

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*

Blessings this Friday!

Can you believe we are only one week away from Christmas? This year is the first year that I have been so frazzled, and I am not handling it very well. Yet, I remind myself, this is the season to rejoice! Still, I find myself stressed, disorganized, and anxious all because the way I perfectly plan Christmas every year has blown to pieces this year. One thing the pandemic has taught me, however, is to be still and ride it out. I cannot control the mail. I cannot control deliveries; I cannot control going out shopping for the perfect gifts. So, I will adjust.

To try to end my evenings on a peaceful note, I read my Bible. I was recently reading the Psalms and got caught up in dissecting one statement made by King David in Psalm 15. The very first verse asks God, "Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?" Immediately, my mind said, "No one." I kept thinking that no one is worthy of being in His presence, and then my mind went to the Child, who was born.

As I reflect on Baby Jesus, I think of all that occurred before His birth. If you know the stories, you know that his mother, Mary, was a virgin. You know that his earthly father, Joseph, was a good man that did not want her humiliated once someone revealed that she was pregnant. You know that both Mary and Joseph, on separate occasions, were visited by an angel telling each of God's plans. Both Mary and Joseph had to believe what they were hearing. I believe in Christ's birth.

In Psalm 15, David asks,

"Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?"

David goes on to tell us who. I want to take a different approach to answer those questions. Now that Jesus has come, it is through Him that we can sit in God's presence. Because of that baby born in Bethlehem, we, if we believe, can have full access to God.

As we celebrate His birth in December, let us not get caught up in the actual month when He was born or where. What we should do is rejoice that the King is born. In Matthew 2:10, we read that the wise men rejoiced with exceeding joy.

In Philippians 4:4, Paul said,

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say, Rejoice!"

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer