

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.



Neighborhood Churches Unite

Desert Winds Community Church, The Bridge, Centro Cristiano Luz del Desierto, Mission Para las Naciones, Holy Fellowship Baptist Church & Light of the Desert. These churches are currently serving together & modeling unity as they've been led by God to partner with AVHG. "God told us that we were to go

out & *listen* to His people who have a longing to be heard. **And** He told us that we would be a 'conduit' between small & medium sized *neighborhood* churches & the people who live within those neighborhoods," explain Seth and Sandy. God is accomplishing what He set out to do. We

all serve together to bring glory to the Kingdom of God. In the parks we listen & love: we do relational evangelism. We don't preach at people. After relationships are established, people are invited to church & often they accept. In church, they're fed the Word. God's plans work! We show up – the Spirit leads!

Friends Share Meals Together At Desert Winds

Every Tuesday evening neighbors from within the AVHG & Courson Park community meet up at Desert Winds Community Church for a free hot meal provided by various community groups in the Antelope Valley. What makes this hot meal program special is that DWCC folks hang out with those who come for meals. Often times you'll find church go-ers

enjoying a hot meal and conversation with someone who has come in from the neighborhood. This is a beautiful way of establishing new friendships. It's not about simply feeding people – it's about getting to know them. In recent months DWCC has experienced an increase in church attendance because of the friendship seeds God is growing.

Praise the Lord! Free hot meals at DWCC are provided every Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. Children under 12 must be with an adult. Robert Brady facilitates the program. He's a member of DWCC and serves on the Board at Grace Resources in Lancaster. Call Robert at 661/ 202-9233 or Grace Resources at 661/ 940-5272 for info.

This Month's Testimony



“I used to stay home and watch TV all day, waiting for God to heal me,”

Meet Miguel

Meet Miguel. Miguel and his neighbor, Jesus, began coming to AVHG fellowship at Courson Park in May. Quiet and shy, Miguel would pour himself a cup of coffee and sit down without saying a word to anyone.

But little by little, first at Courson and then later at McAdam Park, Miguel began to feel he was part of community. Soon, he joined in regular fellowship with others at both parks.

During a conversation while enjoying a cup of coffee and a breakfast burrito, Miguel, 34, shares his story. He was working at Rite Aid in the back warehouse when a work-related injury resulted in his breaking his shoulder. The initial surgery

helped but in the 5 years since, his pain has escalated. The insurance companies no longer respond to his calls. Miguel reveals that he's in pain everyday and cannot raise his right arm above his shoulder. “I pray that God will heal me so that I can work again,” Miguel adds.

Despite the physical limitations he experiences, Miguel displays a cheerful disposition. He says he is thankful for how God provides for him.

Miguel began attending Centro Cristiano Luz del Desierto after meeting others at the park who also attend this neighborhood church. He and Jesus both accepted Jesus as their Savior during service there.

Since then, Miguel has become involved in the food pantry ministry at the church and serves faithfully with AVHG. He and Jesus also serve with Light of the Desert every Saturday evening by going to pick up the hot meal for the fellowship time.

“I used to stay home and watch TV all day, waiting for God to heal me,” explains Miguel. “Now I understand that God wants me to help other people and to study the Bible,” he adds. He does so, a little every day.

Miguel rides his bike for physical therapy. But sometimes he likes to throw his bike in the RV and drive around with us. He is an awesome disciple of hope!

Every Thursday Pastor Mario from Mission Para las Naciones Church on Ave R and 27th and Señor Charles from Feed My Sheep Ministries arrive with gigantic bags filled with bread to be distributed freely to people within the AVHG Community.

For the last two years Señor Charles, also affectionately known as *Papa*, has facilitated picking up bread donated from various *Panera Bread* locations for distribution to several food banks throughout the Antelope Valley.

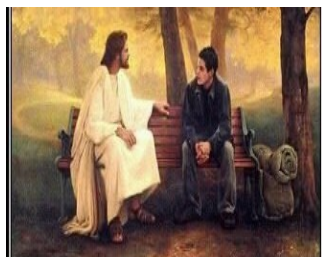
For almost 5 months, Pastor Mario and Papa have partnered with AVHG to faithfully provide bread at Courson Park. Food

delivery is arranged for homebound residents by AVHG.

Papa, a retired school teacher and his wife, June, have been residents of Palmdale for over 30 years. "I've seen a lot of changes over the years," he says. "I have a passion to feed God's people. There's so much need." Papa says as long as people are hungry, he will serve as God calls him to serve.



Jesus Listens



God created every human being to have a longing for community, to be heard and to know he matters. As life unfolds many people find themselves with muted cries of the heart such as: "I'm lonely. Is anyone listening? Do I matter?" As disciples of hope listen to people share their stories, the Spirit of God reminds us that sometimes the best form of communication is simply *to listen*.

Jesus often asks questions of His listeners. "Who do you say I Am?" He

asks the disciples. "Woman, where are your accusers now?" He asks the woman caught in adultery. "Why do you worry?" He asks the disciples concerning their clothes and shelter. "What do you want me to do for you?" He asks the blind men. Jesus asks questions because He's interested in hearing what people have to say.

The same is true today. Jesus cares what we have to share regarding matters that are important to us. He loves us. He wants to hear all about our fears, our disappointments, our hopes, our desires,

our anger and **our** questions. He is our Friend. (John 15:15)

In the same way, disciples of hope sit with those who have a longing to heard and ... *listen* with ears like Jesus'; attentively and compassionately. "With one ear we listen to the person; with the other we listen to the voice of the Spirit who tells us when and what to say in response to what we're hearing," explains Sandy. God prompts us when to share words of hope found only in Jesus. And people respond because **first** they're heard and **then** they're told what God wishes to share.

Macaroni & Cheese Drive Throughout September



September is the AVHG Mac 'n Cheese Drive. “If everyone we know donates one box of Macaroni & Cheese, a lot of stomachs will be fed,” says Seth. It’s an inexpensive & easy way to obey God’s call to feed the hungry. (Proverbs 28:27)

We hope that everyone donates *at least* one box. Too often people believe that unless they can give a

lot, their giving does not matter. This is a lie from the enemy that he would like for us to believe.

One box matters. God brings the increase. Boxes of Macaroni & Cheese can be dropped off at a park location or we can arrange for pick up. Gift cards to grocery stores or Sam’s Club are appreciated from those outside of the AV.

Thank you!

God Equips the Called



God does not call the equipped, He equips the called. A recent Facebook posts reminds us of this Truth. It reads: “Jacob was a cheater, Peter had a temper, David had an affair, Noah got drunk, Jonah ran from God, Paul was a murderer, Gideon was insecure, Miriam was a gossip, Martha was a worrier, Thomas was a doubter, Sara was impatient, Elijah was

moody, Moses stuttered, Zaccheus was short, Abraham was old, and Lazarus was dead.” The message rings clear: God uses broken people to accomplish His Sovereign Plan. What an awesome God we have who allows us to participate in His redemptive plan for all humanity. It is an honor to be the Lord’s servant. He does not call us to perfection ... only obedience.



*“I prayed to God,
‘God, if you let me live,
I promise I will leave
him and not return.’”
She lived.*

Memories Brought Into the Light

A 55 year old man shares that he wants to forgive his mother for allowing a series of boyfriends to molest him starting at age nine. “I want to forgive. I try, but the anger is stronger,” he says. Getting drunk blocks out the abusive memories. A 49 year old woman sobs as she seems to relive

her life from 19 years earlier when her husband nearly beat her to death. “His intention was to kill me,” she says. “I prayed to God, ‘God, if you let me live, I promise I will leave him and not return.’” She lived. She kept her promise. But the memories haunt her in the form of nightmares.

Each week people reveal through their personal stories how much they’re in desperate need of the healing touch of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, many receive the beginning of their healing right at the park after time in prayer. May the Lord continue His healing in each of us.

Vietnam Vet Not Forgotten By God

The Vietnam Veteran cries unashamedly while he shares his story. A couple of years ago he was laid off from his manufacturing job after being employed with the same employer for 25 years. No one is interested in hiring him. He is now

homeless. He welcomes prayer. The hope of Jesus is poured into him and he receives freely. He is reminded that God has not forgotten about him. Tears flow as he expresses gratitude for someone who would spend time with him at a park,

on a hot day and listen to his story. An hour after meeting, the Veteran asks when the AVHG group will return. “Next Wed at 10 a.m.” he’s assured. “I’ll be here; see you then,” he says with a smile. His new friends wave goodbye, prayerful that their paths will cross with his again.

Gratitude Leads To Giving

Each week people from within the community arrive at the park with bags of clothes to donate. All have been recipients of donated clothing in recent weeks. They share the same sentiment: a desire to give back. On another

day a man comes with a sugar dispenser. “It’s cheaper if you buy bags of sugar and use this,” he says. A woman comes 15 minutes later with a bag of sugar. “I brought this and 2 boxes of cereal,” she shares. A man comes

with a gallon of milk, “Some milk for everyone,” he smiles. “This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” 2 Corin 9:12

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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

Another Baptism in the Park – Glory To God

On August 18th the AVHG park community of friends gathered together to witness & celebrate another baptism of one of their own. The day was gorgeous; hot & joyful in Palmdale, Ca. The baptismal candidate shared on the microphone that he hasn't been doing much with his life in recent years. But he realizes that God has a plan for him. He then affirmed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. When asked if Jesus is his Lord and Savior, he answered with an enthusiastic "yes"! The young man attends Light of the Desert on Saturday nights and Desert Winds on Sunday mornings. "I can't get enough of God," he says smiling. Rev. Sandy conducted the baptism after Pastors Seth (Light of the Desert) and Ken (Desert Winds) shared about the significance of baptism. All glory to God for His transforming work in the lives of His children!



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