

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 had a wonderful Thanksgiving, even with restrictions. I also hope you have experienced a great week, enjoying your job and those you serve.

For some reason, I keep thinking I have been with LSSSC for only a couple of months or so. I had to calculate how long I have been on board and realized that I had been here for eight months! Boy, how time flies when you are having fun! It seems like just yesterday; I participated in interviews and tons of meetings only to onboard. I loved it back in April, and I love it more today.

Recently, I had to face a very uncomfortable situation. I was confronted with my shortcomings. Some of you know, I do a blog, and I post a TFT (Thought-for-Today) on Social media each day. Also, I contribute to an online magazine with a column titled Power of Positive Faith each month. Recently, I posted that to face criticism is hard, although we all need to hear the positives and negatives. I recently faced criticism head-on because I don't mind conflict if I feel productive. Anyway, the product conflict addressed my shortcomings. What is particularly difficult is to listen with an open mind and heart so that you don't listen to lash out at the person who may hurt your feelings. The conversation has stayed with me, and as I was running early during one of my runs, I prayed that God would open my eyes and show me how to engage better with people with whom I disagree. I have prayed about this very issue most this week.

I have always counseled people to have more than one source to go to for encouragement and seek wisdom because criticisms can take you out if you are not confident in who you are. So, as I was thinking of the things that I have been criticized about, God dropped Philippians 4:6 in my spirit, *"Be anxious for nothing, but by prayer and supplication, WITH THANKSGIVING, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your HEART and MINDS through Christ Jesus."* I kept running and continued to speak that scripture out loud. I am still praying it. What I think I am getting from that scripture is this: *"LaSharnda, you won't always get it right. Neither will anyone. Trust me to do the work I started in you. Don't worry. Don't fret. Just trust me."* To that, I say, Yes, Lord.

We can be our most prominent critics and harder on ourselves than others. I do know this; no one is perfect. The only ideal person died on the cross and rose again. This month, we celebrate His birth.

It doesn't matter how wonderful a person you may be or how upright and wise in handling life issues. The fact is that not everyone is going to like what you do or how you do it. No matter how hard you try to please, you cannot please everyone. When you face criticisms, even if they come from me, remember, you are valuable, worthy, and a child of the King. No one, no one can change that.

God bless you, and Happy Friday!

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer