

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 a wonderful week and that you have experienced nothing less than the love of God and the people you have encountered. I tell you what has been excellent, the weather! It is nice to experience a little cooler weather. Isn't it?

I don't know about you, but my early mornings are the best. I have always made it my special time to spend with God. During those early morning hours, I am intentional in talking to Him about life, which includes praying for you. Today, my morning scripture reading came from Ephesians 4, where the writer wrote: *"...I beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for God has called you."* The scripture said so much more about being humble and gentle to one another. Still, the part that asks us to live our lives worthy of the calling we have been given spoke to me.

What does that scripture mean for you and me today? In context, the scripture addresses being humble and gentle. Therefore, I started to Google the scripture and read commentaries explaining it. In a nutshell, I walked away with one specific thing, Unity. Paul was talking to the church at Ephesus, but I am talking to the organization of LSSSC.

The employees of LSSSC are family. We should always want to support each other and fight for one another. We can have differences; that's part of being individuals with different views of life. It is what being human and diverse are all about. Differences are okay, but differences should not divide us as Believers. We are to always humbly and gently seek to find common ground. We should talk through our differences to build each other up and maintain our relationships. Amid all kinds of adversities, we, as Believers, must never forget to look to the Holy Spirit to put us back on track when we are veering off.

We just finished talking about what the *Fruits of the Spirit* looks like for Believers; *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*. These sum up the attributes of those who try to lead a life worthy of their calling.

Never forget, *"you are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has before ordained you to walk in."*

I care for each of you. I appreciate you. I wish the best for you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. I won't forget it and I don't want you to forget it either.

Blessings sent your way this Friday!

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer