

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!

Well, it's October! How wonderful it feels to be alive and well. I am looking forward to the cooler weather in the mornings and the fun things in the later months of the year. First, we celebrate my birthday for the entire month of October! Yay! Then we celebrate Fall Harvest, Thanksgiving, and finally, my favorite holiday of all, Christmas! I can hardly wait.

Every year brings more and more excitement as the weather starts to cool, and the leaves fall. As the seasons change, I cannot help but wonder what happens next. Just as the earth experiences changing seasons throughout the year, so do our lives. The Bible tells us in Daniel 2:21, "*He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;*" and Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "*For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*" This has proven to be true.

As I contemplate those scriptures today, I imagine a time when things will change again; maybe not back to the way they were, but we will get to a new normal. COVID-19 will remain a virus, but treatable, racial tensions, turmoil, and upheaval will stop, and some measure of calm will return in our world. In the meanwhile, I pray that we will face any change with positive expectation.

As Believers, we can cling to a promise Jesus made in John 16:33, "*These things I have spoken unto you, that in ME you might have peace. In the world you will have trouble but BE OF GOOD CHEER; I have overcome the world.*" I am thrilled about that promise! He assures us that no matter what is going on around us, He is in control. Those things that catch us off guard do not catch Him by surprise. He knows all and sees all, and "*Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world.*"

Never forget that God is with us in every season of our lives. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As the song goes,

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*...Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!*

May our Lord of peace bring you into a season of calm, faith, joy, and fulfillment. Have a wonderful weekend.

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer