
Halftime Newsletter December 2010

The Soundtrack of Halftime

by **Greg Murtha**
Director of Connections, Halftime

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

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When Your Second Half Dream Fails...

By Lloyd Reeb

Author of **The Second Half** - a coffee table book helping couples build a second half dream together.

When **Ted Boers** first shared his dream project with me I was blown away with the boldness of his faith and the size of the impact it would likely have in Haiti. As a successful business guy and a thinking Christian he was using his experience and network to acquire a large track of land in Haiti with pristine ocean front with the idea of creating a planned development that would provide a safe landing spot for Haitian Americans: a self-contained community for them to move back to their homeland and begin to constructively rebuild the economy and infuse the culture with Christian hope and values. With 10,000 acres in hand, and, after miraculously finding ample fresh water for the entire development and having invested millions of dollars, their dream was stalled by corruption and bureaucracy.

I interviewed Ted last year and he was discouraged and disillusioned. His heart was asking a question every Halftimer needs to be **prepared** to answer: "If I offer God my best talent, my time and my treasure does he have the right to apparently squander it?" Read, in Ted's own words, what he has been learning since then:

"Why would a good God allow a project like this to fail? Why doesn't God answer the prayers of the Haitian people? Is it really true that there is a God who listens to and answers prayer? I wrote in my journal: 'God does not appear to be near, or anywhere. He does not appear to be answering my prayers. He does not appear to be providing any direction. It appears that He has taken things away but has not provided anything new in its place. Does God really exist?' I started to read Christian books in an effort to bolster my faith. I read:

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel

The Reason for God by Timothy Keller

Mere Christianity by CS Lewis

Basic Christianity by John Stott

Jesus Rediscovered by Malcolm Muggeridge

All this reading led me to conclude that you cannot prove the existence of God anymore than you can prove the non-existence of God. But I did conclude that the evidence for the existence of God seemed to be quite overwhelming. The faith/doubt index began to tilt up. Then God ironically used an atheist and the London Times to take my faith to the next level. Matthew Parris is a writer and a self described atheist who grew up in Malawi, Africa. He currently lives in the UK but visits his home country frequently. I came across an article he had written for the London Times where he made the following statement; "As an atheist, I truly believe that what Africa needs is God." That statement haunted me. I couldn't get it out of my mind. Parris went on to say: 'In Africa, Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good.'

It wasn't long after reading the Parris article that I wrote in my journal: 'I truly believe that Haiti needs God...' and 'I truly believe that Ted needs God.'"

What I have been learning along this journey with Ted, is what one writer wrote in the 12th century ... "God doesn't need me, He wants me." Could it be that part of our journey from success to significance is about the heart journey, discovering that God is weaning us not just from success, but even from our dreams of significance to be satisfied with Him and where He wants to go together? Priceless.

P.S. If you would like to interact with Ted about his journey or his project email him at:

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John Leffin's Learnings...

By John Leffin

OneHundredX Board Member and former Accenture Partner

