



MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER

“He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil—this is the man who will dwell in the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress.

His bread will be supplied, and water will not fail him”. **Isaiah 33:15, 16**

We all know that golf mirrors life. In golf and life we must make difficult decisions all the time. If we have God as our guiding force, we can make those decisions with great confidence. I recently read an article about football coach Lou Holtz (although I have never been a Holtz fan, I found it interesting). In the article he mentioned that golf was unique in the fact that the golfer is a player, a coach, and a referee all rolled into one. Each one of those roles brings a different perspective to each situation. It's the only game where you are asked to call penalties on yourself. I know I faced that decision in a tournament and could easily have ignored the rule and nobody would have known. However, when I did the right thing and penalized myself, I felt much better knowing I did the right thing. In 1 Corinthians, God has promised us that we will face no temptation except what is common to man. God is faithful, he will not let us be tempted beyond what we can handle. He always shows us the way out! The next time you face a difficult situation, on the golf course or in life, remember God's words and you will find that decision is not so hard after all.

RIDGE CREEK:

The 2009 season started with a great tournament at Ridge Creek Golf Course in Dinuba. We started the morning with a great breakfast and a very inspirational speaker. His name was Israel Cervantes and he attends Sunnyside Community Church, along with Ray Tarvin. He spoke of his involvement with drugs and gangs as a youth and how only by the grace of God was he able to leave that life behind. He truly feels he would have died a sinner if it were not for the prayers of believers he had met. He is now filled with the Holy Spirit and wants to share that good news with all that will listen.

A hearty group of golfers then did battle with a tough course and unforgiving weather. It truly was a traditional “Scottish” day with sunshine, wind, and a spot of rain. The team of Scott Smith, Greg Gonzalez, Leonard Garcia, and Terry Markus came through with the winning score of 129. Despite a bad stretch of weather it was a good day of golf, friendly competition, and fellowship for all in attendance.

SANTA MARIA/BLACKLAKE:

In February, a faithful group of golfers headed for the Central Coast. On Friday, the group played the challenging little municipal, Rancho Maria. In that test of skills, the team of Norm Weins and Roy Pope posted a net 59 for the win. A group chased them at net 61 consisting of Dave Weber and Bill Horg, Joseph Vic and Alfred Crain, Ray Tarvin and Rick Cowin, and Steven Brunnengraeber and Don Lancaster.

On Saturday, the brave traveled to Black lake for a 27-hole marathon. Their skills were tested on three nine-hole formats consisting of best ball, shamble, and two-man scramble. The team of Alfred Crain and Cliff Kemper took 1st place on the Oaks course. The team of Ron Nitz and Jeff King won the battle

at the Canyon course. The team of Norm Weins and Rick Cowin tamed the Lakes course. What a great day of fellowship and golf!

FIG GARDEN:

On March 28th, the club returned for its annual visit to Fig Garden. After a very inspiring report from Ed Kaczmarek from Youth for Christ on how that organization is impacting young lives for Christ, everyone was ready for the links. This two-man best ball format was actually a "two for one" as teams vied for the club tournament as well as the NCGA qualifier. The team of Norm Weins and Dennis Hammond walked away with low score honors, posting a net score of 58. As always, the golf was fun, the fellowship outstanding, and the glory and honor to God.

"The Saltzman Special"

The day was Saturday, September 13th 2008 a warm and enjoyable day perfect for golf. The team pairings consisted Mark Saltzman and David Weber and Don Loyd and Jerry Neff. We were participating in the CGCCC's "2 Man Best Ball" golf tournament at the River Island Country Club. The River Island Country Club "IS" a beautiful and challenging golf course.

After the first 8 holes we had wounds of varying degrees. Some of us had gapping wounds gushing massive amounts of pride while others were merely nicked up a bit dripping a drop of pride here and there. As we pressed on we were not prepared for what was about to happen on the 9th hole, 141 yard, par 3. With the pin in the front of the green Mark's first shot comes up short and the ball plugs itself in the left front bunker. The bottom of the bunker lies a good six feet below the green. As Mark makes his bunker shot the words, "Oh no" caught my attention. I looked up just in time to witness Mark's ball accelerating upward toward the tennis courts on the parking level way above and behind the green. At that moment the air was thick and the mood around the green was tense as we watched the ball, seemingly in slow motion, head for "Only God Knows Where". The ball came down just under the top retaining wall short of the tennis courts. To the amazement of everyone in our group the ball started rolling down:

down through the lantana,
down through the landscape bark and mulch,
all the way down over the second retaining wall,
bouncing twice on the cart path,
then off the cart path onto the rough six feet above the green,
down through the rough above the green,
down onto the green and towards the pin,
finally coming to rest just twelve feet short of the pin. Trust me, as unbelievable as this shot sounds, you had to see it to believe it. Mark then putted in for par. That folks is what I call the "Saltzman Special". It wasn't a pretty shot but the outcome is all that is recorded. It is my pleasure to share this story with you.

After our tournament round, while we waited for the other teams to come in, Mark was talking with the River Island assistant pro. She shared with us another golfer hit the same location on his tee shot executing a hole in one.

Christian Golf Club member, Jerry Neff, shared the story above.

UP COMING TOURNAMENTS:

May 2	Discovery Bay
June 6	Riverside (1 st round of the CGCCC Championship)
July 11	Sierra Meadows (Final round of the club championship)