

connections

Working Together to Grow the Kingdom

LEADERSHIP NETWORK®

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One Life Touched ... Thousands of Lives Saved

CARING FOR GOD'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN

FEATURED HALFTIMER:

Lan Bentsen

HOMETOWN:

Houston, Texas

HOME CHURCH: Memorial

Drive Presbyterian Church, Houston

FIRST INVOLVEMENT WITH HALFTIME:

Collaborative Day in March 2005

HALFTIME CALLING: Reduce infant mortality rate in the Republic of Georgia

A life of significance. A growing number of people reach a point in their lives where they have achieved some measure of success, but they feel something is still missing. They've attained many of their career goals and raised loving families, yet want their lives to count for something more. Something bigger than themselves, which will last long after they are gone.

They are missing a sense of purpose and passion. The Halftime organization works with these high achievers to help them awaken the passion in their lives and pursue significance.

JOINING TOGETHER

Many of the traits that make people successful in the business world also make them incredibly valuable in building the Kingdom. The gift of motivating others. The skills to manage people. The ability to raise funds. These are all qualities that can help local churches and the Kingdom grow.

One way churches are tapping into the skills of their professional members is by partnering with the Halftime organization. Through this partnership, local churches are able to convene groups of marketplace leaders and provide the best resources to challenge them to embrace significance in their lives. Several tools have been developed to assist churches in discovering and deploying these leaders into service, one of which is the "Collaborative Day."



Dr. Zaz Sinauridze (left), head of obstetrics and gynecology at Tbilisi General Hospital, meets with Lan Bentsen (right) to discuss ways to reduce infant mortality in the Republic of Georgia.

In a Collaborative Day, high-capacity leaders join together in a strategic thinking session. They are asked to provide their best ideas on key opportunities for the church. The meeting allows the professionals to interact, share ideas and receive encouragement in a supportive environment. Their peers mobilize them to action and challenge them to find opportunities to use their skills for God's work.

God often speaks to the people at Collaborative Days. Sometimes louder than other times. Lan Bentsen's story is one such example where God had a clear plan and wanted Lan to listen.

A DESTINY REALIZED

Lan Bentsen is an out-and-out success. The son of former Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Lan has worked hard and achieved great things in the oil-and-gas business and in new industries in the former Soviet Union.

JUST 25 SHORT DAYS AFTER ATTENDING THE COLLABORATIVE DAY, LAN HAD PUT THE WHEELS IN MOTION ON AN ENDEAVOR THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS.

Anyone who has ever met Lan would testify to his success, but Lan knew the success wasn't complete. Something was missing. He was longing for more than financial and business success; he desired eternal significance.

WHAT HALFTIME MEANS TO ME

I do not believe any of this would be happening today if not for Collaborative Day. There, I felt for the first time in my life, the warmth of fellowship and camaraderie that can come from the Spirit of Christ. It was there that I felt comfortable espousing some of my dreams, and it was there that I received the encouragement and inspiration. The Collaborative Day is a turning point in my life.



—Lan Bentsen

For more information about Collaborative Day, please go to www.leadnet.org/downloads/CollaborativeDay.pdf

Even though he didn't know it at the time, Lan was waiting for someone to grant him permission to listen to God's unique call for the second half of his life.

Permission was granted at a Collaborative Day hosted by his pastor in March 2005, when Lan was challenged to think strategically about God's Kingdom and how he could best use his skills to benefit it.

No more than three weeks later, Lan was ready to answer God's call. In fact, just 25 short days after attending the Collaborative Day, Lan had put the wheels in motion on an endeavor that will make a difference in the lives of thousands.

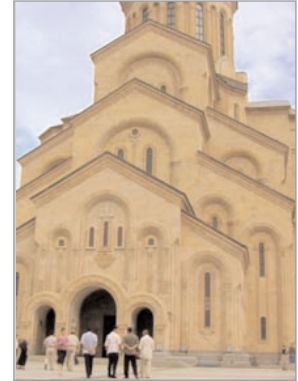
Lan is taking on the monumental task of reducing infant mortality in the Republic of Georgia. He has a unique skill set to face this challenge, as, several years ago, he led a successful initiative to reduce by a third Houston, Texas' infant mortality rate.

He is now turning his expertise to an area of the world he is familiar with from his business dealings—an area where infant mortality is 10 times higher than in parts of the U.S.

Lan isn't just dreaming about what he can do. He is making it happen. Lan has already met with the Georgian Minister of Health, and they have targeted the Kheheti region of the Republic of Georgia for a pilot program that will provide childhood immunizations and prenatal care.

The needs assessment is also underway. The next step will be to assemble pharmaceutical industry and non-governmental organizational support to supplement his company's direct support of nurse practitioners and an OB-GYN. Lan envisions the development of a fully equipped telemedicine interface, perhaps with the University of Texas Medical School.

As Lan continues to use his expertise to serve God's children and expand the Kingdom in the former Soviet Union, others surely will be inspired by his efforts and faith. Who knows what else God will entrust upon Lan's capable hands? **LN**



The Georgian Orthodox Cathedral in Tbilisi stands as a stabilizing force as Georgians work for democracy and a free market.