

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*

It's Friday and Valentine's Day Weekend!

I hope you have a happy day. I pray that all your days are merry and that you have a heart that is filled with love and gratitude whether things are going well or challenging.

Today, I want to share a scripture I learned years ago. The scripture is in Ecclesiastes 3:11-13,

"I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God."

There is much more to that series of scriptures beginning at verse 10 and ending around verse 14. However, I want to focus on the one part that tells us that we should be *happy and do good* while we are here.

On days when work is challenging, and nothing seems to be going right, I want the Holy Spirit to stop me and whisper, "you are doing good work....be happy." When I feel that I am spinning my wheels and getting nowhere and frustration sets in, I pray that Jesus would check me and say, "Hold up! You are doing exactly what I want you to do. Don't forget that. Now, rejoice!" On days when I feel isolated, alone, and insecure, I pray that the Father would remind me that **He chose me and that I am righteous not because of anything I have done or can do, but because He sent His Son for me.**

Today, I encourage you to live life *happy* despite setbacks and disappointments. You don't have the strength? Pray for it. God will give it to you. Don't feel like it? Praise and worship God anyway because these are the times when you are most vulnerable. When the enemy causes you to second-guess yourself, **remember with God, you got this.**

"This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it."

- Psalms 118:24.

Happy Valentine's Day. I wish you love, peace, joy, and happiness not just this weekend but throughout the year.

Blessings,

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer