
Halftime Newsletter February 2011

No Margin. No Mission.

Last week I had a Halftimer I was coaching decide now was not the time to pursue God's calling for his life. Instead, he took a new marketplace job that will fully occupy his time, attention and energy. He's strong in his faith, and will no doubt be salt and light in his secular world. When he described his decision from practical and spiritual points of view, I understood why he chose this path. At the same time, I couldn't help but feel sorry for him. I wonder if his need to add financial cushion to his net worth is drawing him away from an incredible life of greater purpose and impact. Of course, only God really knows.

Here's the point: This is not an isolated case. We often see people discontinue the transformative process of shifting their focus from personal success to a focus on serving others. In each and every case, the challenge they could not surmount, described in the most practical and non-spiritual way, was the same: *They could not, or were unwilling to, create margin in their calendar.*

Simply put, channeling time toward loving others requires that we channel time away from other activities --- activities that build or protect our wealth, impact our sense of identity, define our security, shape our marriages, and give structure to our social lives. These are all deep, multi-layered, spiritual issues we help Halftimers deal with head-on. For purposes of this discussion, however, we'll stay focused on the most obvious issue: If we want to improve our lives by making a positive impact on other peoples' lives, we have to stop doing some things and start doing other things.

Allow me to boil this down to a simple decision-point that, in our experience over the last 13 years, every Halftimer ultimately has to say YES or NO to: *Are you willing to get creative to find and dedicate at least 8 hours a week to seeking and engaging in God's call on your second half?*

The vast majority of biblical heroes stopped doing one thing and started doing another on their way toward making a difference in this world and beyond. Nehemiah stopped being the King's "taste tester." John and James immediately shut down their commercial fishing business. If you're too busy trying to make ends meet or building your empire (the two ends of the financial spectrum), working on your golf handicap, remodeling the cottage, or otherwise overloaded with non-Halftime "stuff," you won't be able to dedicate time to research, prayer, critical conversations with your spouse, reading the bible, informational interviews, low cost probes, silent retreats, drives across town, journaling, flights to foreign countries, etc.

My concern for people who can't (or won't) create the necessary margin in their calendar is that they end up thinking about Halftime a lot, but get frustrated that they haven't received their "burning bush". Worse yet, it breaks my heart to see people in this situation feel that God is not blessing them or that they simply aren't "spiritual enough" to hear from God. I don't want that to happen to you. God loves us all and we can all hear from Him, but we need to dedicate time to communing with Him in order to hear what He has to say.

Our ministry at Halftime is all about helping people discover more purpose and joy by **investing their time, talent, and treasure in a noble cause they have a passion for.** We obviously believe that we are "saved by grace not by works" (Eph. 2:8), but this would not be the best scripture to describe the Halftime mission. I would say our ministry is more aligned with "Faith without good deeds is dead." (James 2:17)... and good deeds take time.

So... are you "in" or "out?"

If you are willing to get creative to find and dedicate, at a minimum, 8 hours a week to seek and engage in God's calling for your second half, give us a call and we will guide you on a wonderful journey of impact and adventure.

Read the story below if you want to see the fruit God has produced through one man who disciplined himself to consistently open up time in his calendar to pursue God's call on his second half. Enjoy.

Thoughts from a Halftime Institute Alumnus...

"Admired you since I read [Halftime](#) in 2005. I was five years into 'Life 2' when I read it, and it was terribly affirming. I have been trying to emulate your example for years now, but wish I had come to the Halftime Institute years ago and learned your value of working with islands of health and strength. I rarely find myself in a situation where my expectations were exceeded. But it happened this week at the Halftime Institute."

Gregg Burch

January 2011

For more information about how you too can benefit from a Halftime Institute, contact:

Greg Murtha (214) 675-6863 or Greg.Murtha@halftime.org

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One Man's Journey to Significance

Typically in this space you will receive a 400 word essay which addresses a key learning with a video that supports the main point. This month, however, I have chosen to use this space and introduce to you a friend of mine, Clark Millspaugh.

Clark is a Halftimer. He is a terrific husband, dad, father, grandfather, fellow follower of Jesus, a Tulsa, OK based entrepreneur and oil man who has made a lengthy transition from success to the pursuit of significance. He and I met in San Diego, California, ten years ago when he and two friends joined Bob Buford, Lloyd Reeb and me for a Halftime luncheon.

Since then I have seen Clark partner with our team in ministry to fellow businessmen in Tulsa by bringing his peers to the Halftime Institute, I have seen him mentor young men who are attempting to incorporate significance in the first half of their careers, launch Men's Fraternity at his church, lead Wild at Heart adventures and wind down, for the most part, his oil and gas exploration company. While his journey has been blessed with success I have also seen him wrestle with difficulty and drill his share of dry holes in ministry pursuits. One of the most exciting aspects to Clark's journey is that I have seen his love for his wife Anne deepen in parallel to his love for Jesus.

Proven Halftime Principles from Clark Millspaugh

- ❖ Don't Wait. Engage! (Earn and serve simultaneously).
- ❖ Include your spouse and family on the journey.
- ❖ Patiently Pursue Low Cost Probes.
- ❖ Follow Jesus and trust Him for His direction.
- ❖ Never give up.

After a few years, Anne and Clark have landed on their "Ephesians 2:10 calling," and it is *The Harvest*. The Harvest is made up of a number of renovated buildings located across the street from the Eugene Field Elementary School; it is a community center of sorts, with a community church called "The Burgh," Westside Harvest Market a nonprofit fresh-food market, a 24/7 prayer room, a healthcare clinic, various educational programs for students and adults and much more. More than a good idea, The Harvest is a proven collaborative initiative that has produced results in the lives of many.

In lieu of the standard 3-5 minute video of Clark and Anne, allow me to encourage you to join us in Tulsa to:

- ❖ Meet them in person
- ❖ Hear firsthand from them how they navigated the journey into God's will for their lives
- ❖ Tour The Harvest
- ❖ Most importantly, engage in the Halftime tools and processes that helped Clark and Anne discover God's purpose for their lives

It will be a fantastic, inspirational jumpstart to your second half of significance. You and your spouse will be blessed by this experience...I am certain.

Dates: 12:00 pm April 6 to 12:00 pm April 7

Location: Tulsa, OK

For more information about the Tulsa-based Halftime Experience, contact Greg Murtha (214.765.6863) or Greg.Murtha@halftime.org.

"Our ministry is very simple: we simply renovated the buildings and provided the space. A number of ministers and ministries are now collaborating from a central location to meet the needs of the poor."

Clark Millspaugh