



"Real Answers For Real Needs"

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A View from the Lighthouse!

March 2004

A Publication of Advancing Vibrant Communities and Lighthouse Live! Radio

More Connections Every Week!!

As I'm writing this, another phone call came in--another volunteer has been connected to an opportunity to serve children as an elementary school tutor through AVC's connection process!

In addition, churches and individuals responded wonderfully to the call generated by AVC to prepare and serve meals at the Homeless Shelter at 9th and D streets in Modesto. In fact, there's a great story about how God blessed one of those volunteers in her efforts to reach out and touch needs--her story appears next.

Every week, a new story bubbles up. The stories are about believers who answer Christ's call to "love your neighbor as yourself", and they build a relationship with someone needing to see the very face of Christ reflected through that volunteer. When this happens, people see Christ and Christianity in a brand new light! Needs are met (without raising taxes!), believers are blessed, and souls are saved.

As God "ramps up" the forward momentum, we need your help in releasing His funds for His work!

We are receiving more and more calls to meet the volunteer needs of agencies and ministries serving our city, and we are connecting more and more believers with those critical opportunities to serve and build meaningful relationships for the Kingdom of God. With the increasing activity, we are thrilled, and we also need additional ***monthly financial supporters!***

The Lord's dollars that you direct toward AVC help us meet those needs and make more and more connections! We started at "0", but are now more than 50% of the way toward meeting

our monthly expenses to support the increasing workload! We invite you to be part of that.

You will find a self-addressed envelope included in this mailing. Your commitment to releasing a monthly offering (beyond your church tithes and offerings!) to support God's work through AVC will help us not only meet the existing needs, but enable AVC to make even more connections between believers in churches and the needs of people outside the church walls!

Thank you for helping assign a portion of God's funds for this purpose! We'll keep you up to date on our progress.

A Letter from a Sister with a Servant Heart:

Dear Pastor Douglass & Elaine (Harlan, our Volunteer Coordinator),

I just have to tell you, this dinner for the homeless has blessed me more than it will ever help our guests that come to eat. (My church) is on overload and cannot help. I did not want to cancel so I have arranged volunteers. I was not sure where I was going to get food for ninety people!

The other night walking, I ran into an acquaintance I had not seen in years. She was with her husband who works at SaveMart. We mentioned the dinner on Sunday night for the homeless, briefly, and that was the end of it. The next day her husband called me and had talked to his manager. They donated one hundred hot dogs and buns! Then, I ran into a man delivering bread and asked if he had any extra buns and he give me a whole tray. Another friend brought me more hot dogs.

My aunt gave me money to purchase some other things.

Tonight I got a call from Steve, the SaveMart man, and it seems his brother works for Mother's Cookies! He is bringing me a whole tray of cookies for the dinner.

Can you believe it? I am sitting here dumbfounded and in total awe and appreciation of these good people and of God's love and Grace. It is like the loaves and the fishes, I am telling you.

I just had to share this story!

With love,
Lee O.

Growing List of AVC Church and Corporate Partners

CHURCHES:

Bethel Church, Modesto
Big Valley Grace Community Church, Modesto
Calvary Community Church, Manteca
Calvary Lutheran Church-ELCA, Modesto
Carpenter's House, Modesto
Comunidad Cristiana de Modesto
Congregation Lev L'Yisrael, Modesto
First Baptist Church, Modesto
Greater True Light Baptist Church, Modesto
La Loma Grace Brethren Church, Modesto
Living Water Bible Church, Salida
Modesto Covenant Church
Sherwood Bible Church, Modesto
Village Christian Fellowship, Modesto

CORPORATE:

J.A. Grover Construction, Inc. (209-545-5260)
Quality Communications, Modesto (209-550-0303)
Oh, For the Memories! (209-524-2900)
Greater Modesto Area Churches, Inc. (GMAC)
Ward Office Furniture (209-523-2815)

If you are interested in becoming a Church or Corporate Partner, please call us at 209-544-9571!

Urgent Note Regarding E-mail Addresses!

E-mail bulletins from AVC are the most timely and cost-effective way for us to notify you of opportunities to serve the needs of the city. In fact, about 90 % of our notices go out first on e-mail.

We have noticed that many of you have changed e-mail addresses, or your "spam" blockers are sending us to e-mail heaven!

Please help us help you and those in need! (1) If you haven't heard from us for awhile (and would like to), please e-mail your new address to **info@vibrantcommunities.org**.

(2) For your spam blockers, please note that AVC messages will come from mddavc@sbcglobal.net and that the "subject line" will always start with "AVC:...".

Thanks for your help!

Manteca and San Joaquin County Bulletin:

Manteca's Right to Life Crisis Pregnancy Center needs volunteers to organize and fold baby clothes; volunteers to serve as peer counselors (an eight-week training program is provided); and they need cribs, high chairs, strollers, diapers, baby formula, baby-wipes, and clothing for infants up to 24 months. Please contact **Sheila Raya** at **209-239-9899**.

The San Joaquin County Habitat for Humanity has a *huge need* for volunteers to assist with preparing 6,500 mail outs (labeling envelopes, etc. for mailing)! Volunteers are also needed for the "Re-Store", a mom and pop hardware store at 2050 E. Fremont that helps support Habitat. Help is needed with stocking and inventory. Also, construction on two new houses begins in the fall--volunteer construction workers are needed! Please contact **Terry Quadros** at **209-465-5054**.

Celebrate Recent Modesto Connections!

AVC recently helped connect volunteers in our database with the following opportunities: afternoon tutors for elementary school children; transportation to medical appointments for shut-ins and the elderly; preparation and serving of meals for the homeless at the Modesto Shelter; and furniture for a single mom and her special needs daughter, who were sleeping on the floor with no furnishings! *Thank you* for meeting these needs!