

# FAITH MATTERS

ISSUE 14

A PUBLICATION OF AVE MARIA MUTUAL FUNDS

## IT'S TIME TO DREAM AGAIN

BY CHUCK GAIDICA



When I was a kid, I used to sit on the back porch of my inner city Chicago home and ponder some of life's big questions. Is there a God? What will I be when I grow up? Who will I marry?

Fast forward to my late-fifties and God has placed many new questions on my heart, although I often still wonder what I want to be when I grow up. I also seem to attend more funerals lately and have a keen sense of my mortality. How about you? Whether you are contemplating retirement, retired already or perhaps looking to rewire your life, this might be the time to start dreaming again. More specifically, it could be time for a big dream that is greater than self and within the will of God. As I began to rewire my life, I realized that I now have more capacity, meaning extra time and money. I often choose to use this capacity to serve others, and I encourage you to do the same.

This season of life in which one starts asking questions again is sometimes referred to as "mid-life crisis." Author Bob Buford has a different take on that old theme and instead calls this stage of life "halftime." He wrote the book *Halftime, Moving Life From Success To Significance*,

and also started a movement of half-timers who seek to change the world and serve others while keeping Christ at the center. I hope I have another "half" to give but I don't know what God has planned. As I prayed about finding direction in my second half of life, God led me to make a few important changes. I completed a master's degree in ministry leadership at age 54; I quit a great job in TV news; and eventually entered ministry. The thought of rewiring my life came on gradually over a decade, as God laid some new questions on my heart. I started to wonder if all I had accomplished in life was enough. A quote from G.K. Chesterton rings true for me now more than ever; "All of us need something more than ourselves to understand ourselves. We are not, after all, the origins of our own being or the cause of our own existence." If you are reading these words, you are more than likely investing for the future. Bravo! But are you also taking time to ask God what He wants you to do next in life? Are you being generous and building a legacy that honors God?

After reading Mark Batterson's book, *The Circle Maker*, a profound realization hit me. While I had good intentions in trying to figure





*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.” 1 PETER 4:10-11*

out how to do something big for God, I was missing the point. What I really needed to do was take time to think and pray about what God wanted to do in my life, not what I could do for God. If I was going to be bold in my prayers, I needed to allow God some time to move in my life and in my heart. Batterson writes: “Most of us don’t get what we want because we quit praying. We give up too easily. We give up too soon. We quit praying right before the miracle happens.” So, I encourage you not to give up! Also, don’t let a frenetically paced life distract you from spending time with

God. I am not prone to giving up easily but I can be easily distracted, which can be just as bad. I am a “Type A” kind of guy with lots of ideas and information swirling around in my head. I have to guard my heart daily but I also have to guard my time spent in deep thought and prayer. After all, if I spend time in devotion but I don’t allow time to listen for a reply, it’s not really a conversation.

Maybe you have already discovered how reflective reading of Scripture can lead to peace, joy and even some answers about a new direction in life.



Did you know there is a four-step plan for reading Scripture that has been around since the earliest centuries? It is called *Lectio Divina*. The first step is to slowly and thoughtfully read a passage from the Bible. Secondly, you take time to think deeply and reflect on what the passage may mean. Next, you pray for God to reveal the text in new and amazing ways. Lastly, you act. May I humbly suggest using this process to ask God to lead you to a decision or some action for change in your life?

It's no secret that many people need a new direction nowadays. Baby boomers alone are welcoming nearly ten thousand retirees a day to their ranks, of which I am one. I'm still looking for answers to some of my questions, and I'm confident God will respond in His time. I often wonder if everyone around me is reaching their God-given potential in his or her second half. On a recent trip to California, I came across a semi-retired man who shared some of his life journey with me. He was the "face" on a high tech kiosk at the rent-a-car counter. After a rewarding corporate career, he retired to Naples, Florida, where he proceeded to play golf for nearly a decade. Eventually, he got bored and decided to take a

part-time job helping people like me rent a car. He said he felt fulfilled; however, this man discovered the dream of playing golf forever was a hollow one. I pray that he is able to live a life aligned with God's purpose and I also pray that you will find God's direction for your second half of life. When you need help in moving from success to significance, take your prayers to the foot of the cross and ask God for guidance. It is never too late to be what God wanted you to be.

In closing, I am a man simply seeking God, and I recommend you do the same. Be bold in your prayers of supplication, but remember to pray within the will of God. Asking can start you on the way to receiving. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that whoever asks receives, whoever seeks finds and whoever knocks on the door, it will open. Don't confuse this with some prosperity gospel message; context is the key here. Most important in the act of asking is having faith that God's plan is best for you no matter what. Delight in Him and offer yourself as a living sacrifice so your desires align with those of The Creator. In this way, you can be assured that your big dreams can come true.





## CHUCK GAIDICA

Chuck is an award winning media personality and author known for excellence, innovation and winning strategies in broadcasting. While retired from full-time TV news, he continues TV host duties on “Live in the D” seen on WDIV-Local 4 in Detroit weekday mornings at 10am. He previously worked for both CBS and NBC at the national level. He has successfully worked as a leader of various efforts to bring business, media, churches and non-profits together as “forces for good.” He is responsible for creating and launching various industry and technology firsts in the Detroit media market and has remained a highly recognizable community leader across Michigan since 1982. He is a frequent public speaker and spokesperson and one of the most trusted media figures in Michigan. Chuck is also an adventurer. He is an instrument rated pilot, certified scuba diver, has flown through the eye of a hurricane, chased tornadoes and ventured out on two expeditions – one to the top of Mt. Kilauea in Hawaii and one to the Amazon rainforest of Peru. He and his wife Susan live in Northville, Michigan and have 5 children, 2 grandchildren and a dog named Bella.

Chuck has an MA in Ministry Leadership from Cornerstone University/Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and a Certificate in Second Half Significance from the Halftime Institute, Pepperdine University, Graziadio School of Business.



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