

# 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 all had a warm and wonderful week. Early in the week, it was really warm where I live. When I went out to do my run this morning, the typical 41 degrees was back. Oh well. It was still such a great, quiet time spent in God's presence. As I run, I wonder if people say, "There she is again. It's 4:30am in the morning...How or why would she do it?" While I imagine others cheering me on and telling me how proud they are of my persistence, I often imagine my grandmother telling me that she is so proud of me, I can hear her voice saying, "keep going, keep pushing, you can do it!". Somewhere, I find the energy deep inside to do just that.

I have always wondered why I am so determined. Why have I always pushed myself? I can only conclude because when I was younger, perhaps I felt others did not think much of me and counted me out sooner rather than later. I wonder if I have been proving to the popular and superior-minded that I am good enough all my life. I don't know. I know that all of that doesn't matter at the end of the day because of my faith. I give all credit to my grandparents for that. I do not believe anyone prayed and worshipped God more than them. They set the standard for the family. Faith was everything. So, I am not surprised that it turned out to be for me too.

They taught me that no matter what, I needed to believe that I am good enough. No college formally educated my grandparents, but they believed that the Bible gave them what they needed. What can I say? They were old-fashioned Believers. They believed in the Bible, and they believed in me. As crazy as I dreamed, they would cheer me on and always tell me that I could do it.

Maybe you were raised in the same conditions, or perhaps not. It doesn't matter. I am of the firm opinion how you were raised doesn't matter. It is more about what you have inside of you to succeed. First, faith is essential; Faith in God and faith in yourself. Second and hopefully, support and love of others. The third is action. I will close by reminding you to be encouraged. No matter where you came from or what has happened or not happened in your past, you can still achieve your dreams. Just keep on running, keep on pushing, and never give up. No matter how things look today, God changes things! And although a lot of what we do is to achieve some recognition, you don't need another person's honor at all---only God's.

*"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize?  
So, run that you may obtain it." - 1 Corinthians 9:24*

Blessings,

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith  
President & Chief Executive Officer



**EMBRACE**



**EQUIP**



**EMPOWER**