



SLM Newsletter

Pro Golfers Doug Tewell and Scott Simpson “Dedicate” their lives to Jesus Christ.

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The Winning Edge

Designed specifically as a resource for Christian sports ministry. You may have seen a copy of the book, at the ACE Conference. The book contains the testimonies of 25 elite sportspeople, such as Michael Chang, David Robinson and Jonathan Edwards. Copies are available to SLM members at \$15 plus postage from Peter Furst.

Peter Furst

If you have any news or devotions to share? Send it to us for publication in the SLM Newsletter
slmsecretary@ecn.net.au

DOUG TEWELL

Sport: Golf
Position: Senior PGA Tour
Height: 5 ft. 10 in.
Weight: 190 lbs.
Also commentator for The Golf Channel

(My wife and I) decided we would never be apart more than two weeks. Either I would come home or they would go on the road with me. Our faith is what keeps us strong. Temptations are out there and

they look you right in the face. We really made it. We have two wonderful Christian children and their spouses. Pam did a great job while I was out there grinding."

We're fortunate to do what we do, but it can be very, very difficult (to stay in the Word). We're all procrastinators. We'll find any excuse not to pick up the Bible or read that lesson. I've found prayer is the best thing for all of us. The easiest thing you can do is pray.

I just say, 'Lord, I dedicate this day to you. I

take 10 or 15 steps after that first tee shot and it just comes to me.

I don't say, 'I want Doug Tewell to win this tournament,' but if my friends want to, that's fine. I pray that he will let me have the strength and the ability to play. Then you just get this peace about you. In Philippians, Paul says that through prayer and petition, present your requests to God. I figure I might as well petition every week.

I'll just work hard and keep a deep faith in Jesus Christ. He knows well what's best for me.

SCOTT SIMPSON

Sport: Golf
Height: 6 ft. 2 in.
Weight: 205 lbs.
Hometown: San Diego, Calif.
College: University of Southern California
Favorite scripture: Proverbs 3:6

I won on Father's Day and my Dad was laid up at home with a bad back. That means a lot too, because he's the one that got me into golf and you know I owe him so much. And he's even made a recommitment of his life to Christ; I guess after watching the effect that Jesus had on my life.

I'd been asking questions of Larry Moody, and for three years, he basically challenged me to find out if Christianity was true or not. And what I found is not to judge it on other people. And so it was an intellectual challenge. So, I asked him every question I could think of.

I started reading the Bible. I started reading from other resource books and it was through this that intellectually I became convinced that Christianity was true. And that Jesus Christ was God who He claimed to be and that He was an actual historical figure and He actually did die in our place.

My family is more important than my golf. Not to say that my golf isn't important and not to say that I don't work really hard at it. But in order of my priorities, when I can keep God No. 1 and keep my family second and golf third, it just makes everything better.

It says that we can enjoy not only eternity with Him but an abundant life here. I know through my ups and my downs on the tour, you're gonna have a lot of both, He's there and He's real. And it's been a great journey. I wish I would have made the decision earlier because there's nothing better than a life with Jesus Christ.

Devotional Superstition

The world of sports is full of superstition. Let me illustrate: Two of my college team mates were at the NCAA wrestling championships in 1995. Both were doing extremely well in the early rounds. Two-time defending National Champion TJ Jaworski was looking to win his third title in as many years. Stan Banks was looking to improve on his All-American status from the previous year. Each session they would prepare to go to the arena by getting their gear together. TJ noticed that the third time through this ritual, that Stan didn't brush his hair. He made Stan go back and brush his hair before leaving the room-just in case. Or an Example from the movie Bull Durham - The young pitcher breaks out of a slump by wearing women's underwear beneath his uniform.

Spiritual Perspective from God's word about superstitions - *The Good:*

Practicality of Routines - Before competition going through an established routine can give an athlete several benefits. It calms your nerves and prepares and focuses your mind for the competition.

A Tradition is a bit different from a superstition, it is not something done to bring good luck. A tradition can be superstitious but it does not have to be. A tradition is something done repetitively in order to remember a significant event or person. Some biblical Examples include the Passover where every year, Jews remember with a feast the fact that God delivered their people from slavery in Egypt and Communion where Jesus told his disciples - "Do this in remembrance of me."

A tradition becomes purposeless when the people observing it don't even know why they do it. A superstition or routine can be harmful when it distracts you to the point that your trust is not in God. You are trusting in your routine instead of the Sovereignty of God. Sovereignty - Means God is in control. **Isaiah 46:9-11**

Even in sports, God is in control - we must realize that things happen in sports and life that are beyond your control. If you have not realized this yet, you have not lived long enough. When you get to the point that you think you actually win and lose because of the color of your underwear, well-that's stupid. Some applications may be to replace superstitions with Focal Points. A focal point is something visual, mental or

verbal that reminds you of your trust in God and his plans during competition.

"Visual" can be something as simple as a cross on your glove to remind you of your motivation for life and competition. You can also memorize some scriptures like **Colossians 3:23** related to performance and effort. A verbal point might be that when you strike out - say to yourself "Nail it" and "Press On".

Luck is the term we use when we are ignorant of the real cause of why things happen one way or another. Get rid of the luck idea and replace it with a Sovereign God. If trusting in God is difficult, maybe you need to begin a relationship with Him, after all you only trust someone as far as you know him. I'll leave you with a short poem:

*Superstitions my friend, heck I
don't care
Routines can be helpful, but green
underwear?
I'll work at it my best and do all
that I can
But the outcome I leave in much
bigger hands.*

by Reid Monaghan

Rob Mann's Corner

Friends, it was with great trepidation that I accepted this position at the last National Forum and I have to express my thanks for the many messages of encouragement that I have received since then. It is a humbling experience.

SLM has an amazing history - a story in which one man, with a vision from God, planted a seed that has grown into a flourishing organization that has been able to shine the light of

the Gospel into much of the sporting community in this country. We must be ever thankful to the Lord for all that has been accomplished. SLM has a dynamic present.

This is an exciting day to be involved in this great ministry which, by the persistent effort and kindness of its workers, is impacting the lives of sportspeople and their families. We must not "become weary in doing good", even in the mundane and seemingly fruitless aspects of the ministry. SLM has an exciting future. The potential for us to grow as a dynamic and

effective force for the Gospel is limited only by our capacity to trust God, walk wisely and follow where He leads us.

We must be continually faithful to God's calling and faith-filled to take the challenging steps that lie before us. Seasons greetings to you all. I pray that you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Rob Mann

National Board Chairman.

During the past few years SLM has grown significantly. This has meant a greatly increased workload for many of the voluntary operatives. Because of this it has become necessary for Bruce Warren to redefine his administration duties for the organization.

The Parishes in which Bruce has been appointed have been very gracious allowing him time for his SLM work, however, it has become necessary for Bruce to restrict the hours spent with SLM. **Therefore, SLM telephone calls will only be answered on MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, and THURSDAYS.** It would also be appreciated if operatives could respect Bruce's day off which is Friday. Thank You.