

October 2010 Newsletter



This month we are pleased to have contributions from all the Chaplaincy team members, to bring us up to date with events happening on their Tours. David writes on behalf of Wales, Ken tells us of his experiences as a new chaplain and Mark and Bill, much longer in the Logos Ministry, tell us of their continuing excitement for the work.

PGA European Tour

David Lewis: As I am writing this, Wales is in the midst of Ryder Cup fever. The build up and the hype has been constant and huge. The news is being dominated by all things 'Ryder'. The banners are proclaiming 'Welcome to Wales'. The 2010 course has been built especially for the three day competition at a phenomenal financial cost to Sir Terry Matthews. The M4 has been widened; even the schools in Cardiff and Newport are closed on the Friday to keep traffic on the road. The aim is to provide golfing perfection. This is human effort at its best. However as I look out of my window the rain continues to pour! Welcome to Wales in October! Of course rain is not new to the Ryder Cup. The rain didn't fall on the plane in Spain in 97, but on the players and spectators. The same was true in the US in 1999 and in Ireland in 2006. We can aim for perfection but we can never get there. That swing we work on seems so consistent and so good – and then the wind blows and it's time for yet another lesson!

It's a reminder to us that mankind can plan and work towards perfection but there are so many things in life that are out of our control. Of course with our Lord it is so different. The Lord of all creation was the One who could control the elements. One word from Him and the wind stopped blowing and the storms ceased. What an opportunity the Ryder Cup gives us to remind our friends of the One who was perfect in all ways and who didn't give money – but gave His life a ransom for many. He did this so that sinners like us can share in the true perfection of heaven.

Mark Pinney: Our ministry on the PGA European Tour continues with David Lewis and myself doing the chaplaincy work. The worldwide nature of the Tour makes it more difficult than before to meet players and others as often as we would like. But we are excited about what the Lord is doing in the people we minister to. Among the Christians, there has been the usual mixture of good play results and not so good, but we pray on that the Lord will be honoured whatever He brings and that the witness of Christian players will bear much fruit.

Challenge Tour

Ken Revie: I am six tournaments into the role on the Challenge Tour, and much has evolved in that short time. The initial feelings of "what am I doing here?" have moved on, through the Spirit, and each week the road is getting clearer. The need is for patient faith, quiet perseverance and an unobtrusive presence among the golfers. I have been finding my bearings and in the last two tournaments I have been able to stay at the same accommodation as the players, which means a great deal regarding constant contact. This situation should be ongoing which is vital. One of the good things is that everyone you meet asks you what are you doing on the Tour, so they get the full run down, and though they may then forget that and me, I won't forget them!

I am pleased to say that I feel some progress has been made, contacts established and I am very aware of God through it all and the prayers, support and encouragement of many people in Logos, Ballymena and further afield.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans **will** succeed" Proverbs 16:3

Seniors Tour

Bill Ferguson: Life on the Seniors Tour has taken on a different complexion with some established Christian players having either retired or lost their main playing privileges. This inevitably means that the Christian Fellowship meetings are smaller but are more intimate. We have a good core of committed Christian players and caddies who are faithful in their fellowship and witness and the Kingdom of God is able to be both proclaimed and lived in and through them.

The smaller number has also opened up opportunities to connect with players and families who are not Christian and I have listened to many stories of brokenness and illness and disappointment and broken dreams. One of the best times was at the Seniors British Open at Carnoustie – what a golf course! – where I had opportunities to pray for not just players, but buggy drivers, hotel staff and Tour staff. The Lord opened up so many doors. In Ireland we were able to organize a golf cap signed by most of the players to be given to a man who had a terminal cancer and who loved golf.

The ministry opportunities pour in and when we remember that the golf “family” embraces everyone who has a part to play, and not just the players, then the Lord does open up so many opportunities to share the love of God in Christ. I am now coming to the end of my 7th season and I love it as much today as I did when Mark invited me to come on board and I am still as excited at what God is doing as I was then. Faces come and faces go but the Word of the Lord stands forever. Praise the Lord!”

Golf Conference

Watch this space! We are hoping to host a golf weekend at the end of **March** next year, when you can learn more about Logos Golf Ministries, enjoy fellowship and competition with other golfers and discover how to use your golf in Christian witness. More details to follow.....

Radio Interview with Bernard Langer

Bernard Langer was recently interviewed on Radio Wales programme ‘All Things Considered’. They write – ‘Not only a great sportsman, Bernhard Langer is also one of golf’s most well known Christians and in conversation with Peter Baker, (recorded on the eve of The British Seniors’ Open at Carnoustie) he talks about the Ryder Cup, his career, and how his faith has shaped him as a golfer, husband and father’.

Why not hear what he had to say, the interview can be heard by clicking on the link below:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00tz4cn/All_Things_Considered_26_09_2010/

Please Pray For:

- The Board as they meet next month, to discuss among other things how to develop the ministry in 2011
- For the Lord’s blessing on the many outreach golf days that have been held in 2010 and for effective evangelism at these events
- The ongoing need for us to appoint someone to serve as a chaplain on the Ladies’ Tour and for God’s leading in this.