

September 2011 Newsletter



Taking the Word of God to the world of golf

Dear Friends

Well the last major of the year has come and gone and once again a major tournament was very captivating and thought provoking. The winner of the US PGA Championship, Keegan Bradley, was a new name to many, but it looks like it will be one we hear lots of in the future. Meanwhile, played one, won one is a record in the Majors that is hard to beat!

We are often quick to forget the other main protagonists in these big events, but the runner-up in the playoff stirred something in my mind. The old adage that no one remembers the guy who came second is of course generally true but somehow the name Jason Dufner is hard to forget. Fancy a golfer being called Jason Dufner. Imagine earning your living at golf with a name like Jason Dufner. One felt for Jason as he let slip his lead over the last few holes, but one also feels for him with his ironic surname. Perhaps I have a perverse sense of humour, but it caused me to recall some other great names of golfing misfortune. How did Les Hooker, Donald Slicer and (best of all) Bill Shankland ever get to make a living in golf? One has to admire their resilience, determination and perhaps their own sense of humour.

More seriously though, the Bible, and particularly the Old Testament, makes a great deal of many peoples' names. Very often key Bible characters have names that describe who they are or the particular role they are called by God to play. A name somehow represented the nature of the person. Isaac reflected the "laughter" of his mother at his birth, Esau was named "hairy" because of his appearance, Jacob was named "supplanter" because he grasped his brother's heel, Moses received his name because he was "drawn out" of the water.

But the connection between a name and the reality it signified is nowhere more important than in the names referring to God. The personal name of God revealed to Moses in the burning bush – "I AM WHO I AM" – conveyed something of His character. God is the self-existent One and His name is virtually synonymous with His presence. To take the Lord's name in vain is therefore to act in any way that is inconsistent with the profession that He is the Lord God.

We see the whole idea most clearly of course in the giving of the name to the child born at Bethlehem: "...you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will have no end." (**Luke 1:31-33**). The name, and therefore the person, life and character of Jesus tells us and shows us that the Lord saves (**Matthew 1:21**).

This wonderful truth led Paul to write: "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow." (**Philippians 2:9-10**).

How amazing it is that, although none of us has lived up to the high name that we have been given as men and women created in God's image, there is another – Jesus Christ – who has perfectly lived up to and honoured the name He has been given. And He did that for us, so that we can be forgiven for our rebellion and restored to a right relationship with Him!

In Christ

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

Mark Pinney
Director

New for 2012 – An evening at the driving range

Next year we will be holding a number of evening events at local driving ranges. It will be a great opportunity for you to enjoy Christian fellowship, receive teaching from a local Club Pro and have a chance to hear more about golf ministry. Dates and venues will be published shortly, please look out for an event near you and plan to support LOGOS by coming along.

Life on the Seniors Tour with Bill Ferguson



This is now my 8th season as Chaplain of the European Seniors Tour and it has to be said that life on the Tour is a lot different now from what it was when I began. Not only do we have fewer players who will identify as being Christian or having any interest in the Christian Fellowship, but the number of tournaments and their locations make it a lot more challenging than it was “back then” – already I sound like a senior romanticising the good old days.

The Seniors Tour has unquestionably suffered from the recession and we now have fewer tournaments in Europe and since the influx of money from Dr Handa's ISPS Foundation, the opening and closing tournaments in the schedule are really long haul ones.

Having said all that, the Christian Fellowship remains strong and vibrant with a solid core of four or five players who have a strong commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to one another. This has been added to this year by the arrival on the scene of Anders Forsbrand. Anders was one of the first Swedish players to make any kind of an impact on the European Tour and, of course, was one of Bernhard Langer's vice-captains when Europe really cuffed (is it Christian to gloat?) the USA in the 2004 Ryder Cup in American soil.

Having served for the length of time that I have, I have been able to see the changes that have taken place but have also been in a position to help maintain some kind of stability in what is an uncertain environment. Many of the conversations and much of the ministry in which I am able to engage is not confined to the Christian players. I have been able to get alongside many of the players and their families and have been able, by God's grace, to establish some good relationships.

Through all of the changes and the uncertainties, we have seen the hand of God leading and guiding us. We have been blessed by His grace and His mercy and so we look forward with hope in an uncertain future, with an unchanging gospel and an unbelievable Saviour.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to continue to be a part of this great ministry team on the European Seniors Tour.

Date for your diary - LOGOS 2012 National Golf Event

Why not consider joining us for next year's event on **Friday the 27th /Saturday 28th April** at the **Hilton Puckrup Hall Hotel, Golf Club & Spa**, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire - <http://www.hilton.co.uk/tewkesbury?WT.srch=1> .

This year's event was a great success, with first class golf and good Christian fellowship - next year we plan to make it even better! Please put the date in your diary, further details will be coming out shortly.

Exciting times for LOGOS ...

With the work of LOGOS expanding and exciting plans being made for 2012, we find ourselves in the position of needing additional finance in order to bring these plans to fruition. At this time of the year our cash flow is historically low and it would be appreciated if you could prayerfully consider whether you could support us financially this year.

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter we have made it easier for you to support us in this way, by giving through **JustGiving**. You can find our direct link by going to: <http://www.justgiving.com/logosgolfministries>