

March 2011



Taking the Word of God to the world of golf

Dear Friends

In case you hadn't noticed, the months roll round so fast these days that April is nearly upon us already! Apart from the weather warming up, fairways are getting firmer and winter rules will soon be forgotten for a while, and it will be possible to sneak out for a few holes after work. And, on top of all of that, April means...The Masters!

For most of us the golf season begins with the Masters doesn't it? (Unless you're reading this in the Southern Hemisphere – in which case it will also be upside down!). Anyway, wherever we are, the first Major of the calendar year is always an exciting event and signals a new start for so many golfers. If you're not a great fan of winter golf then I am sure it is the Masters that gives you back your appetite to play! Perhaps this April it will mean a new start for a Tour player, as he enters the Butler Cabin as the Masters winner for the first time on that Sunday evening.

One of the most memorable features of Augusta National is of course Amen Corner, the name given to that dangerous stretch of holes from the 11th to the 13th where a round can be made or ruined. What a strong part of the golf course and what a beautiful setting!

Well, with Amen Corner in our minds, how about using the Masters 2011 to not only start your golf season but also your prayer season?

Why not commit yourself to praying for a few fellow golfers who are not Christians and ask the Lord to work in their lives as He has in yours? Pray for your witness to them and for opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. Why not pray for Christian players who will be teeing it up for real (and not in their dreams) at the Masters? They are Christian brothers who need encouragement, support and, above all, the Lord's grace to stand as clear witnesses for Christ to the watching world. As they do that and, as the rest of us do the same amongst our fellow golfers at the local club, we can all join those fervent worshipers in many an Amen Corner in the Southern United States and say "Amen," "Praise the Lord" or "Preach it brother!"

With warm Christian greetings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pinney".

Mark Pinney
Director

Testimony - Wesley Vaughan

It is always good to hear from people how the Lord is using them in their day to day lives. This month we are pleased to hear from Wesley Vaughan, a PGA professional for 14 years, as he shares with us how he has the opportunities, through his job, to witness to fellow golfers:

Throughout my 14 year career as a PGA professional, I have worked across a spectrum of PGA establishments throughout England and Wales. Whilst playing in regular competitions my career has predominantly focused upon coaching and specialist custom-fitting. I have been privileged to coach at Club, County + International level and have especially enjoyed supporting players from the European tour.

I really enjoy coaching at all levels, particularly with regular pupils. It has amazed me how much time, energy and money avid golfers are willing to invest in their development and how much trust they place in the PGA professional to advance their game.

I genuinely enjoy building rapport with people and feel it helps them to relax and for me to understand potential barriers to their game. Knowing my full confirmation of my calling into the ministry, I no longer hesitate to tell pupils that I'm additionally studying theology for ministry purpose. Although frequently a conversation stopper, it has also enabled me to converse with certain individuals also on a deeper level out of the context of "church".

It has amazed me how open some individuals are to exploring what true life is and how much they are trying to fill a void by using the game of golf.

I was particularly challenged whilst working in one of the most influential golf clubs in the UK. Whilst feeling somewhat inferior in status and wealth, God really awakened the realisation of where my riches actually lay. God opened up almost incomprehensible doors to witness, on request, to some of the most influential and aristocratic members of society.

Having since relocated to Wales on getting married, only God knows what the future holds for me career wise. For now I trust I am in the right place and with the right people and choose to submit my golf career and ministry to God.

In my opinion, whilst a PGA professional can change someone's swing for the good of their game, the heart of a Christian PGA professional, whilst loving the game, longs to see a changed soul not merely a changed swing.



Welcome

We are delighted to announce that one of our trustees, Allan Gray, has recently also taken responsibility for being our representative in Wales.

Allan has been an enthusiastic golfer for over 30 years and currently plays at the Gower Golf Club.

He will be overseeing our ministry in Wales and co-ordinating events there.

Golf Instruction Series

Following the launch of our series of instruction articles last year, we are continuing to update the website with new articles from Club and Teaching Pro's who are involved with Logos Golf Ministries. Please do take the time to look at the website; who knows you may benefit from the articles and see an improvement in your game over the next few months!