

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!

So, here we are in lockdown again. For some, you are fine at home; not having to rush to get out the door to the office. For others, it is the isolation and not seeing friends and clients you love that causes apprehension and even sadness. For the latter, do not forget that people miss you as much as you miss them. For the former, enjoy; we will be back at it soon enough; rushing to exercise, shower, get dressed, grab something, and head out the door to beat the rush-hour traffic.

Here's the thing I would like both groups to consider: This is the season of JOY. Regardless of what state you find yourself in, be hopeful and joyful. I think about what Paul said,

"Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am."

-Philippians 4:11

I think about where I am right now, and I am content. I think about how I can be joyful and content when I have such difficult decisions to make daily. When I feel that I am climbing upstream with the water rushing and pushing me as hard as possible, back down. I tell you how. When I am overwhelmed, I turn myself inward and pray. I rely on the Holy Spirit to take over. I can literally hear myself saying to myself, "LaSharnda, don't forget, *'the joy of the Lord is your strength.'*" If I continue to repeat that to myself, guess what happens? I begin to see what to do and how to proceed. I begin to feel hopeful, and the burdens lift, if only for a little while. If, or when, I began to feel overwhelmed again, I repeat the same exercise. The scriptures I repeat to myself may be different, but the result is the same---I change.

*So Happy Friday. Blessings sent your way.
Let the Joy of the Lord be your inner encourager today.*

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer