

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

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.

Psalm 10:17

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



AVHG – Officially A Church

Many of you have asked for an updated status of AV Hope on the Go. As of October, AVHG is officially recognized as a church/religious organization.

Light of the Desert, in Palmdale, (see below) where Seth and Sandy Weinberg serve as pastors, is a non-denominational church under the umbrella of

AVHG. "We never sought to open a church," explains Seth. "When the opportunity came to us we realized that we already had a church; *the people*. God was now providing a building where we could meet on Saturdays, in addition to Tuesdays and Thursdays in the park."

With the help of an attorney whose

specialty is working with ministries and churches, AVHG is in the process of becoming a faith based non-profit organization. According to the attorney, this should be finalized by early in the New Year. What a wonderful way that will be to celebrate AVHG's one-year anniversary!

Light of the Desert Brothers & Sisters



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

821 Q7, Palmdale
Saturdays 6 pm
Dinner & fellowship
at 7 pm

This Month's Testimony



"A lot of people help our community and I want to come to help too,"

Meet William

William is often playfully referred to as the Mayor of Courson Park. He knows everyone. Nine times out of ten, when a new person arrives to join the AVHG fellowship in the park on Tuesdays and Thursdays, they will say, "William invited me".

William has been an active participant at AVHG park fellowship times since the beginning of the year. Additionally, he's at the park on weekends during ministry times with The Highlands & Desert Vineyard. "A lot of people help our community and I want to come to help too," he adds.

Without complaint or hesitation, William is always one of the first people to help unload tables and chairs from the RV, as well as anything else needed to start the fellowship time in the park. He is pretty quiet about it too – never seeks fanfare or recognition.

What William had not thought about until it was recently brought to his attention, is that his quiet, faithful service to the people in his own community is *inspired* by God and *used* by God to be a model for others to follow. "I hadn't thought of it like that," he says softly.

A week before Light of the Desert opened, William showed up

with a group of men from the community to paint the children's classroom and the fellowship hall. A week before a group from Desert Winds Community Church went to build a home in Mexico William was there with others from the community helping to build the frame of the structure.

When he's told that God has given him the qualities of a leader and the initiative to get a job done, he ponders the words quietly. While doing so he's told, "We thank God for you, William. We love you. Jesus loves you." His response is sincere, "Thank you for loving me. I love you guys too."

Thanksgiving Day In The Park ~ Opportunity To Serve

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Thursday, November 24th is Thanksgiving Day and just like every Thursday, AVHG disciples of hope will be at Courson Park from 10 – 12 p.m.

Praise God that most of the folks from the park fellowship group have families and homes where they plan to be on Thanksgiving. But through various conversations with friends in the park, it's clear that not everyone has a family or friends with whom to gather ... or a home in which to retreat.

“The beauty of the time in the park has never been about the food,” explains Sandy. “Most people come for the camaraderie and friendship; the Spirit draws them to a place where they know love flows freely and all are welcome.”

Disciples of hope who serve with AVHG all year long will most likely take this day off, *understandably*. This opens up a wonderful opportunity for others who have expressed a desire to serve, but have been unable to because of work/school schedules.

If you would like to volunteer in the park or inside the RV for two hours on Thanksgiving morning, please contact us or simply show up at Courson Park in Palmdale.

Turkey will not be on the breakfast menu. Rather a breakfast burrito, coffee, OJ, music, fellowship, hugs & prayer. Much to be thankful for, indeed!

Thankfulness

Ten men were ill with a horrid disease.

There was no treatment available. No doctor who could provide any possibility for help.

They were hopeless, not to mention in a lot of pain. Their disease caused open sores on their bodies;

sometimes people with this disease lost their fingers! What they had was contagious so they lived isolated away from family & friends. Imagine living in this state. No help. No hope. Deep pain. Who could blame these guys for being depressed? You could say they were the living dead; living simply to die.

Our world is filled with people who are in similar situations. They're *surviving* more than living. Some are ill ~ mentally; physically. Others are wounded emotionally. No one offers help. Or hope. Most of these people are depressed because they're isolated and feel forgotten. Some mask or numb their pain with drugs, alcohol or angry personalities. They are the walking dead of our days. Perhaps you are one of these people. Perhaps you know others like this. There is hope for all of us, dear ones.

Jesus said that He came to give life and to give it abundantly. (John 10:10) He said it and proved it by dying on the cross as payment for

our sin, so that everyone who believes He is the Son of God will never have to fear death or isolation. (John 3:16) His love replaces sorrow & anger with joy & peace. His love binds up broken hearts. *Jesus is love*. He had compassion on the ten men and did what no one else could. He gave them new life. The story in Luke 17 tells that only one of the men thanked Jesus. Can you imagine? He gave them each life ~ and *only one* said thank you. Jesus died and was resurrected for you & for me. Let's pause & say thank you right now, shall we? He's attentive right now. Everyday is Thanksgiving Day.

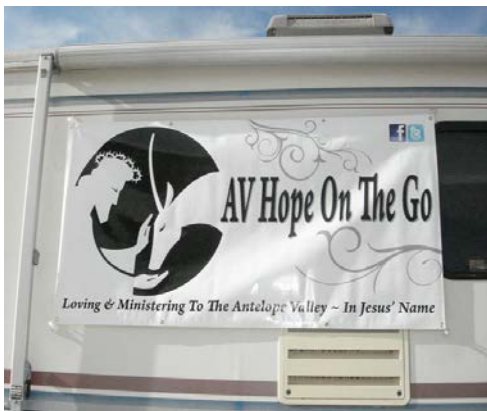
By the way ...

“God doesn't want us to say thank you because he's on an ego trip. He wants us to be thankful because He knows that thankfulness will keep us close to Him.”

Rev. Weinberg

AVHG Launches Night Shift On Tuesday Nights

On Tuesday, November 15th, AVHG is launching its new NIGHT shift. From 7 – 9 p.m. a group of volunteers will drive in the RV to various locations throughout the AV to distribute cups of noodles, hot cocoa, blankets and jackets to individuals who are homeless.



The night shifts were an inspiration by an AVHG friend who is currently homeless. She met disciples of hope while at Reynolds Park in Lancaster five months ago. Since then, this gal has been faithfully fulfilling the requirements of her alcohol rehab treatment program.

Recently when asked what she would like prayer for, she sobbed as she asked for prayer for her friends who are living on the streets, still caught up in the

bondage of drugs and alcohol. “One of them didn’t wake up in the morning because he froze to death,” she cried. “I’m doing everything I can to get off the streets and I want them to know there’s hope too,” she added.

In that moment the prayers started – asking God to make AVHG part of the hope to be shared with others who are homeless. “We are inspired by churches like Desert Vineyard and Oasis who faithfully serve the homeless,” say Seth and Sandy. God bless them for all they do to show Christ’s love.

The hope is that relationships will be established as we visit with the same people weekly. Relationship evangelism is how God moves through AVHG.

The Tuesday night shift will also provide opportunity for people to serve who are not free during the days. Meeting time is 7 pm at Courson Park in Palmdale.



“I want others to know that they don’t have to stay that way. God changes things.”

“No One Is Gonna Mess With This Place”

In January Seth, Sandy and one of her brothers, went to Courson Park with a thermos of coffee, a case of water and three bags of sweet bread. There was always left over. The trio was certain that God

had asked them to do this until He said differently. A group of five men hung out on the patio while two played a game of dominoes. The interaction between the two groups was minimal initially. Over time they blended into one:

Sandy playing dominoes, her brother encouraging them to try sweet bread, Seth talking about BBQing one day together. Recently, while reminiscing on these days, one of the guys says, “I promise you, no one is gonna mess with this place. We’re like family now.” God is good.

“I’ve Got A Needle & Thread!”

Two women from Courson Park community take the lead in the blanket donation drive for the homeless throughout the AV. They begin to tell everyone who comes to the park to donate their blankets and cups of noodles. One

of them says enthusiastically, “Old blankets with holes are fine! I’ve got a needle and thread!” The other says, “God gives to us freely, so we need to give freely too.” Others follow their lead and begin to purchase cups of

noodles and collect blankets. Many sign up to be part of the distribution team in the RV on Tuesday nights. One of the women explains, “I used to be homeless. I want others to know that they don’t have to stay that way. God changes things.” Glory to God!

Students Share Prayer Requests

Students who travel down Ave R toward 26th St on their way home from Palmdale High School on Wednesdays hear praise & worship music blasting from the RV. That means the people

with water and snacks are there to greet them. And slowly students are coming to trust that these same people will pray for them and let them know they matter. Most students ask for prayer for loved

ones. They’re worried about parents who are stressed out. They have siblings serving in the military. They’re in foster care. One volunteer has sons who attended PHS. Now she loves them all as if they’re all her own!

AV Hope on the Go

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Antelope Valley Hopeonthego

What is AV Hope on the Go?

A ministry of listening

A ministry of compassion

A ministry of hope

Bike Ministry Update By Pastor Ken

Worship Pastor, Ken, from Desert Winds Community Church provided the following update on the bike ministry he runs at Courson Park in Palmdale on Thursdays: To date we've given away 18 bicycles and there are currently 28 people on the waiting list to receive a bike. Our greatest need right now is for Men's Mountain Bikes and 26 inch tubes. People can make a tax-deductible donation to the bike ministry by making a check payable to Desert Winds Community Church at 38117 13th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 and writing "Bike Ministry" in the memo line.

Special thanks to Bob Hyland and Suzanne Schneider of Walnut Creek, CA for their generous donation of bikes, tires and parts.

