

VOICES OF HOPE



DR. LASHARND A BECKWITH

MISSION

*Ignited by faith,
we live out God's love by embracing,
equipping and empowering
vulnerable people in
Southern California*

VISION

*Sharing the love of Christ,
we are a community to care
and be cared for...*

*Where the vulnerable are
safer and stronger*

*Where the dependent
are self-sustaining*

Where the isolated dwell in community

Where the weary will be given hope

VALUES

*Compassion / Advocacy
Collaboration / Respect
Innovation / Stewardship*

Happy Friday!

I hope you have had an enjoyable week. I begin this week's letter asking you, Who are You?

Who are you when no one is watching? How do you handle frustration? Do you seek the joy of the Lord when you face difficulty? I can tell you that I try, but it can be hard to do. I was very frustrated recently. It seemed that one thing after another happened. Have you ever been there? Ok, maybe it's just me.

Anyway, when I get really frustrated, I purposely stop and take a deep breath. I then withdraw into myself so that I can pray. I pray because I know my thoughts can become my words. I know about myself how easy it is for me to slip into cutting words. As a leader, I am also aware of the impact of my comments on others' psyche. I always desire to lift others up, and when I cannot, I feel bad. I know that I won't always be able to uplift when I have to hold others accountable. However, I try to be as careful as I can to allow people to walk away, feeling that they can recover.

I am also aware that people will imitate me. I am a mother and grandmother; therefore, I am susceptible to that. I am a person who will ask of others what I expect of myself. I am accountable not only to humans but to God. I am also a little old-fashioned and what that means is I believe in things like being on time for work--whether someone is watching me or not. I believe in working with the idea of excellence at the end goal, and I believe in holding myself to a higher standard and not taking advantage of the system. I think if one is paid or volunteers to do a job, one should do the job. I believe in good old-fashioned, "your word is your bond," and I live it. This is what being a person of high moral character, and honorable behavior looks like to me. I always remind myself that someone is always watching to see if my words match my actions. So, just as I ask you, Who are You? I asked myself this question years ago. You know why? Because, I always wanted my son to see a mother who was honest and ethical at home where employees could not see her, just as she tried to be at work where they could see her.

Who are You? Is the question I would like you to ponder this week. If you really want to know, ask God to reveal who you are. When He does, listen. If there are things that you don't like, change them. Always remember that our thoughts can ultimately become actions. I will close with the scripture in Philippians 6:8:

*"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest,
whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things
are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue
and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer

