

## Locking Arms Men Newsletter- 4th Quarter

### **The Mission**

As we come up on the 3rd anniversary of our inception with Locking Arms Men we are seeing the fulfillment of our mission in powerful ways... "Our mission is to build an authentic community of men who love Christ, love one another and love their neighbor as themselves." We are seeing that this love is a great attraction for the gospel. *15 huddles are currently running weekly across greater Pittsburgh led by 10 different leaders or co-leaders. The average weekly attendance of men is 150. These men are being led to the Cross and they are being equipped through: the word, prayer, fellowship and service. Five of these weekly huddles are with men in prison.*

One of our huddles meets with high school young people at Chartiers Valley (FCA) and another with business owners. That group is meeting in Homewood at 7800 Susquehanna Street and it is focused on racial reconciliation. These men are being challenged to cross racial boundaries and build friendships and collaborations that unite the body of Christ. The meeting place is very significant. In 2013, our board member Bill Krahe in responding to Christ's call on his life in commercial real estate helped to lead Bridgeway Capital to acquire the 7800 Susquehanna Street building with the support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. "The goal of the project is to repurpose an underutilized commercial asset into a platform for economic renewal in the Homewood community. As the tallest building in Homewood, this project represents reconciliation, economic recovery and has become a cultural hub of a revitalized community."

### **Terry Brown's Story**

*One of the most powerful examples of our impact in the world as "Locking Arms Men" is what our brother Terry Brown is doing leading three huddles each day as an inmate in a California penitentiary. One of them is done through a Spanish translator. Over 100 men each day are challenged with the gospel and being disciplined through Terry's leadership. Terry has lived out to these men what it means to lock arms and together they are building a spiritual fortress in the midst of great darkness. His men take great pleasure in knowing they are "locking arms" men and that they are prayed for daily; being connected by the Holy Spirit to our fellowship. Terry was a hungry disciple of Christ that we loved and helped to equip for a year prior to his arrest in June of 2016 on serious felony charges. Because he and his family lived in California when the alleged crimes occurred over 10 years ago he was extradited to California. To be brief, the prosecution's case hangs completely on one witness's testimony given to authorities in 2013. They have not been able to find her in their attempts over the past year. If the prosecution finds their witness and she is still willing to testify the trial date is set for November 27th. The judge has also said he will dismiss the case if she is not found or she is unwilling to testify on that date.*

*We believe with Terry's wife Morgan, Morgan's mother who is also the adoptive mother of the alleged victim, and Terry's defense counsel that Terry is completely innocent of the charges he is facing. He has turned away several plea bargain attempts by the prosecution. This odyssey has caused tremendous pain to Terry and his family in his incarceration for over 16 months. But God has been so faithful throughout this journey to them as well. Terry rejoices daily in God's purposes for his imprisonment being a brother in Christ to broken men, boldly and lovingly declaring the radical grace and mercy of Christ in the gospel. They also are experiencing the love of the body of Christ in powerful ways. Our Locking Arms brothers have donated over \$10,000 in separate collections at numerous huddles in the past 12 months to support Morgan and her children. Our treasurer has handled these disbursements, going directly to Morgan's landlord for monthly rent and for food essentials. Additionally a small group of our brothers have paid over \$20,000 directly to Terry's defense counsel to assist in his legal defense. This has made an enormous difference in replacing Terry's indifferent court appointed attorney. Pray with us that justice will be served in his case and that the love of Christ will touch the woman's heart that has alleged these terrible crimes.*

## The Reach

Our monthly outreach events in the past 12 months have included: two annual retreats (130 total), Pitt football Tailgate (75), two cigar buffets (100), Christmas Breakfast (220), golf outing (120), three mission trips to the Dominican Republic (30), and ten First Friday Monthly services (500 men attending). *In all we touched over 1,200 men with Christ's message of grace and mercy through our monthly events.*

## Del Rey Ministries & Locking Arms Mission Trip January 27-February 3rd

We have continued our support of Del Rey Ministries in the Dominican where they are training and supporting 20 pastors who live and pastor churches in the impoverished sugar cane villages that dot the island. We will support this great long term missions work with over \$10,000 again this year. Our next mission trip is scheduled for January 27- February 3rd. Del Rey Director, Kim Costanza, will be leading this trip and we will be staying at the Meeting God in Missions compound in Hato Mayor. There are many brothers and family members already registered. Please join us on this life-changing week. There are still openings. The cost for the trip is \$990 and includes round-trip airfare, lodging, meals and airport transfers. See [www.gomgm.org](http://www.gomgm.org) for trip registration or [www.delreyministries.org](http://www.delreyministries.org) for more information.

We are continuing to actively support our partner Bridge Mentoring in Wilkinsburg which is now under the umbrella of Family Guidance since Joanne Galinowski returned to lead the mentoring efforts there. She is a terrific leader and we are looking for ways to expand this important work matching our men in one-to-one mentoring relationships with at-risk boys particularly from the inner-city.

## Upcoming Events - See [www.lockingarmsmen.org/events](http://www.lockingarmsmen.org/events)

November 18th - Bible Chapel Men's Thanksgiving Breakfast

December 1-3 - Locking Arms Men's Retreat

December 5th - ATP Cigar Fundraiser with Jon Kolb, Tunch and Mel Blount at The Club Leaf & Bean

December 12th - Locking Arms Christmas Breakfast

## Testimonials

"During a very difficult time in my marriage, Locking Arms men locked arms with me, counseled my wife and I, and have been there for me ever since. The support, prayers, and mentoring revealed Christ in this brotherhood. Thank you." Mike

"The honesty and vulnerability of the huddle has propelled me forward in my walk with Christ! I am grateful!" John

"Morgan and I have been so blessed by all the Locking Arms brothers; through your prayers, letters, phone calls and financial support. You all have been God's provision to sustain us in this battle."  
Terry Brown

## The Need

Our monthly payroll has increased approximately 25% in the past 9 months by taking on two part-time staff members (Denny Hyland & Mike Pierson) who are helping us leading huddles and doing one-to-one ministry. Our golf outing was very successful raising a net amount over \$29,000. It helped us to make it through the 3rd quarter. Thanks to all who supported us. **We need your help to make it in the 4th quarter to send us into the new year with a surplus. We will need \$30,000 to meet payroll in the 4th Quarter. Can you make a donation of \$50, \$100 or \$1,000? Maybe you could help us by making a monthly donation?**

You can make a donation on our website at: [www.lockingarmsmen.org/giving](http://www.lockingarmsmen.org/giving) or send us a check payable to Locking Arms Men. Our address: 6307 Oyster Bay Court, Bridgeville PA 15017.

Your prayer support and financial help is greatly appreciated. Your partnership enables us to continue in God's work here in Pittsburgh and in the Dominican Republic.

For God's Glory in Christ-Leo Wisniewski

Check out some of our videos on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/hMW3zD1rDLY>