

# THE IRON BRIEFING



JANUARY 2025

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

— John 15:5

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

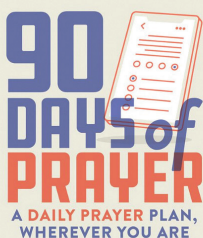
### March Combined Atlanta Forum

March 19th at  
John Maxwell Leadership Center  
8:30am – 1pm



## Q1 READING PLAN

Iron Nation is invited to join us for 90 days of prayer through Psalms in Q1. Please send Barry Lusk a YouVersion (Bible app) friend request if you'd like to join in.



## UNDERSTANDING THE MISSION

Jonathan Almanzar, Iron Forums CEO

From the moment I heard about Iron Forums, I knew this was something I could give my life to as I had recently come out of a time of isolation and loneliness in business.

Ten years ago, I started a food truck that grew into an international company, but the more it grew the more insulated (read isolated) I became. I had zero peers that held to the same Christian values that I did. I even got to the point where I questioned, "Can you be a Christ follower and succeed at business?"



Jonathan Almanzar and family/friends stand in front of a Chick'nCone.

That's when a friend invited me to a group he had started, where Christian CEOs met, prayed, encouraged, argued, planned, and held one another to a higher standard. I couldn't believe it. I wished I had found it sooner. Honestly, I was a little angry I hadn't heard of it before that. "Why don't they market this," I thought. And that's when I was connected to Iron Forums, found out they were looking for a CEO, and I was sold.

I am excited about the future and humbled by the responsibility of getting our message out. We have the opportunity to provide business men and women with a place of connection, learning, and community in a realm that often glorifies the DIY/"I did it my way" trope. We can call them out of isolation and into the transformative power of community.

In the coming months we are going to be working on some things which will amplify our voice for those who need it. Behind the scenes, we are going to be focusing on some technology that will create a more seamless snapshot experience as well as opening up the opportunities within Iron Forums that sometimes are missed or not taken advantage of to the fullest. We will be launching new forums in new cities and new areas of the country that will help expand our network of advisors and members, to offer more opportunities for collaboration, conversation, and connection. And, we will be streamlining communication while creating engaging and accessible information to keep everyone abreast of opportunities and ways they can plug in and get the most out of their membership.

I am humbled that I get to be a part of this.

Other than being a husband and a father, I feel this is the most important role I have been given. Looking forward to serving you.

## ANDREW OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Peachtree Corners Member, **Karl Barham**, on being named our **2024 Andrew of the Year**. We're very grateful for Karl and Ann and all they bring to our growing community. Have a great time on us celebrating at the Ritz Carlton!



TRACTION TIP

IDEAL TEAM PLAYER  
PART 1



Patrick Lencioni's *The Ideal Team Player* introduces a simple but powerful framework for evaluating and developing your team members. At its core are three key virtues: Humble, Hungry, and Smart. These qualities dramatically influence how well your team functions day to day—and how effectively your organization scales.

Humble team players put the organization first. They don't chase individual glory; instead, they focus on collective wins. A humble person actively listens, admits when they're wrong, and celebrates others' contributions. Lencioni labels a person who is not humble the Skillful Politician.

Hungry players bring consistent energy and drive. They take responsibility, embrace new challenges, and don't need external reminders to push forward. Instead of doing just enough, they seek ways to add more value. Lencioni names the person who is not hungry a Loveable Slacker.

Smart isn't about raw IQ. It's about emotional intelligence—knowing how to interact with others gently and productively. Smart team members read the room, communicate clearly, and help maintain a positive, trusting environment. Smart people value the relationship over fixing the problem or being right. Lencioni tags the person who is not smart as an Accidental Mess-maker.

Lencioni said, "Great leaders relentlessly remind their people of how to correct their behavior." And the leader must go first—allowing others to correct their behavior. Are you a leader who possesses and demonstrates the Humble, Hungry, and Smart traits? Or, do others think of you as a skillful politician, loveable slacker, or accidental mess-maker? And do you care enough to change?

Do you have Ideal Team Players? Are you an Ideal Team Player? Let's talk.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

ASHLEY MOORE — SUGARLOAF FOR WOMEN



I run **Reconciled CPA**, a tax and accounting firm dedicated to helping small businesses and individuals with their financial needs.

I love being part of a group of Christian ladies where I can share what's happening in all aspects of my life. I'm involved in other Christian groups and business groups, but no other group blends faith and professional life the way this one does.

Married to Charlie (12 years), Sage (10), & Eliza (8). Home church is 12Stone Sugarloaf.



SUSAN GLASS — FLOWERY BRANCH FOR WOMEN



**The Glass Group** is a trusted retirement and insurance solutions business with over 23 years of experience. We specialize in helping families and individuals set clear financial goals for retirement and achieve financial independence. Our personalized approach ensures that each client receives the guidance and support they need to secure a stable and prosperous future.

I truly cherish the Snapshot experience during our gatherings and the opportunity to meet such incredible women. Having a safe space to share, be encouraged, and talk through whatever challenges or joys we're facing is a true blessing. Sometimes, just knowing that we are heard and prayed for is all we need to get through our day. I've already connected with several women, learning more about their struggles and victories, and it's been an inspiring and uplifting experience.

Married to Harvey (25 years), Brooke (18), & Josh. Home church is Gwinnett Church.



THE GLASS GROUP  
Insurance and Retirement Solutions

TYLER BANKS — BALTIMORE



**Charm City Builders** focuses on buying, adding value (repairs) and selling Residential Real Estate efficiently.

My favorite thing about Iron Forums is connecting on a deeper level with men who are also leaders by giving and receiving powerful feedback that is led by the holy spirit!

Married to Candice (14 years), Hudson (12), Jackson (11). Home church is Light House Church.

