



On The Green

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Golf Trips. . . Sometimes a Necessity!

Golf trips are sometimes not a luxury but a need (I expect to hear a couple of Amens on this) -- a time to get away and think not only about the challenges of this great game and sport, but a time to reflect on God and His plan for us.

The LowCountry CGA Chapter in Charleston, SC recently had an outing at Kiawah Island and invited another South Carolina chapter to join them for a great day on the course. With 30 mile per hour winds and gusts even higher, an ocean mist blowing across the course, fog rolling in and "swallowing" your ball as it rose off the tee-box climbing ever higher into the fog, you're left wondering where it might land. WOW! What a great day of golf!

God's Kingdom! Surrounded by His presence.

Golf is not only a release for many of us; it is a means to an end. For a golf ministry, it is the common ground that we use to share our faith. But "where do we go from here - what are we going to do about it?"

It was a great day on the course with good folks and good fellowship, and definitely a challenging golf course. But is that all we will remember? Another day on the course? I hope not.

In fact let's decide right now that it is NOT going to be "just another day on the course!"

We know that some of you usually plan an annual golf trip, either with family or golfing buddies. We also are aware that some have skipped your annual golf trip the past few years in order to take a more traditional family vacation (images of the Griswolds come to mind), or because of the economy. So we wanted to give you a few reasons to put the golf back in your vacation. Here is a great idea even Chevy Chase would be proud of for your next golf trip!

How about the "TEE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD!'" This is the national/international tournament that was a hallmark of CGA for a number of years; until the economy went south a few years back. Several members have asked, and suggested that we have "TEE SHOT" next year - 2013. So, plans are underway; don't have details worked out yet, but we will give you plenty of advance notice. We are looking at either summer so you can tie it in with vacations or, early fall. Like late September or early October. What's your preference? Let us know your thoughts on date and venue. **MAKE PLANS NOW! START YOUR "TEE SHOT SAVINGS" NOW AND BE READY!**

Have you taken a 'golf trip' lately? How was it? Send us an e-mail (christiangolf@ftc-i.net) and let us know if you have recently had a golf outing that turned into a great outing for Jesus Christ.

After all, remember that membership in the Christian Golfers' Association (CGA) is an outreach tool for Jesus Christ. Use it daily!

Make Golf Fun. . . We're not on Tour or turning pro

(Editor's Note: This is excerpted from a comment made on-line by LinkedIn Groups)

Over the years as a marketing firm, CEO and salesperson, I learned early on that the easier I made it for a client, the more business he would send my way. Thinking about this and comments from fellow golfers, I think it would be appropriate to make "golf easier to play and easier to play well." Build traps to catch errant shots rather than to penalize an almost good shot. Put a catch bunker behind that green, where the ball rolls 50 feet down a hill and takes 3 shots to get back to the green. Set up courses so folks can score instead of shooting 10+ shots over their handicap. (continued on page 2)



Make Golf Fun, continued

Remove the back tees and only use them for tournaments. Let golfers play a shorter, easier course from the mid to the front of the teeing area so they get around the course quicker. Do away with stroke and distance and let players drop in the fairway with a 2 stroke penalty. Clean up the rough so balls are easy to find. Put signs near hazards with the rules for that hazard so people know which rule to use. Put signs anywhere golfers are ignorant on how to proceed so they don't argue about rules. The easier you make the game to play and play reasonably well, the more golfers will play.

Ask yourself: "Why do golfers play golf?" The more possible you make it for the average golfers to achieve his wish, the more average golfers you will have. As long as golf courses are set up to be more difficult, the fewer golfers will play. The course designer may take great pride that a 10 handicapper can't break 90 on his course, the golf committee may take great pride also, but that 10 handicapper will look for another course to play that helps him lower his handicap.

Nobody likes failure, we all like to succeed. When we score good we have fun, when we have fun we want to have fun as often as we can. When we can't reach greens in regulation because the holes are too long, when we loose expensive golf balls and shoot 10 shots over our handicap, we are not having fun. Just a thought. Let us know what you think.



SHOP ON LINE AT THE CGA "ON-LINE" LOGO STORE

Some have asked about ordering shirts, hats and other items with the CGA logo. Just go to the CGA Online Logo Store - <http://cgastore.qbstores.com/OC/SF27GOLF> - and you can see a variety of items to choose from with a wide range of prices. Show your "colors" and your faith. CGA logo items such as shirts and hats are absolutely great conversation and witnessing starters. Many times I have been asked, "What is the Christian Golfers' Association?" A natural opening to tell them about Jesus Christ. Also, when you purchase items, CGA National receives a small percentage of the cost. So, shop at your CGA On-Line logo store and support YOUR ministry. We welcome your comments about the online store.

How Can You Know You Are Saved?

There are two types of "religious people" in the world, always has been, always will be. There are the "many" whose beliefs are "self-defined," and there are the "few" whose beliefs are defined by the books from which those beliefs originate. Whether Christian, Mormon, Islam or any other, this principle is equally applicable.

Incredibly, there will be many who read this that actually believe that Christians, Mormons and Muslims all worship the same God. In fact, "Half of Americans (50%) believe that all people are eventually saved or accepted by God no matter what they do" (George Barna).

While we could go on and on about the differences between professing Mormons and Muslims and what their "holy books" actually say, the purpose here is to challenge the "Christian community, among which we are a part.

EXAMPLE: Christians. The "Christianity" of the vast majority of "professing Christians" is "self-defined," a "Christianity" of their own making. George Barna's most recent survey of "self-identified Christians in the U.S." bear this out: "In fact, only about 3% of all self-identified Christians in America have come to...the place where they have surrendered control of their life to God, submitted to His will for their life, and devoted themselves to loving and serving God and other people." (Top Trends of 2011, *The Changing Role of Christianity*.)

Thus, it seems, when Jesus identified the number of professing Christians that are actually saved as "few," the answer to "How few is few?" would appear to be about 3%. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'" (Matt. 7:21-23) You see, according to Jesus there are "many" who think they are saved, but are not. According to Jesus, there are "many" who do good works for God but do not know Him. According to Jesus, there are "many" who think they are going to heaven but are deceived! According to Jesus, a horrifying surprise awaits all of those who put their trust in anything, or anyone other than Jesus. "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)