

# In Touch

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## The Pittsburgh Experiment: Still Standing by the Door



Here is a selection of quotes from some new and old Experimenters about how The Pittsburgh Experiment has impacted their lives.

Rich says: “Through my teen years and into my adulthood I’ve hoped that one day I’d find a group of guys with whom I could experience genuine Christian fellowship. It was a huge void in my life until a friend invited me to an Experiment meeting. I’ve been an Experimenter now for over a year and I cannot imagine life without this ministry and without the friends I’ve made. May God continue to bless The Pittsburgh Experiment so that other guys who are looking for what I’ve found can have the same opportunity I’ve had.”

Bob, a long-time Experimenter, recalls: “Louie works at the restaurant where our group was meeting. He watched our interactions for several weeks. Then, one day, he approached us and shared his own story. Still in his 20’s, Louie’s life had been taken over by alcohol and violence. He lost his license and suffered serious financial repercussions. Now part of a 12-step group and sober for several years, Louie was facing the challenges of getting out of debt and regaining his license to drive. We prayed for him on the spot. Louie said it was the first time a group of men had ever prayed for him and that he could feel the touch of the Holy Spirit as we lifted him up. This is what the Pittsburgh Experiment is all about.”

Mike, a brand new Experimenter, has this to say: “I’ve known Kerry all my life. He was a friend of my dad’s, but now he has become my friend, too. He was there when I gave my heart to Christ. He encouraged me to channel my music talent into praise and worship at my church. Recently, as I’ve struggled to understand God’s will for my life, Kerry and I have sat up many nights talking and praying for God’s direction for me. The books he’s given me, like *The Shack*, through the ministry of The Pittsburgh Experiment, have helped me draw closer to God. I’m excited about being part of The Pittsburgh Experiment.”

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Be sure to visit our web site at [www.pghexp.org](http://www.pghexp.org)

## Kerry's Kolumn

By Kerry Fraas, Executive Director

So much is happening! The move has Rick and me hopping. I've been meeting with folks from the Coalition for Christian Outreach and hope to have news soon of an exciting new collaboration to help Christian college students transition to the workplace. There are folks all over the area who are linking up with new and existing groups.

For now, I'd like to highlight two developments. First of all, meet our Book Giveaway Program. It's always interesting to see how God takes the smallest seed and grows something rich from it. Last year (2010) I bought a few books to give away. I chose Christian classics that have proven their value over many years. As I stood by the door extending a hand of fellowship to the curious, I was able to give away thought-provoking classics along with my encouragement. This simple ministry has been such a blessing to so many men that I'm now having trouble keeping books in stock. God is blessing this giveaway. I hope you will support it as you are able.



Second, our brother and office guru, Rick Montgomery, has a new book. *Kingdom Soldiers: A Warrior's Guide to Winning Life's Battles* offers Rick's wisdom on how each of us can be better prepared to handle the stuff life throws at us. I've read it and it is a challenging and rewarding read. Best of all, it's by one of our own Experimenters. Go to Amazon, enter "Kingdom Soldiers" (use the quotation marks) in the search box and buy a copy today.

I hope you enjoy this issue of In Touch. Keep on experimenting.

### Spring Men's Retreat Recap

The forecast was terrible. Rain, rain and more rain. Cold. Not the stuff of which memorable retreats are made. Nevertheless, by 7:00 PM Friday night a hardy band of Experimenters gathered expectantly at the Laurelville retreat center ready to hear what Tom Petro, our brother and former Experimenter, might have to share with us. And so began our journey 500 years back into Christian history. What a challenging and memorable journey it was to be.

Tom introduced us to St. Ignatius Loyola (pictured at left - come on, you didn't really think that was Tom did you?). St. Ignatius founded the Jesuits at the behest of the Pope. Prior to this, he had been a soldier in the Papal Army and a man of deep introspection.

By the time Tom was done presenting St. Ignatius' "14 Rules for Spiritual Discernment", every man among us was amazed at the man's wisdom. We all walked away better armed to discern the spirits that influence our lives. And the campfire and fellowship were, as always, terrific!

Thanks, Tom. Thanks, St. Ignatius.



Quiz: Is this Tom Petro, retreat presenter, or St. Ignatius Loyola, retreat superstar?

(See story for answer)

## Funding Needs

Here are some specific needs at the Pittsburgh Experiment. Feel free to direct a one-time or monthly gift to any of the following needs that interests you. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.

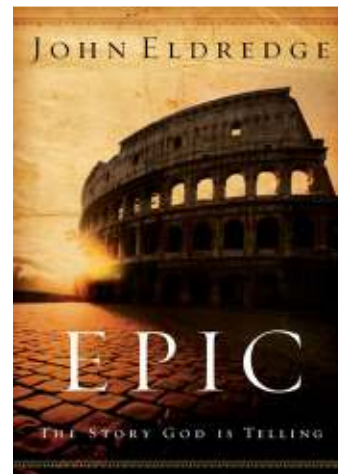
<b>Pay for a month's operations.</b> A gift of this size will pay a month's worth of salaries and volunteer stipends, recurring bills, office supplies and other ministry expenses.	<b>\$7,000.00</b>
<b>Upgrade our vital software.</b> We're running Office 2000, our QuickBooks version is 5 years old and we need to renew Norton Utilities so we remain fully protected.	<b>\$1,200.00</b>
<b>Underwrite our Book Giveaway Program for 3 months.</b> Many prospective Experimenters are touched to receive free copies of Christian classics like <i>My Utmost For His Highest</i> . Help us continue to make these books available.	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Send a guy to camp.</b> Provide a retreat scholarship by making your gift to the Paul Everett Memorial Scholarship Fund.	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Sponsor the move.</b> We'll save money once we get there, but we've got to pay the costs of moving. Your help here would be greatly appreciated.	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Buy us a new laptop.</b> We're leaving the old PC behind - it's old and slow and it forgets stuff. That's okay in an Experimenter, but not in a PC.	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Underwrite bookkeeping costs.</b> Someone has to keep track of income and expenses. We're fortunate to have a good bookkeeper, but his family does like to eat occasionally. This amount is our average monthly cost.	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Sponsor our website.</b> We've got a first-class website, but it won't stay that way if we don't keep the information up to date. Help us git 'er done.	<b>\$2,000.00</b>

## Fall Men's Retreat

October 7-8, 2011

Laurelville Mennonite Retreat Center

**Save this date!** This fall's retreat promises to be one of our best. Many Christian men know the name John Eldredge. He's the author of *Wild at Heart* and other best-selling books on what it means to be a Christian man in today's world. Our retreat will present John's DVD series, *Epic*, focusing on the story God is trying to tell through our lives. There will be 6 sessions, each offering a chance for lots of small group interaction. As always, we will have our campfire and times to just be guys in the woods in fall. Contact Kerry if you would like a scholarship or to reserve a spot.



**DO NOT MISS THIS RETREAT!**

## ACTIVE PITTSBURGH-AREA SMALL GROUPS

### Men's Groups

Location varies (email Rick for this month's location) –  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays – 5:30 PM  
Contact: Rick Montgomery – 412-576-3221  
email: rick.montgomery412@gmail.com

Bethel Park (2924 South Park Road) - Fridays - 6:30 AM  
Contact: Mark Ratti - 412-833-0900

City Deli (Koppers Building) - Tuesday - 12:00 PM  
Contact: Dave Spencer - 412-762-1876

Carriage Inn (Elizabeth) - Saturday - 8:00 AM  
Contact: Kerry Fraas - 412-956-6002

Eat'n Park (Rt. 8 North) - Third Saturday - 7:00 AM  
Contact: Dave Dunlap - 412-236-1685

Eat'n Park (Sewickley or Bellevue - alternates) - Thursday - 6:00 AM  
Contact: Craig Waller (By Invitation Only)

MAG 12 ( Location / Date / Time Varies)  
Contact: Jay Roy (By Invitation Only)

### Women's Groups

Eat 'n Park (McKnight Rd) - Call for Day - Call for Time  
Contact: Connie Miner - 724-935-4513

### Mixed Groups / Men & Women

Condello Design (Upper St. Clair) 1st & 3rd Thursdays – 7:00 PM  
Contact: Tony Condello - 412-831-1808 (office)

City Deli (Koppers Bldg) - Friday - 12:15 PM  
Contact: Dave Dunlap - 412-236-1685

Papa J's (Carnegie) - 2nd Thursday - 12:00 PM  
Contact: Judy Dressler - 724-485-4517 (office)

### New Groups Under Development

Oakmont Group (date, time, and location to be determined)  
Contact: Jim O'Malley – 412-826-9450

Cigar Smoker's Group (date, time, and location to be determined)  
Contact: Kerry Fraas – (412-956-6002)



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Mailing Label Here