

THE IRON BRIEFING



JANUARY 2024

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Get More from LinkedIn



Join us on **2/28/24 at 9 a.m.** for "LinkedIn Power Hour" via Zoom. We'll get to hear from "The LinkedIn Guy," Gregg Burkhalter, who has helped countless professionals around the world define and grow their Personal Brand using LinkedIn. Email blusk@ironforums.org now.

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COMBINED FORUMS March 20th @ TPC Sugarloaf

Mark your calendars NOW for the Combined Forum to be held **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024** at Sugarloaf. All Members are encouraged to participate. The content will be LIVE. This is a great opportunity to connect with other members across all Atlanta Forums. Chuck Bengochea (former CEO of Honey Baked Ham) is our keynote speaker.

IRON CONFERENCE 2024

Sept 20-22, 2024

AMICALOLA FALLS | \$500 PER PERSON



SPEAKER:
JOEL MANBY



Scan QR code to register.

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Virtual Forums – Q & A

It is appropriate to start the year recognizing a part of the Iron Nation that is not seen at venues, that doesn't have a Forum where a warm hand shake or hug of friendship is exchanged and they can't even share a piece of bacon together! Yet, because of them, more men and women will be sitting at tables together in the future — enjoying the blessing of Iron Forums in a venue.

Check out the three questions below to help bring the value of this critical part of Iron Forums to light.

What is the reasoning behind our Virtual Forums?

1. Virtual Forums can help launch new city Forums. Jacksonville, Florida could not have taken root without the existence of the Virtual Forum. It is the only way business owners that are interested in Iron Forums can participate and initially evaluate the opportunity to be involved if they live outside the Atlanta area.
2. Virtual Forums reach business owners in remote locations that may never be able to participate in a local venue.
3. Virtual Forums are options for alliance partners across different cities. Lifework members participate in three geographies — South Florida, Orlando and Charlotte.
4. Virtual Forums provide an option for Venue members to make-up missed forums easily.

Who is facilitating the Virtual Forum?

Larry Rice is a retired Rear Admiral from Virginia Beach, VA. He is also a partner in a business consulting group that takes him all over the world. An Annapolis grad, Navy pilot and once Captain of the *USS Enterprise* aircraft carrier – Larry brings some unique leadership and life perspectives to Iron Forums. He has also spent many years leading men in *Bible Study Fellowship* — an international non-profit ministry that has hundreds of thousands of people studying a book of the Bible each year. Larry knows and values the Word of God and has a strong personal relationship with Jesus. These are all pretty good reasons to attend the Virtual Forum if you miss your local group.



What is the future of the Virtual Forums?

We are praying to have a virtual Forum in each time zone. This way our connections who qualify to be in Iron Forums can be invited by YOU to come and see!

A special thanks to Josh Ivy on our staff who directs all the logistics and manages these Forums, and to all our virtual members and advisors that God is using to encourage us all.

VISIT OUR NEW MONTHLY HEALTH TIPS PAGE >>>

With the addition of the Health Score to the Snapshot, these tips provided by Iron Forums friend, Hal Schlenger, should be helpful to you.



TRACTION TIP
**TEAM HEALTH, PART 5
CORRECTION AND SHAME**


"A community that doesn't use healthy shame to build more authentically joyful relationships is the seedbed for future narcissism," warns Dr. E. James Wilder in "The Pandora Problem." Building strong group identity joined with compassion is the foundation for constructive correction. Agreement on the group's identity is essential. When members act contrary to this identity, others can guide them with compassion.

Healthy correction is relational, where a compassionate individual facilitates the experience of shame in a person. By valuing the relationship over the problem, they stand by the individual in their moment of pain. The corrected person can find their way back to joy, despite the initial shame, starting the correction process for the future.

Healthy shame messages are tools to remind people to be their best selves, fostering healthy relationships and group cohesion. Correction without compassion is toxic, as Dr. Wilder emphasizes, "Without healthy shame, there is no transformation."

People often drone on with narratives or explanations in an attempt to avoid blame or wrong-doing. Companies running on EOS use the statement "Drop it down" to correct this behavior. It reminds teams that we don't justify our failures, we reveal them and seek help from others to get back on track.

Resilient groups use these messages to strengthen their identity and relationships. Messages are most effective when said by someone who compassionately prioritizes the relationship. This fosters character growth and helps the team approach all issues collaboratively and creatively while working towards the organization's greater good.

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JOSH IVY

Wife: Erika. Married for 11 years.

Children: Jagger (7 yrs), Ledger (4 yrs), Revel (1 yr) and Sparrow (1 yr)

Church: Chestnut Mountain Church in Flowery Branch

Forum: North Gwinnett

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Quitman, Mississippi (Go MS State Bulldogs!). I've also lived in South Carolina and North Carolina. But Erika and I have lived in Georgia for almost 10 years.

What has ministry looked like for you the past couple of years?

I've been honored to serve in full-time ministry for the past 12 years. The last 9 years I served at 12Stone Church as a Spiritual Formation Pastor and Campus Pastor. Pastors have many duties, however my primary responsibilities in each role were to lead the lost into a relationship with Jesus; disciple followers into a deep, intimate, life-transforming relationship with Jesus; and equip and develop leaders to reach and fulfill their God-given potential and God-given calling so they can make an eternal impact for the Kingdom of God.

How did you end up with Iron Forums?

In June, the Lord gave Erika and I a very clear prompt that He was calling me to do ministry outside of the walls of a church building. We had no idea what that would mean or look like at the time. But, we knew the Lord had spoken to us and we obeyed Him. So in July, I took a leap of faith and stepped away from "traditional ministry."

Shortly after, the Lord re-connected me with Barry Lusk (we worked together at 12Stone) and introduced me to Gary Smith. After learning about Iron Forums and experiencing the power of the Forums, I was all-in. I knew this was what the Lord had planned, and I was blessed to come on staff November 1st.

**What are you most excited about in your new role? Why do you think Iron Forums is important?**

Leadership can be overwhelming and isolating. Only leaders can understand leadership pressure. As a result, leaders often struggle in isolation because we feel there's no one in our life, family, church, or business who understands what we're really going through. Who can we trust with the last 10% of our soul? Who can we trust to give wise counsel without condemnation? This isolation causes us to internally unravel in secret, hindering us from fulfilling our God-given calling.

I love Iron Forums because it gives Christian leaders an authentic, transparent, and confidential environment to be honest about faith, life, and business. It's a rare and life-transforming community that provides wise counsel and accountability. It's a place that leaders, especially Christian leaders, are begging for. I'm so humbled to be a part of Iron Forums and help facilitate these Holy Spirit-driven environments. I'm excited because I get a front row seat to witness transformation in leaders' lives.

What do you do in your free time?

I have 4 kids under 7 years old, so I rarely have free time! With my kids, I enjoy playing *Connect Four*, *Battleship*, *Go-Fish*... as well as coloring and "hidden pictures" books. If I get any time to myself, I love woodworking, remodeling projects, fishing and shooting pool.