

Anthony Nathan, Sovereign Steel



Full name: Anthony Nathan

Position: Founder and CEO of Sovereign Steel group of companies, since 1995

Main activity of the company: Steel processors and distributors

Date and place of birth: March 9, 1967, in Johannesburg

Education: Matriculated 1984, King David High School, Victory Park; 1988, University of Cape Town, studies incomplete; Wits Business School; GIBS; GE University, Crotonville, NY

First job: Steel World Corp.

Size of first pay packet: What pay packet?

First job with present group: Founder and CEO 1995

Value of assets under your control: Would prefer not to disclose

Number of people under your leadership: Would prefer not to disclose

Management style: #1 True leaders create other leaders, not followers. #2 By Giving people a good reputation to live up to, and #3, by creating a compelling vision underpinned with clear values and communicating it relentlessly

Personal best achievement: #1. Huge personal growth, balanced lifestyle and my marriage. #2. Assembling a team of superstars who together have created a unique business model that is unrivalled in the steel industry. #3. Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

Person who has had the biggest influence on your life: My family, friends and colleagues – daily

Person who has had the biggest influence on your career: Late father Paul and uncle Dennis

Person who you would most like to meet: Sir Edmund Hillary

Businessperson who has impressed you most: Jack Welch of GE

Philosophy of life: Lead by example. Life's a lesson – learn it

Biggest ever opportunity: My marriage to Hayley and our children

Biggest ever disappointment: My father is not around to see how I have interpreted his lessons

Hope for the future: More hope, less despair; job creation in South Africa, and permanent peace in the Middle East

Favourite reading: Books on leadership, Jewish studies and spirituality, business management and reams of periodicals

Favourite TV programme: Don't watch TV

Favourite food and drink: Our competitors' lunch and anything my wife prepares

Favourite music: My alarm clock – the start of a brand new day

Favourite sport: Offshore yachting, swimming (Midmar Mile), mountain biking and triathlons

Favourite website: www.SovereignSteel.com (truly)

Hobbies: My family time, reading, personal growth and Sovereign Steel

Car: C32 AMG Mercedes-Benz

Pets: Currently a pet-free zone. I live in hope

Miscellaneous dislikes: Office politics, small-mindedness, bigotry and greed

Favourite South African company: SAB Miller

Favourite foreign company: GE, FedEx

Married: Hayley née Brenner, April 30, 1997

Children: Jesse, 4; Raquel, 2; and one on the way

Clubs: YPO (Young Presidents Organisation), SAISC, ASMSSA, Toastmasters, Tikkun Community Project and various community organisations and charities