

PROJECT 24

Executive Interview Series

Fall 2015

Spotlighting: Attorney and Entrepreneur



Michael LeBrun

Company: Midaire, LLC

Position: Partner

Michael LeBrun is an early adopter of technology trends, a trusted business consultant, an award-winning manager, and an admired business leader. LeBrun founded and co-founded a number of startups — several that have become venture-backed, and one that reached eight-digit revenue. Presently, LeBrun has developed and patented a new technology for business-to-business phone applications. His company, Midaire, offers solutions in telecommunications, data transmission, data management, and storage. Midaire provides users with simple and intuitive technological solutions to everyday challenges. Originally from Louisiana, Michael received his undergraduate degree, as well as his MBA from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He obtained his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University.

“You have a malignant brain tumor.”

It's the jaw-dropping, life-changing diagnosis Michael received in May of 2014 and the six words that changed his life forever.

“There are 120 different types of brain tumors. You'd think I would have selected an exotic. But no, I ordered a grade III glioma. And yes, it's malignant,” Michael explains matter-of-factly.

So what does this diagnosis mean for Michael? “It means the mountain is steep, but even Everest can be climbed. No, the news is not good. But I'm still here and the game is not over yet. There are still innings left to play and I've been blessed with a powerful team. No matter the score, I'm not quitting. Not by a long-shot.”

Q: How would you define your mission as a parent?

A: “A brain tumor may have changed my brain, but it hasn't changed my commitment to being a good father and husband. My wife, Suzanne, and I read a lot about parenting. We also pay attention.” Michael continues: “Too many parents allow their children to lose themselves in nonproductive activities (mostly online activities). We monitor what our boys are doing. It annoys them, but it's our way of keeping them safe.”

14 Years Married

2 Children

Favorite Family
Vacation Spot?

California and
any beach or
mountain



LeBrun and wife, Suzanne, with sons Adam, 13, and Alex, 11.

Q: What are the biggest challenges you face in balancing demands at the office and home?

A: I have worked from my home office (which fortunately or unfortunately happens to be in the basement) for the past five years. The commute is great! Yet, sometimes there is the notion that I'm not actually 'working' down there!

Q: As an entrepreneur, how do you prioritize your professional endeavors with your personal life? Are there tips, techniques, or habits you've developed to manage how you spend your time?

A: "I live by my calendar and make it a priority to schedule both work and family time. I work from 9 A.M. until 6 P.M. as a general rule. At 6:00 P.M., I close shop and it's all about family from that point on."

"Currently, we have one child we home school. My wife appointed me math teacher. Math class begins at 8:00 A.M. Monday through Friday and lasts for an hour."

"I also coach my sons' sporting activities. Their practices are sometimes in the mid/late afternoons. I treat these as work appointments and build them into my calendar. It's key to prioritize and there is always room for improvement in that regard," Michael admits.

Q: What is the greatest challenge in parenting today's youth?

A: While Michael's career centers on technology, he believes it's precisely technology that generates the most difficult parenting dilemmas. "Social networking presents some very unique problems for today's generation," Michael believes, "and unfortunately there isn't a one-size-fits-all answer or solution."

“The best thing about my job: the commute! I work in the basement.”

As strange as it sounds,
I consider this tumor a
blessing. How else
does one know how
much he is **loved**?
How else can **God's**
glory be so totally
revealed?



Q: If there's one "life lesson" you can choose to pass on to your children, what would it be and why?

A: "Our family has four mantras we live by." Michael shares them below:

1. Always give your best: M.E.A.T. = Maximum Effort All the Time.
2. Be respectful. Respect will take you a long way.
3. Think of others first.
4. Have faith. Accept what God provides because He knows best.

Q: When was your last MRI and how are you dealing with your diagnosis from this point forward?

After completing a course of steroids, Michael received his last MRI on December 30th, 2014. The findings revealed a reduction in tumor size, but apparently still not considered 'significant' in the neuro oncology world. Michael shares: "We have received several different methodologies of measurement since April of 2014, so it makes it difficult to truly determine my progress from one MRI to the other." However, the last two readings were consistent and it appears Michael's tumor has undergone a 30% reduction in size.

"From the perspective of my neuro-oncologist, I still have a tumor in my brain. It's something that shouldn't be there and could potentially kill me," Michael shares. Michael and his family, however, are trusting God to continue to shrink the tumor. Michael's faith is reflected in the way he continues to live life to the fullest: "Our family has chosen to look on the bright side. Shrinkage = I am gettin' mo' better!"

**"Have faith.
Accept what
God provides
because He
knows best."**

- Michael LeBrun
