

# 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!

*"This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it."*

I was running this morning and felt exhilarated. It's been a tough week, but despite all that has happened, I am so thankful to be able to see another day. A couple of things can happen when we experience challenging situations. We can become distracted and irritable or allow the Holy Spirit to deal with our hearts. When the latter happens, our blind spot reduces, and He (the Holy Spirit) can better work in us. That's what happened to me yesterday and early this morning. I had to experience an attitude adjustment.

Days can be challenging, and personalities are involved, but we can overcome any difficulty with God's grace. Out of adversity comes many attractive traits, depending on how we view the issue. Haven't you seen where two different people can look at the same negative situation, and one person can walk away better, more determined to succeed, and help others do the same? Another person experiencing the same problem can walk away feeling defeated, less-than, and spread their attitude to others. In any case, we process issues differently. However, I would like you to consider this statement from Chuck Swindoll that I have had in my office for years. Please read:

## Attitude

*The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.*

*Attitude to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.*

*It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break  
A company. . . A church. . . A home.*

*The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.*

*We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it.*

*And so it is with you. . . We are in charge of our attitudes!*

*—Charles Swindoll—*

Do you know what I love about the Holy Spirit? He checks my attitude all the time! I can either adjust or reject His voice. I pray each day to do better in changing. With that said, I cannot promise that I will not bother you. I will always question things, challenge processes, and address deficiencies. However, I will promise you that I will still care about and value you because you are God's creation. I can also promise to check my attitude when I am frustrated. I hope to extend grace to those with whom I do not see eye-to-eye. I pray that the same grace I extend will be extended to me. I will close today's letter with a scripture from James, chapter 1, verse 12, which says:

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*

God bless you and may His grace shine upon you!

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith  
President & Chief Executive Officer

