

# mercEmail

*"He delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18)*

## **My New Golf Partner**

by Steve Higginbotham

I love to golf! My only problem is I wish I could golf better. Oh, I have my good days and bad days, and I make enough good shots to keep my playing. And I think I know what my major problem is...not enough practice. I just don't play enough to consistently play well. But I do like to play. For the past couple years, my golf partners, Shane, Tony, and Al have had quite a rivalry going. Let's just say we have a large time when we get together.

However, as much as I enjoy those golf matches, I have to confess that I went golfing without them today. I had a new partner, my five-year-old son, Matthew. I've been promising to take him golfing with my since last Summer but I have continuously had excuses (too busy, too tired, bad weather, etc.). You see, golf requires concentration, and golf with a five-year-old isn't very conducive to concentration. So I finally decided I just had to take Matthew and "get this over with."

I must say it was different than usual. No fretting about the score. No worries about par or birdie. My thoughts went in a different direction today. We spent a little time looking for ticks and snakes. We fed a stray dog bits of a tunafish sandwich for three holes. We collected broken tees like they were a lost treasure. Matthew sat in my lap and steered the golf cart as I applied the gas and brakes. And I tried to putt and swing while a little boy talked incessantly about things such as, "How did they cut the grass so short?" "Why is the sky blue in the day, but black at night?" "Why don't golf carts have seatbelts and doors?" and "Why are boy dogs more difficult to manage than girl dogs?" (His exact words).

When we finished our round of golf, and as we started to leave, Matthew looked up at me and said, "This was great dad! Didn't you have fun?" To which I could honestly reply, "Yes son, I had a blast!" Golf with Shane, Tony, and Al is a lot of fun, but golf with a five year old isn't that bad either. Tonight we're "camping in." When I get home I have to set up a tent in our family room by our fireplace. I'll let you know how it goes.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psalm 127:3)