



*"Real Answers For Real Needs"*

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Rev. Michael Douglass, President

## A View from the Lighthouse!

**December 2004**

A Publication of Advancing Vibrant Communities and Lighthouse Live! Radio  
**"Connecting People in Churches with Opportunities to Serve the Needs of their Neighbors"**

### **"Servant's Dozen" Lifts AVC to New Levels of Community Service!**

Thanks to your response and commitment to "The Servant's Dozen", AVC is moving into faster and expanded response to community needs!

The concept is simple:

**12 Acts of Service/Year**

**12 New Volunteers/Year**

**\$12 to AVC/Month**

Most everyone can participate at all three levels of the Servant's Dozen: Donating 12 acts of service to meet the need of a neighbor or a community need (that's just once a month!); inviting 12 people a year to volunteer with you, and introduce them to AVC (hmmm...just one a month!); and at least \$12 a month to AVC to help fund the ministry!

We currently have over 500 people in our Confidential Database of Volunteers—can you imagine what would happen in our neighborhoods if we had 1000 volunteers reaching out to meet the needs of their neighbors? We're on the way! Thank you for your wonderful support and your servant hearts!

For more information on how to participate in the "Servant's Dozen", please call or e-mail us at 209-544-9571, or [info@vibrantcommunities.org](mailto:info@vibrantcommunities.org).

### **Pastor's Corner**

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."  
(Proverbs 22:6)

One of the great impacts of the servant lifestyle extends beyond the immediate connection of resource to need. The impact upon our children can affect generations to come.

Children notice when we "walk our talk", or fail to do so! It's not that they are grading us, it's just part of growing up and noticing what adds up and what does not.

From time to time, we see deep insights into the Biblical worldview that our children are developing. Recently, we posted a need for an elderly, disabled man, who was sleeping on his floor. I've come to expect a balanced blend of compassion and practicality from our children, but my son's matter-of-fact comment took me by surprise.

"I'll give him my bed, Dad."

He was serious. He has a deep sense of justice and logic. Flippant thoughts to make others feel good are not his *modus operandi*. He was ready to give up his bed for this man in need.

I'm not taking credit for this. I'm simply pointing out that our children are constantly calculating the equations of life, and the choices they make reflect how things are adding up in their minds.

For the good of future generations, for the betterment of society, and for the effective spread of the Gospel, may our children see us walk uprightly, and may they see us authentically living out a Christ-centered servant lifestyle.

With Christmas Blessings, Pastor Michael

**Upcoming AVC Open House/Luncheon Dates**

Tuesday, January 11  
Thursday, January 20

The AVC Open House/Luncheons have proven to be THE MOST effective way of communicating how we do what we do in terms of connecting people in churches with opportunities to serve the needs of their neighbors and cities.

The Luncheons honor your time—we begin at Noon and end at 1 p.m.!

A light lunch is served, and we have the opportunity to present the history of AVC, demonstrate the Confidential Database of Volunteers, answer questions, and have a great time meeting new people and networking with partner churches, agencies, and groups.

The Open House/Luncheons are held in our facility at 422-B Coffee Road in Modesto, just north of Scenic Drive.

Anyone interested in AVC's work is invited to attend, and many of our volunteers and past attendees bring friends and co-workers to subsequent Luncheons!

### **AVC Contact Information**

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Board Members: John Evans (Chairman), Pat Chavez, John Grover, Sandy Sutton, Michael Douglass

### **Graffiti Wipeout Team!**

Our Graffiti Wipeout Team had a GREAT time last month, painting out gang tagging in the rain! Yes...in the rain!

It really was a wonderful team effort. One neighbor lady expressed her deep appreciation for eliminating graffiti near her house. And, a gentleman with extra paint donated 10 gallons to AVC right on site for future operations!

*In celebration of Christmas, we will take a "graffiti break" in December, but we'll hit the streets again in January!*

Unless otherwise noted in e-mails, our phone machine, and the website, Graffiti Wipeout Team operations are held on the *last Saturday* of every month. We gather at 8:30 a.m. at AVC for a briefing and training session, and then run operations from 9 to 11 a.m.

### **Stories from the Front Lines:**

#### ***Serving the Homeless***

(L.O. signed up for the *first night* of cold weather operations at the 9<sup>th</sup> and "D" Street Homeless Shelter on November 1. Then, she rallied friends and family to feed the homeless AGAIN on December 6<sup>th</sup>! Here's her note to AVC).

"The dinner was fabulous. The little children made hot dogs, poured drinks, and visited with the guests.

"We did spaghetti, hot dogs, bananas and tons of cookies. The shelter was packed--well over a hundred people. The guests seemed to be in a hopeful mood. They were polite and appreciative.

*"I am telling you this is such a blessing to all of us. Everyone serving wanted to know when we can do it again. I just tell them to join AVC!"*

"I only share this with you because I am humbled by the experience.

"Thank you for all you do to 'connect the dots.'" --L.O., AVC Volunteer

*"Servant's Dozen" Contribution form and return envelope are provided in this mailing. Thank you SO much for your continued support!*