

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!

What a week it has been with everyone waiting on the announcement of who our next President will be. Talk about high anxiety! On top of the wait's pressure, we receive overwhelming amounts of news updates. The commentary may not all be positive and if we are not careful, the inundation of so much information can distress us to the point of breaking. On top of this, we have to deal with work, family, and this virus!

What came to mind today is the passage in Isaiah 40:31, *"But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."*

We do not have to be distressed. We do however, need to have faith. I know it is human nature to want to control things...I get it. However, there are so many things that we cannot control. Instead of admitting to ourselves that we cannot (control everything), we allow those things to consume our thoughts. We become distressed by something we have no control over.

The good news is this: God is, and has always been, in control. If we would learn to turn our concerns over to Him and pray, "Lord, not my will, but Your will be done," we will be able to combat so many negative voices searching to take up space in our heads.

As this week comes to a close, be reminded that the God of the universe is in control. It does not matter what chaos is going on around us. He is available to quiet the storms. Amid the raging sea, when all the disciples were freaking out because of the turbulence surrounding them in that boat, Jesus slept. His disciples went and awakened Him and were probably yelling, "Jesus, please get up and do something! "Jesus did do something after He questioned their faith. He got up and rebuked the winds and waves... and the storm stopped.

That's not a fairy tale. That's our God. There can be anarchy in the streets, and everybody may run scared. You do not have to fear. He is with you.

Blessings sent your way this Friday!

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer