
Halftime Newsletter December 2010

The Soundtrack of Halftime

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Just as a picture paints a thousand words, sometimes God uses music to speak into our hearts at Halftime. Is there an artist who consistently takes you back in time or to a deeper place? As you are fully aware, God speaks through many things – His words in the Bible, a friend, tragedy and sometimes a special song. Has a song provided a soundtrack for your midlife musings and what are you hearing from God through it?

It was the perfect Texas setting – sitting around with our affiliates and their team members from across the US and around the world, enjoying barbecue, and listening to my friend and neighbor, Regie Hamm, sing his number one hit, "[Time of My life](#)." The song is a summary of Regie's life and journey through the loss of a record deal, the illness of his adopted daughter, Bella, and the brokenness this created.

What I had no way of knowing was how much these words meant to our managing director of Halftime, Dean Niewolny. For Dean, as a senior executive at Wells Fargo, this song had been the "soundtrack" of his soul journey at Halftime:

"Sitting on the 40th floor overlooking Lake Michigan, I can't tell you how many times the words of that song rang in my ears as I sought to discover what my second half was destined to be about. As the song says, I had been 'holding onto things that vanish.'

In the financial services world, this was painfully apparent to all of us. Having been successful...my wife Lisa and I wrestled with what was next...what would make us *'more than a name or a face in the crowd?'* What was it that God uniquely created us to do?"

Once Dean determined he would listen to what God was asking him to do he felt that he had to create margin so he could act on what he was hearing. He needed to make himself available on every level. "Lisa and I sold a number of assets...our plane, three homes, a car, etc." As the song says, *'All that I needed was there all along, within my reach as close as the beat of my heart.'* It was true, these things cluttered lives...they didn't bring life. Walking away from a secure career was counter-intuitive to many, especially in a questionable economy. However, in order to embrace the next chapter, we had to let go.

'And now I'm out on the edge of forever ready to run, Keeping my feet on the ground, arms open wide, Facing the sun'

Today just 12 months later I am experiencing the time of my life. Using the skills and abilities that were honed in the marketplace to make a lasting difference in the lives of Halftimers and in turn, through them, impacting the world. This truly is the time of my life."

Obviously, not every Halftimer is called to change careers or sell their company, but my guess is that all are faced with the same powerful question, "What am I going to do with the moments and opportunities to be *'more than just a name or a face in the crowd?'*" My encouragement to you this holiday season is to listen to [Regie's song](#), as Dean did, as a prayer and set aside several hours of solitude to seek answers to these questions for yourself.

Merry Christmas from the Halftime team both in the US and around the world!

Greg Murtha