

# 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 and Happy Labor Day Weekend!*

It's September; can you believe it? As we approach this month, I thank God for another month and the possibility of what is to come. No one expected the 2020 that we have seen so far. We could not have imagined living as we are today---that our lives would be changed as it has. Yet, here we are.

When I think about all that we have faced since March, I refuse to gripe and complain. Nor will I feel sorry for myself. When I look at my life, I can honestly say that God has been so good. I smile as I think of the song, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." That is my motto! You see, despite all the craziness and uncertainty, I have never lost hope and never given up. That's because of my faith.

Faith has sustained and motivated me my entire life. It has helped me trust God even when I could have thrown my hands up and walked away. I am reminded of the scripture is Hebrews 11:1, *"...faith is the assurance (confidence) in what we hope for and the evidence (certainty) of things we cannot see."*

Today, I want to encourage you not to lose hope. Life can get tough and challenging, so much so that we can feel stressed to the point of breaking. Stressors can cause us to lose sight of the good around us. Stressors can dictate how we see the glass. Is it half-full or half-empty? If we lose hope, of course, the glass is half-empty. Just know this, when you talk to God about how you are feeling, trust that He is listening. He cares enough about you that He will answer. If He remains quiet for a while, have faith to believe that He still hears and knows your circumstances. He will not forget you. Also trust that God knows that at some point, we all struggle with holding onto hope. He won't be mad at you.

As I close out this note to you, let me remind you of this: When you face tests of any kind, remember, God has a plan and purpose for you. My life's scripture is found in Jeremiah 29:11. It says, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a future."* I have claimed that scripture over my life many times. I hope you will do that same. I also want to share one more promise from Psalm 84:11, which says, *"...no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly."*

Are you feeling hopeless? Don't. I encourage you to wait on God. He will not withhold the "good thing" from you.

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