

Life in Focus
“My Life in God’s Master Plan”
Colossians 1:24-29

God’s Master Plan

God’s master plan is to redeem a people for His Son Jesus Christ and for His Kingdom, vv. 12-13, 20, 27.

God’s first covenant with man was to bring His glory among the nations through the glory of the people and nation of Israel, living as a holy and blessed people giving witness of who is the true God, Genesis 12:1-2.

God, at the end of the church age, will turn back to Israel with Jesus proclaimed and received as Messiah, Savior, and Lord by the nation of Israel, Romans 11:25-32.

God’s new covenant through Jesus is to bring His glory among the nations through the church, a spiritual body of people, both Jew and Gentile, in whom Jesus dwells and who individually and together grow to become more and more like Jesus, as they minister His grace and truth to one another, vv. 24-28.

The Apostle Paul was the key instrument of God in communicating His plans for the church through Paul’s preaching and writing, v. 25.

Paul is the model for each disciple of Jesus of the costly and joyful ministry of serving Jesus in this life, v. 24.

Paul served Jesus with an effort that was sweetly “agonizing” and incredibly powerful as Jesus’ power was released through his life of ministry, v. 29.

The message of the Gospel includes both the call to faith in Jesus and the warning of judgment on those who don’t respond, v. 28.

My part in God’s master plan

God calls us into a living, dynamic, growing relationship with Jesus as Savior, Lord, companion and model, vv. 27-28.

God calls us to a growing relationship with Jesus in which we become more and more like Him, v. 28.

God calls us, as part of Jesus’ church, to help others hear about, and then grow in a relationship with Jesus, v. 28.

Join us next weekend as special guest Ed Silvoso joins us for Evangelism Emphasis Weekend.

Welcome | to Rolling Hills Covenant Church



DISCOVER · LOVE · SERVE

October 8-9, 2011

Life in Focus
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Colossians 1:24-29
Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald

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.

SERVICE TIMES:

Worship Center: Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Contemporary Worship Music
Sunday, 8:00 & 9:30 a.m., Blended Music
Sunday, Canvas, 11:15 a.m., Contemporary Worship Music
The 290s (Ed. Bldg.): Sunday, Canvas, 9:30 a.m., Contemporary Worship Music
Sunday, 11:15 a.m., The Gathering, Contemporary Worship Music
Community Ctr.: Sunday, 10:00 a.m., Life on The Hill, Contemporary Music



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Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
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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 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every other month. Our next series meets November 6 to 27. 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.

Couple's Get-Away

Join Pastors Nate Aanderud and Garrick Hanger, November 5-6, for a weekend away to rest, rejuvenate and reconnect with your spouse. Brochures available in the lobby.

Want To Be Listed in the Directory?

Didn't have your photo taken but still want your information listed in the back of the upcoming RHCC Directory? Fill out a pink form (located in the lobby).

Missionary Housing

We have five missionaries coming for training October 23-28. If you can house one or more of them, please contact Susie at 310.521.5274 or sbatstone@rhcc.net.

Part-Time Missionaries Wanted!

Become an English tutor for a small group of international students Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. No experience necessary, we will train you! Contact Kathy at 310.791.9890 or kathycountryman@gmail.com.

Do you love to decorate for Christmas?

Then we need you! We are looking for volunteers to help us decorate the Worship Center this Christmas. Contact Ellynn-Marie at 310.521.2514 or eartusio@rhcc.net.

Used Bikes Wanted

Give us your good-quality used bike and we'll fix it up for Africa! Contact Susie at 310.521.5274 or sbatstone@rhcc.net.

Thank You RHCC!

"Dave and I thank you, our church family, for all your prayers and love while I was in the hospital and now home recovering. With hearts full of love and appreciation, Karen Visel."

Prayer Ministry

Homegoing: Pray for Eric Youtsey and family on the homegoing of his mother, Donna.
Prayer Chain: Peggy Snell at 310.539.0391 or Annette Johnson at 310.530.3292.

Giving Report (as of 10/2)

Giving goal (6/1/11-5/31/12):	\$6,790,000
Budget Needs YTD:	\$2,041,323
Received YTD:	\$2,026,688
Over/Under YTD:	(\$14,635)
Needed last week:	\$112,867
Received last week:	\$131,782

Do you ever have one of those days when everything seems like it has been turned upside down and poured on your head? You have a meeting with difficult feelings and issues, a bus forces you over on your bike and your arm and hand get smashed on some garbage cans, a dear friend has difficult physical issues, your assistant is out with sick children, and you learn of a difficult personnel issue with which you have to deal? My grandchildren have me read to them, almost weekly, the book Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. In the story, when Alexander was having his terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day, his solution was to move to Australia. I'm sure Alexander has never been to Australia, yet still it seems to him somewhere else must be a better place. It is Alexander's mother though, in the book, who has the final wisdom. She told him at the end of his terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day, "Some days are like that, even in Australia."

As people who live to know Jesus intimately, we have some better answers than moving to Australia. It is Jesus who honestly tells us, some days will be like that. As He closed His teaching to His disciples before the cross, He told them, "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world." Jesus has great wisdom for us, in this world, we will have tribulation. Some days will be like that. We live in a sin cursed world with sinful imperfect people with the weaknesses of ourselves. Things break down. Relationships can have difficult moments. Bodies can bruise and hurt. Bus drivers can force you over. People stay trapped in sinful mistakes. This is part of life.

We also know that in this life we have an enemy who wants to use all these things to discourage us, cause us to doubt, distract us with overwhelming feelings, and divide us from our oneness with one another. Paul talks about

this enemy in Ephesians 6:10-12, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the scheme of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." Satan, if not the cause of all of things that go wrong in a day, is certainly one who wants to use them to defeat our faith, discourage, frustrate, and make us seem futile. He lives to pile on and add oppressive weight to our circumstances, relationships, and feelings. I find though it is there he is weak, because he always goes too far – and I suddenly realize he is the inspiration behind the oppressive circumstances. And that is where Jesus says, don't let him win.

Jesus promises, in Him, we will have His presence, love, and help in the midst of our terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days. We know that even if no one else knows, Jesus knows. If no one else understands or cares, Jesus both understands and cares passionately. If no one else can help, Jesus will. He reminds us in His words to Paul in his no good days and circumstances, 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." The promise of Jesus has two assurances that give us strength and hope. One, we know He has the helping grace that will let us not be buried under these issues and feelings, but which will enable us to stand up under them. Second, we know that the more we lean on Jesus in these times, the stronger we will become. His power is made perfect in our weakness.

In all of this we have hope, some day we will be triumphantly home with Jesus, and it is way better than Australia. And also, cheer up, tomorrow is a new day and the chances are it will be better. Just wake up and walk with Jesus, and remember some days are just like that.