

*Life in Focus*  
**“Life Described”**  
Colossians 1:3-8

Life is discovered in Jesus, as to know Jesus intimately is its purpose, salvation, mission, source and destination.

The Gospel is the truth of God, man, life, and salvation revealed, vv. 3-6.

The Gospel is the truth of God; that to know, trust, serve, and share Jesus is life, v. 5.

The Gospel is the truth that man, created by God to know and glorify Him, yet separated from Him by sin, can come into a saving relationship with God only through Jesus, v. 3.

The Gospel is the grace of God in truth, that Jesus died in judgment for the sin of each person, that He was dead and buried and on the third day He rose again, so that He might offer salvation as a free gift to all who put their total trust in Him (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), v. 6.

The power of God to save is the living force of the Gospel, and thus it has the power to transform lives and to use those transformed to reach others (Romans 1:16-17), v. 6.

Salvation, and life, comes as a person puts his or her total trust in Jesus, and lives to know Him and share Him, v. 4.

The life of Jesus leads to: a sharing of His love with others and a certain hope that Jesus has prepared a place for each in God's forever kingdom, kept safe in heaven and soon to be revealed, v. 5.

Life in Jesus leads to a passion and commitment to share His love for others, particularly the saints (brothers and sisters in Christ who share in the trust and love of Jesus).

To share Jesus' love and truth passionately has a particular focus on the saints, vv. 4, 7.

The love of Jesus embraces each as a brother and sister in Christ, transcending gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, and level of economic resources.

The love of Jesus comes in, resourced by the Holy Spirit, as a person abides in Jesus, vv. 6, 7.

The love of Jesus leads to a passion to share the Gospel with others, vv. 6-7.

The life of Jesus leads a person to be His servant to others, vv. 6, 7.

Epaphras was a servant by proclaiming the Gospel, and by discipling those who trusted in Jesus as each grew to maturity, v. 7.

Join us next weekend as Pastor Byron MacDonald continues the series *Life in Focus* with his sermon, “Living Full of God's Power.” Please read Colossians 1:9-14 to prepare.

# Welcome | to Rolling Hills Covenant Church



**September 17-18, 2011**

*Life in Focus*  
**“Life Described”**  
Colossians 1:3-8

Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald

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Thank you for turning off your pagers and cell phones during services.

Following each worship service, members of the prayer team will be available in front of the platform to pray with you and minister to your spiritual needs.

Receivers for the hearing impaired are available from our ushers.

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**SERVICE TIMES:**

Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Worship Center, Contemporary Worship Music

Saturday, 6:45 p.m., the 290s, Education Bldg., Contemporary Worship Music

Sunday, 9:00 & 10:45 a.m., Worship Center, Blended Contemporary and Traditional Music

Sunday, Chapel Option, 10:45 a.m., North Campus Chapel, Video Message, Contemporary Music

Sunday, Canvas, 9:00 & 10:45 a.m., the 290s, Education Bldg., a Contemporary Worship Option

Sunday, 10:00 a.m., RHCC Community Center, Life on The Hill Outreach Service



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***We are so happy you have joined us for worship today!***



**Starting Point** is a 4-week orientation to RHCC and our purpose for ministry. Gain insight into God, the Bible, and our beliefs. The seminar meets in the library on Sundays from 10:45 a.m. to noon every other month. Our current series meets through September 25. For more information, visit the Welcome Center.

**Are you struggling?** The pastoral staff at RHCC is available to help you with your marriage, finances, parenting, emotional issues, or if you are in need of prayer. We can also provide recommendations for Christian counseling services in the South Bay. Contact Nate Aanderud at 310.521.2565 or naanderud@rhcc.net.

**Here are some highlights of what's coming up at RHCC. For more information about all of our ministries, pick up the latest issue of *Connections* magazine.**

#### **Cal. Baptist Choir and Orchestra**

Join us next Sunday, September 18 at 6 p.m. in the Worship Center for a free concert led by nationally acclaimed conductor, Dr. Gary Bonner, and over 150 singers and instrumentalists from the California Baptist Choir and Orchestra.

#### **Rolling Hills Bible Institute Kickoff**

Join us Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m. in the Worship Center as we kick off the fall RHBI term with special guest Greg Koukl, who will present "Hell, Yes! The Terrifying Truth." For a full listing of RHBI classes, check out page 8 of *Connections* or go to RHBI.org.

#### **Children's Ministries**

We are still in need volunteers to join us in teaching our children about Jesus. Classes will be closed until they are completely staffed. Contact Children's Ministries at 310.521.2541 to see how you can use your gifts to share the love of Jesus with our children.

#### **Job Available**

We have a position open for a paid childcare worker two Fridays mornings a month. Please contact Sharon Jones at 310.521.2546.

#### **Pictorial Directory - 1 week left!**

Now is your last chance to have your photo taken for our church directory! Appointments are available through Saturday, September 24. Sign up at today RollingHillsCovenant.com/pictorial-directory or call 310.519.9406.

#### **Operation Timothy**

Operation Timothy has been teaching foundational Biblical truths at RHCC for over 20 years. Join us Sundays beginning September 25 at 9 or 10:45 a.m. Sign up on the patio or contact Chris Davidson at 310.486.5497.

#### **Congregational Business Meeting**

Join us Sunday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the 290s. New members will be received, a new nominating committee will be formed, a budget report and updates on our various campus Expansion projects will be presented.

#### **Prayer Ministry**

**Prayer Chain:** Peggy Snell at 310.539.0391 or Annette Johnson at 310.530.3292.

#### **Giving Report (as of 9/11)**

Giving goal (6/1/11-5/31/12):	\$6,790,000
Budget Needs YTD:	\$1,703,704
Received YTD:	\$1,699,800
Over/Under YTD:	(\$3,904)
Needed last week:	\$112,376
Received last week:	\$123,224

**S**teve Jobs, the brilliant man behind Apple, talks of an approach to each day that he heard from someone when he was a youth. The man said, "Live each day as if it were your last because some day it will be." Jobs says that since he heard that as a 17 year-old, he has lived each day with that thought. He thinks, if this were my last day is this how I would spend it? It has shaped what he has done and hasn't done with his life. Tragically, he has not yet understood that Jesus is life, and death brings us not only to end of this life, but to eternity. I pray in his current sickness that there is someone around him who has the love and courage to share Jesus with him.

But the thought of living each day as if it were our last is very biblical. We are to seize each day as a gift of God to be used for His glory. The Bible says that God has set eternity in our hearts. The Bible tells us we are to live lives recognizing that we are accountable to God, and that what we do in this life will echo for eternity, for good or for bad. We also live with the expectation that this may be the year Jesus comes for His church. What is next in God's plans for us is our being caught up together with the rest of His church as He takes us to heaven, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. This is the blessed hope of those who have put their trust in Jesus, Titus 2:13. John says that everyone who has this hope keeps themselves pure, anticipating His coming, 1 John 3:3. We have this hope as the warning of the judgment of God rises on this generation. But we know as Christians God has not destined us for wrath, but for His salvation, 1 Thessalonians 5:9.

If there ever was a month to start living each day as if it were your last and only doing those things that make sense in light of the call of Jesus on our life, it is this month. As Paul says in Ephesians 5:15-16; we are to think through each day how to live because our days are evil. To help with knowing how to live this way,

this weekend we will begin a study of how to keep life in focus. We know the purpose of life is caught up in our purpose statement as a church family, "To know Jesus intimately and to share His love and truth passionately." We begin a study this weekend of Colossians which, in very helpful and meaningful ways, will help us in living out this purpose, and the core essentials of life that Jesus has given us as individuals and as a church. Three core essentials help us live out this focus: 1) to *Discover* who Jesus is and to grow in becoming like Him in a life long process as a disciple, 2) to share His *Love* with others in the church and world, and 3) to *Serve* as a minister of Christ ministering His grace and truth as we serve one another, and live as servants in the world.

This Fall our small groups, a key part of living out our essential of *Discover* with *Love* and *Serve*, will be centered on the key truths from the weekend's message study. Each week's small group meeting will focus on going deeper and with more practical applications as we think through how to live out the truths shared. Small groups are also incredibly important places for the love of Christ to be lived out as we pray for, encourage, and serve one another. If you are not part of a small group I think it is essential that you join one this month. Pastor Vance Hartzell has done a great job of assembling small groups that meet throughout the week and throughout locations in the South Bay. Look through the catalog and find one that best matches what works best for you. I think being part of a small group will give you great encouragement and help as you seek to know Jesus intimately and to share His love and truth passionately. Let's live each day as if it were our last, and as we look up to Jesus and His return we will be awake and serving when He comes to take us home. Even so Lord Jesus, come quickly, Revelation 22:20-21.