



May 2010

Dear Links Player,

What a good thing it was to open the month with our Links Players staff, as the four of us gathered in Southern California to refresh our ministerial batteries. We do this with a mix of Bible study and prayer and golf and discussion about what is working best and what is still slow in coming. We appreciate one another's encouraging, exhorting company, and we love being able to share in a work that looks for captured hearts.

In the midst of all that, I delivered to the team a rich quote from pastor and author Mark Buchanan, from his book *The Rest of God*:

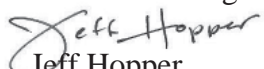
All authority is derived. Either God gives us words, or we are only giving opinions. If anyone ever stops to listen to you or me, this had better be in place: Our speaking comes out of our listening. What we say comes out of what we hear. We have to be people who listen, day and night, to God.

It is so important to us that we never let ourselves function outside the leading of God. And as those who have been entrusted to teach His Word, both in public settings and in print, we desire even more earnestly to never make a habit of offering only our opinions. We want people to get Jesus; so we want to give them Him as purely as possible.

This doesn't mean we never talk about anything else. There may be a lot of golf in our conversations with those in the clubs where our Fellowships are meeting. There will be some "how's-your-families" and some "did-you-get-that-contracts." But always, we want to get to the things that matter. We want to talk about God and His kingdom.

Would you please hold us up in prayer as we continue to pursue this goal? From my assistant here in the Links Players office right up to our president Jeffrey Cranford, we are all prone to distraction. We are all vulnerable to having our primary vision clouded by personal matters or our eyes and ears drawn to things that would worry or scare us. That makes it tough to keep our focus on Jesus. But when we ask Him to make Himself large in our eyes and hearts and minds, He is eager to do so. And we find ourselves loving Him more fully, and serving Him more readily.

With thanks for your recent gift to Links Players and encouragement to "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,"


Jeff Hopper
COO, Links Players