

*Living Sacrifice*  
“When Good Things Become the Ultimate Thing”  
Genesis 22:1-19

**God Tests the Heart, vv. 1-2.**

God tests the heart to reveal it and purify it (1 Peter 1:6-7), v. 1.

God would never lead anyone into sin, only into faith, James 1:12-15.

So you love Me, how much?

Do you desire Me as the One who blesses or as the blessing?

So you obey Me, how far?

Do you obey only when it is convenient, or when it is costly?

So you trust Me, how much?

Do you trust My wisdom?

Do you trust My resurrection power?

Do you trust Me with your loved ones?

**The Triumph of the Heart**

Abraham obeyed, vv. 3-14.

Abraham trusted in the resurrection power of God (Hebrews 11:17-19), v. 5.

While faith first looks like all loss, it results in all gain, vv. 15-19.

**Jesus and You, the Treasure of the Father’s Heart**

Isaac portrays the Father and Jesus:

Loved by the Father, v. 2.

A pleasing sacrifice for sin, v. 2.

Sacrificed on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem, vv. 2, 14.

Carried the wood, the means of his sacrifice, v. 6.

Stricken by the Father, v. 10.

Received his life back on the third day, v. 4.

Made possible an everlasting kingdom, vv. 17-18.

# Welcome | to Rolling Hills Covenant Church



**DISCOVER • LOVE • SERVE**

**May 12-13, 2012**

*Living Sacrifice*  
“When Good Things Become the Ultimate Thing”  
Genesis 22:1-19  
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:**

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.



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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 current series meets through May 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](mailto: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.**

### Child Dedication

The following families will be dedicating their children this weekend:

- 5:00 p.m. - Matthew and Jovy Chappelle with Jedidiah Daniel; Joe and Gail Neu with Caylee; Jeffrey and Dianne Van Hulzen with Evangelina Joy  
 11:15 a.m. - Richard and Shannon Martin with Kailee Joan

### 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 | August        |
| India    | December 6-16 |

### Jr. High Baptism

Come support our Jr. High students as they celebrate completing D/C by getting baptized. Wednesday, May 16 at 6 p.m. in the Worship Center.

### Click, Print & Test

Have you ever wondered if you struggle with anger, codependency, chemical dependency, an abusive relationship, etc? Don't wonder anymore! Celebrate Recovery has made some tests available so that you can anonymously discover if you have a problem with these and other areas. Go to [Rolling Hills Covenant.com](http://RollingHillsCovenant.com) and click on the Celebrate Recovery icon on the right side of the page.

### Prayer Ministry

**Homegoing:** Please pray for the family and friends of David Wesson on his homegoing.

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

### Giving Report (as of 5/6)

Giving goal (6/1/11-5/31/12):	\$6,790,000
Budget Needs YTD:	\$6,424,821
Received YTD:	\$6,138,885
Over/Under YTD:	(\$285,936)
Needed last week:	\$121,726
Received last week:	\$126,388

### Children's Campaign

Funds Received to Date	\$610,473
Two-Year Pledges	\$828,540

**T**his week, the week following the Annual Congregational Business Meeting, is always a challenging week for me. Since mid-January leadership has been seeking together to find God's will for our ministry plan and annual budget. It is a good process as it compels us to listen to God and to listen to each other. It's a time to seek and affirm priorities. We've been concerned the last two years that maybe we are doing too much and have too much busyness in our ministries, and not enough focus for you as to what is core and important, and what is optional and extra. We've been trying to more focus our church ministry, and more focus our communication to you. We're feeling we are doing better at this, but it still has a way to go. All in all it has been a good process this year in seeking God's leading for ministry plan and budget. The congregation approved the proposed plan and budget after some good and healthy discussion.

But this week the reality hits home, now we have to move to live out this ministry plan. The plan is never really about dollars and budget lines, it is always about people, souls, and ministries that lead people to know Jesus intimately and to share His love and truth passionately. It's about God's passion to lead us as we seek to make disciples in this strategic international location within which we live, and in this incredibly crucial moment of history in which we live. There couldn't be a more critically important time for us to live for Christ than now. For us as a local church, it is to lead people to *Discover* and grow in a vital relationship with Jesus Christ through His Word learned and lived. It is about *Love*, building deep and authentic relationships with each other and with those in the world who need to know Jesus. It is about *Serve*, using the resources God has given us to serve in the church to build each other up in Christ and in the world to impact them with the love and truth of Christ.

As we look forward to our new church fiscal year starting June 1, there is some concern financially. The giving to the General Fund has dropped quite significantly the last two months. This has happened at the same time we have sought gifts for the Children's Campaign. We were hoping giving to the Children's Campaign would come from monies that are extra from regular giving, but we know there may be some choices that are made that impact regular giving. We are still looking for the Lord's provision for the full amount needed for the Children's Campaign, but what is most important is that our General Fund continues healthy and full. All the core ministries of the church, here, and ministries we support around the world, depend upon our General Fund.

Please join me in praying for our giving to our General Fund. We need to finish May well and start June with healthy resources. As leaders, we are already watching these numbers and being forced to consider what we need to do to match our ministries to the funds available. I don't think any of this is a problem to God, who is the Lord who provides – but I do think it calls on us to pray for the Lord to provide the funds and it calls for us to consider how God would lead us in response. If there are choices to be made in your giving, our need to sustain the core ministries of the church is more important than expanding facilities. I think with God, provisions are there for both the General Fund and the Children's Campaign, it's just a matter of our praying, listening to God, and giving with sacrificial generosity. We live in critical times with too much opportunity for us to limit ourselves or cut back the ministry here or in missions. I know every time we reach a point like this in our ministry, as you pray and give, we always have the resources we need. Thanks for joining me in prayer on this. I think God would have us go boldly with the opportunities before us, and to have the resources we need for the children and families yet to be reached. Let us pray and give with hopeful expectancy.