

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

What is Hope on the Go?

A Ministry of Listening

A Ministry of Compassion

A Ministry of Hope

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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.



Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

AV Hope on the Go and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce connected on Facebook. A message was sent to Able Sierra, CEO of the Chamber, to thank him for his civic leadership and to tell him that he is being prayed for regularly, as are all of the AV civic leaders. Sierra responded by inviting the Weinberg's

in for a meeting. God led AVHG to a leader who sees the value of ministries and businesses partnering in an effort to benefit the community at large. Hispanics make up 54.4 % of the population in Palmdale and nearly 40% in Lancaster. These numbers are increasing and AVHG

is now a member of the AV Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Business owners are distressed over economic conditions. What better way to remind them that God is greater than the economy than to develop relationships? AVHG is hosting the June Chamber Mixer. Friendships abound!

Responding to Meth and Miracles

Every week we meet men and women of all ages who struggle with the temptation of drugs and alcohol. Most of these folks have spent time in prison and are fearful of returning. No one wakes up and simply declares, "*Today, I will no longer be a drug addict.*" If only it were that easy. The

Lord has shown us that most of these people do not have support systems. Generational cycles of drug and alcohol abuse leave people feeling trapped and scared. They've been told they will never amount to anything. They're expected to fail by their families and by society.

Should the burden be on those who have been conditioned to think they are "losers" to figure out a way to succeed in life on their own? Or can we as the Church see this as an opportunity to step in and say, "I believe in you. God has plans for you. He loves you." (continue on page 3)



"... ever since he was a little boy Jose prayed for God to use him to tell other people about Jesus."

This Month's Testimony

Meet Jose. We met him in January when he stopped by for a cup of coffee with his mother. Jose is 37 years old and quite special. He lives with his parents and has the simplicity and faith of a child. When we met Jose he was shy - almost timid. His mother said that his days were usually spent with her or at home watching TV. Jose loves the Dodgers and playing lottery. "One day I am going to win \$14 million and build a church for God," he says often. Jose loves the Lord and has been a faithful member of Lancaster Baptist with his family for years.

Jose's mother explained that ever since he was a little boy Jose prayed for God to use him to tell

other people about Jesus.

The Lord has indeed answered Jose's prayers. His heart for evangelism has been transformed into a faithful call to ministry. Three days a week Jose serves as a disciple of hope with AVHG. With a quiet and humble servant's heart, Jose loads and unloads folding tables and chairs from the RV. He walks through the parks and hands out bottles of water which have Bible verses on them. He packs and distributes boxes of food at a local church for people in the community. He prays with and for people who join us at the parks.

Jose's faith and prayer discipline

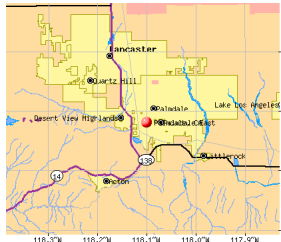
inspire us. He keeps us focused on why we do what we do: "Tell the people they need Jesus. They need to know," he says each day, as if giving the charge for the first time.

On Easter Sunday after church service, Jose joined a group of his new friends at the park for food and fellowship. We praise God that He's allowed us to witness the changes in this man's life. Jose's mother said her son now has a community of friends, a role in ministry and a fulfilled life. She said when he comes home from the park he prays for all the people he met. And now Jose will tell you, "I watch the Dodgers on my day off".

In response to what we have been shown by the Lord, AVHG is led to offer mobile recovery support groups throughout the Antelope Valley which will be called Meth & Miracles. The RV will be used to bring recovery meetings to people who desire sobriety and a community of support but who are unable to get to a meeting elsewhere. Seth explains, “Most people we minister to at parks don’t have transportation. It’s not practical to think that a homeless guy or a single mom will use his or her last \$5 to take a bus to get to an AA meeting across town,” But this is not to say

help and support for their addictions and dependencies are not desired. If you share this vision for Meth & Miracles, mobile recovery groups in the AV and feel led to lead a group for one hour a week, please contact Seth to make arrangements. AVHG will accommodate your schedule and provide the RV, coffee & literature. Finding participants will not be a problem. We’re prayerful God will bring group leaders who will be disciples of hope in this real and practical way for those who desperately need to know that God desires to set them free from the bondage of drugs and alcohol.

On The Go ... To A Second Location



AVHG is on the go to a new location: McAdam Park in Palmdale on R and 30th St East. On Wednesdays from 10 am – 12 pm, AVHG volunteers set up picnic style with the expectation that God will duplicate what He’s doing at Courson Park. And He has proven faithful. New relationships are being established each

week at McAdam Park.

On the first day we met a gentleman who was admittedly depressed and discouraged. He is recently divorced, a single dad raising a teenage daughter, laid off and struggling financially. “I’ve never been in this position in my life. I’ve always worked and provided for my family,” he shared. “The hardest part is the depression,” he said fighting back tears.

This man shared his story while he ate two breakfast burritos and drank a cup of coffee. A half hour later we prayed together.

This was literally three weeks ago. Since then, he’s become an AVHG friend. Our friend is getting by doing some work as a gardener. He’s getting food from the local church he now attends. He meets us two or three times a week for breakfast burritos and prayer. In other words, he has hope.

Partners In Hope



The Bridge Church

Pastor Joe and the team at The Bridge live their motto: Bridging people with Jesus. This recent church plant at Desert Winds Community Church in Palmdale is a faithful partner of AVHG. “We don’t have a mission “team” because we believe that we are *all* called to do outreach,” said Kirsten Grau during her recent ministry

time at the park alongside AVHG. Prayers and support from The Bridge are faithful and encouraging. Their passion is outreach & Jesus. They bridge their community with Jesus in the following ways: Bible studies for men, women, couples & young adults. Saturday evening services at 6 pm. Call Pastor Joe at 661 703-9825 for times & details

Misión Para Las Naciones

Pastor Mario and his team at Mision Para Las Naciones Church on E. Ave. R and 27th are on fire to see Jesus impact their community. And they know that means us, the Church, getting out among the people. In April Pastor Mario and several faithful servants of the Lord began partnering with

AVHG for the glory of God’s Kingdom. They bring lots of bread to share and fellowship with the crowd. Mision Para Las Naciones shares the vision: relational & friendship evangelism where seeds are sown. Service times are Fridays @ 7pm and Suns @ 12 pm. Bible studies on Wed. @ 7pm For more information call Pastor Mario at 818 317-9546.



“If Jesus had His earthly ministry today, do you think He would like skateboarding?”

Jesus And The Skateboarders

If Jesus had His earthly ministry today do you think He would like skateboarding? We certainly do. Jesus was relational. He was fun to be with and He valued children and young adults. Recently at McAdam Park in Palmdale, AVHG had

the joy of spending time with a dozen High School-aged boys who rolled in on their skateboards for some OJ and breakfast pastries. Were they ditching class? Maybe. We don't know. But for an hour we all hung out together. While DC Talk & The

Newsboys blasted on the iPod, we learned their names. They learned ours. They knew we were there in Jesus' name. And they stayed. We laughed and joked around. We told them they know where they can find us next week. Will they return? We'll see

Two Chickens, Lollypops & TP

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." This

story from Mark 12:41-44 comes to mind each time someone says, "I don't have any money but I wanted to bring something." One woman offers two frozen chicken pieces. A gentleman brings lollypops. A dear

elderly woman says, "I looked around at what to bring and I thought someone homeless could use this," (toilet paper) A homeless guy offers potatoes he can't cook. These expressions of gratitude *surely* bless our Lord.

Laid Off For The First Time

Faces are different but the stories are the same: "This is the first time I've been out of work my whole life!" This sentence is almost always said in cracking voices by men who defy themselves to cry.

Their frustrations turn to feelings of inadequacy and failure. Tears almost always flow. They don't want clichés or to discuss what the government is doing about the recession. They want someone

to listen - because they've kept it bottled in. But when they get the hurt out, their hearts are open to receive words of hope & encouragement which come only by the Spirit of God. Seeds of hope are planted.

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Fruit Drive Success!

Dozens of bags of oranges, lemons, apples, bananas, strawberries & grapefruit were donated & distributed at Courson & McAdam Parks & the MetroLink Station in April. In many instances the fruit was the bridge that began divine appts. People may have initially come for a bag of fruit, but they left with much more. Thank you to all who contributed!

Disciples of Hope Have Different Roles

There are many ways to be a Disciple of Hope with AVHG.

Hosts and hostesses in the parks are needed to keep coffee pots filled & to replenish supplies from the RV like paper cups & sugar, direct

people to food and prayer areas, etc....

Others can help by engaging with people. Sharing a conversation over a cup of coffee with someone is indeed something Jesus would do. The Lord has invited us to establish

community among the people because it's where we find the love of Jesus flows. But it takes a community of people to make this happen.

Please ask God how He might lead you to serve. Your financial support as He directs is greatly appreciated, as well.

May 14th – Garage Sale Fundraiser

May 14th from 8-1pm is the 2nd AVHG Garage Sale Fundraiser. Anything you don't want ... we are happy to receive for the garage sale. If you have items you wish to donate please contact Seth or Sandy

at 661 305-3874. Garage sale proceeds in March helped to register, insure and fuel the RV. Goal this time: Pay for non-profit status filing and evangelism supplies geared toward

inviting kids to Sunday Schools in their communities. Thank you. May God bless you as you serve as a disciple of hope in this very practical way.