"Where is Love"

Genesis 29:15-31:2 Pastor Byron MacDonald

The amazing grace of God who builds and shapes character and relationship with Him through life's choices and consequences, Deuteronomy 32:10-12.

Substitutes for God (YAHWEH) always disappoint and enslave:

Jacob – looked for love in his desire for Rachel, vv. 15-18.

His desire enslaved him for 14 years.

His desire led him to be deceived and disappointed.

His marriage to Rachel never was satisfying, vv. 1-2.

Leah – unwanted and unloved, looked for love in her desire for her husband's love, vv. 31-34.

Rachel – looked for love through the desire of others for her, and in her pride as she compared herself to others, vv. 1-2.

It was Rachel who would steal her father's idols, vv. 31:19.

Love found in the love and praise of YAHWEH, v. 35.

Leah found love and life when it was all for the praise of YAHWEH.

In a sense, Leah became the daughter and bride that God always wanted.

It was through Leah that the Lord Jesus Christ came.



2222 Palos Verdes Dr. North Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274 310.519.9406 • www.RollingHillsCovenant.com

Welcome to Rolling Hills Covenant Church



DISCOVER • LOVE • SERVE

June 2/3, 2012

"Where is Love"

Genesis 29:15-31:2 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 with Byron MacDonald, Urban Gospel Music

Community Ctr.: Sunday, 10:00 a.m., Life on The Hill, Contemporary Music

Welcome to Rolling Hills Covenant Church—a caring community of people who believe the Bible is the Word of God and choose to live by its truth.

Our mission is to know Jesus intimately and to share His love and truth passionately. We *discover* God by studying His word, both personally and with others. We endeavor to *love* others, with Christ as our example. And we commit our time, talents, and treasure to *serve* God, to reflect His glory, and to share the salvation of Christ throughout the world.

We're glad you're here

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 July 1 through 22. 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.

All Church Prayer

Join us this Sunday, March 4 from 7 to 8 p.m. in Room 281, Main Campus as we come together to pray for our church, its leaders and congregants.

God's Kids Musical

Bring your family to the fun-filled musical "King of the Jungle", presented by our God's Kids Choir on Sunday, June 10 at 4:30 p.m. in the Worship Center.

Children's Recruitment

Sign up today to be part of a 4-6 person team to share Jesus with children eager to believe. You can volunteer for two months over the summer, ten school-year months, or the entire year. Training and support will be provided.

Short Term Missions

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called! Are you being called to serve Him? Consider going on a short term trip this year! We have openings on the following teams. Taiwan (July 1-14); China (July 9-30); Mexico (July 16-23); Thailand (Aug.); India (Dec. 6-16). For details, contact Janet Orr at jorr@rhcc.net.

Child Dedication

Sign up now to have your child dedicated during our worship services Father's Day weekend, June 16/17. Contact Sheri Dragon at 310.521.2541 or sdragon@rhcc.net.

Summer Camps

We are now accepting sign-ups up for summer camp and vacation Bible school. See Children's and Student Ministries for details and forms.

Counterfeit Gods

The book, *Counterfeit Gods*, by Timothy Keller is now available in the RHCC library. \$12 each.

Prayer Ministry

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

Giving Report (as of 5/27)

diving heport (as of 9/21)	
Giving goal (6/1/11-5/31/12):	\$6,790,000
Budget Needs YTD:	\$6,790,000
Received YTD:	\$6,436,488
Over/Under YTD:	(\$353,512)
Needed last week:	\$121,726
Received last week:	\$93,133

Children's Campaign

Funds Received to Date:	\$639,719
Funds Still Needed:	\$1,360,281
Two-Year Pledges:	\$812,425
Two-Year Pledaes Still Needed	\$1 187 575

Pastor's | Chat

week ago Tuesday, as our plane from LAX to Frankfurt was on its final path to land, we were all eager for the ten and a half hour flight to end. We were on an adventure to tour the biblical sites of Turkey. Settling back in the last approach to the airport, we were startled by an immense flash of light and sound of explosion. Our plane had been hit by lightning. While there was no evident damage, we were suddenly all awake. That strike of lightning became a parable for our trip. Our journey back into time to the Biblically significant sites of Turkey was, for me spiritually, like a lightning bolt. It was an awakening to the power of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the enormous passion and price that was paid to take the Gospel to the nations. To walk back in time, to the first generation of the church, produced a renewal of passion to finish what was started then and now seems to be coming to a close, with equal passion, no matter what the price.

Part of the challenge of the tour, and God's awakening lightning strike, was the realization that in a country of 74 million we have almost as many evangelical believers at RHCC as in their whole nation. This land that birthed the first missionary church, Antioch (in Syria then, modern Turkey now), has such need for a fresh generation of Gospel workers who go with equal passion to proclaim the Good News of salvation by faith in Jesus and His finished work for salvation on the cross. It is an incredibly beautiful land, and so lost without Jesus.

The first city we visited was Antioch in Pisidia. This large city with a significant Jewish population was where the Gospel started in Asia. They have uncovered much of the core of this ancient city. It's amazing as you consider its history; that the Apostle Paul and Barnabas were able to present the Gospel the second Sabbath they were there to what is described as almost the whole city. It is such a demonstration of the confidence that Paul had that the power of God to save is in the message of Jesus. He put it this way in Romans 1:16-17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live bu faith." To see all the challenges of Jewish culture

steeped in law, tradition and works, as well as the Greek/Roman culture filled with multiple gods and pagan practices, overcome in the lives of many by the power of God working through the message proclaimed, was very stirring.

We visited the Cappadocia region which is formed by lava flow. The soft lava rocks formed many caves, and some underground cave cities that became refuges for the early church in the waves of persecution that came from Rome and the hostility of the peoples of the land. We went into a seven level underground city, with sleeping places carved into the rock. Long narrow passages carved into the rock, where people hid for two or three months at a time when needed. All of this was done so that the Gospel was preserved and the church thrived under the intensity of persecution and the purification and perseverance it produced. There, in one of the levels of the underground city, was a place for worship. We also saw caves that were turned into houses of worship. In the history of the church, whenever it could, the church has set aside places for the exclusive use of worship. We have two church families there, the Dillards and the Dedrichs, who are seeking to bring witness of the Gospel to the land of Turkey, particularly the unreached people of Cappadocia and the vast numbers of people to the East who have no access to the Gospel apart from the Internet.

We also visited all the sites of the seven churches of Revelation. There we were faced with a church that was too often compromised by the pressure of the culture in which it lived. It was so instructive to us as a group that maintaining the vitality of our passion for Jesus, holding onto and living by the Word of God, and living as a missional church, passionate to take the Gospel to its community and to the nations, were the keys to being a church that changes the world, rather than having the world change it. Whether in Turkey or in our neighborhoods, hundreds of millions of people are lost without God now and for eternity, unless we lay hold of the Gospel and the mission with passion, confidence and urgency. May it not take a lightning strike to awaken us to the challenge of finishing well, what was so well started in Turkey so many years ago. Pray for Turkey and pray for our neighbors in the South Bay.