuit. He explained that he was permitted a free ride to LA on the Metro Link, as long as he wore the jumpsuit. These were the terms he was given upon his release. As he shared the set-up of having to stay dressed like a convict in order to

receive assistance to move forward after his arrest, I thought of how the world's conditions to offer help when we need it, is so different than God's.

Reminded me of when the religious leaders saw that Jesus considered healing someone with a crippled hand on the Sabbath. (Mark 3:1-6) They threw a fit! How dare Jesus heal on the Sabbath! They wanted Jesus to operate on 'their' terms. But this was not to be the case. To counter their "religious laws" Jesus showed compassion toward the man and healed his hand.

Just a few hours before meeting our new Metro

Link friend, someone had donated men's clothing. Within a few minutes, the man whom the world released in only a jumpsuit and underwear (no shoes) was dressed in jeans, a t-shirt, tennis shoes, a jacket and baseball hat. Everything fit him as if he bought them for himself. He was given the train fare to get to LA.

Before he left the RV I explained that the world desires to shame us and keep us dressed in the mistakes of our past. But Jesus removes our shame and offers forgiveness if we repent. As we prayed, he wept. No doubt the Spirit has continued talking with the young man long after the RV drove off.

## Night Shift Homeless Ministry Update:

## Summertime Changes To Night Shift



Tuesday nights in the summer look different than Tuesday nights in the winter when AVHG volunteers would walk from field to field, seeking out homeless people, in order to offer hot soup, toiletries, sleeping bags, blankets, etc....

About 7:30 p.m. the RV pulls up in front of a field near the shelter in Lancaster, filled with 10-12 volunteers who come from various churches in the AV. When we arrive, dozens of homeless people are waiting for us.

Those who are homeless know we are there for them - and they quickly become participants by helping to set up tables and chairs that are unloaded out of the RV. Praise and worship music is turned on and can be heard for two blocks. Food and drinks are unloaded from the RV. Someone prays a blessing over the meal and fellowship time - and then we eat!

Volunteers are encouraged to sit and get to know people: Not to interrogate them, not to preach at them ... but to sit with them, simply allowing the Holy Spirit to direct the conversations.

Volunteers share how they discover the commonalities between themselves and people who are homeless

One woman recently shared, "I was afraid I wouldn't know what to say. But I realized the woman I was with just needed someone to listen to *her*".

A short message on the Hope found in Jesus is shared. People share their testimonies of how God is showing Himself to them. Whatever the Holy Spirit prompts. There's never a night without small group prayer.

Toiletries, blankets, snacks and water are distributed freely to anyone who needs these items.

Many of us enjoy times of fellowship in our backyards when we have friends or family over. Now we get to expand our relationships and do the same thing in the desert with our homeless friends.

If you'd like to donate items or join us at our fellowship in the desert, please contact us @ [www.avhopeonthego.org](http://www.avhopeonthego.org) Facebook or call 661 305-3874. Thank you.



## Fellowship In The Desert: Blessings All Around

AVHG volunteers hand out hot food like pizza and burritos to homeless friends during the Tuesday Night Shift Homeless Ministry. But they know the people don't come simply for the food. "Their faces light up when they see us," says Chelsie, a

long time "Firefly of Hope (volunteer). "It's so cool to see their gratitude and smiles. And no matter how terrible a day I've had, when I come here I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit," she adds. "They all give me hope!" Her friend, Daylynn, who recently began volunteering on Tuesday nights shares Chelsie's

sentiments. "I was intimidated at first but once I started coming I realized how powerful fellowship can be." Every volunteer says the same: they're being blessed while being a blessing. Prayer circles continue & testimonies abound! "The church has left the building."

## Making Friends At Aurora Village II in Lancaster

AVHG volunteers meet at Aurora Village II in Lancaster every Tuesday morning and are greeted by friends they've made over the months. "The donuts brought people over to us initially", explains

Pastor Seth, but the growing friendships are what keep us all together" he adds.

"I love the folks at Aurora Village! Just a little of our time means so much to some of them who believe that the "outside world" has forgotten about them", says Judy, a Tuesday morning volunteer. And because of the genuine

relationships she's developed here, when Judy invited some to an outreach event at Shepherd of the Hills, Lancaster, they accepted. AVHG volunteers don't go in preaching. They go in loving. The Spirit births the friendships and God is glorified.

*"AVHG volunteers don't go in preaching. They go in loving."*



## AV Hope on the Go

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### What is AV Hope on the Go?

A ministry of listening

A ministry of compassion

A ministry of hope



## Meet The AVHG Board of Directors

Throughout the last year and a half as AV Hope on the Go has been “on the go”, God has been revealing to Seth and Sandy whom He has selected to be the Board of Directors for His ministry. And over the months, God has affirmed that great faith in the unseen works of God is required so they will recognize & believe that God will do the impossible if we all move out of the way and allow Him.

Pastor Sandy explains: “When the Centurion went to Jesus for a healing miracle for his servant, Jesus was so “amazed” by the

man’s faith that he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel”. (Luke 7:6-9)

“As we’ve engaged with, ministered alongside and developed relationships with so many wonderful people, God made it clear at different times “This person before you has faith that marvels even Me”” says Sandy. Each one was asked to be part of the Board and each one humbly accepted.

Last month AVHG had it’s first Board meeting. Seth & Sandy praise the Lord for His faithfulness. They’re honored to serve these men and women as they learn and grow together, doing the work God has called them all to do.

They are: Kathy Almanza, Harbor Trinity Church, 16 year old high school student.

Cherie Angebrandt, Desert Winds Community Church

Ceci Dickens, Olive Branch Christian Church

Robert Brady, Desert Winds Community Church & Light of the Desert.

Linda Kaizer, Light of the Desert, Church Secretary

William Pappas, Light of the Desert “Mayor of Courson Park”

Together, Seth, Sandy & the Board of Directors commit to serve as Jesus served and move empowered by the Holy Spirit.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will go with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9