

Reflections from the Inside

EMAW Prison Ministry



Testimonies of men whom have completed or are in EMAW in the PA DOC

Testimonies 2018 (each one is a separate man)

- I'm 57 years old, spent too much of my life in the penitentiary and I just learned how to pray, how to memorize, how to be a Christian
- EMAW changed my life
- I thought I knew Christ and then I got this book
- I wish I had learned this 20 years ago, allowed me look at myself, opened my eyes
- This is Spiritual Boot Camp. There is no discipleship in jail. This gave me a clear picture on how I am to conduct myself
- Since my injury, I had given up memorization (he knows the scriptures better than anyone and is currently working on the leader pack)
- I asked God to bring me someone and He gave me EMAW. I had been through countless Bible studies and have nothing to show for it
- God gave me EMAW, the men at this table, how to do Christian fellowship and relationships, how to look at God in every decision. This was the true highlight of my week, I couldn't wait for Friday

Four Testimonies from the inside 2018 (men just before the completed book 3)

- 1) On Scripture: I surprised myself with my ability to memorize scripture and then how my mind uses these verses as a filter when I look at life around me.
- 2) Before I had no knowledge of scripture but being in "Every Man a Warrior" but being in EMAW taught me scripture, how to understand it in my everyday life

- 3) It has changed my way of thinking. It also allowed me to get in touch with myself. I just wish "Every Man a Warrior" was around years ago (in the jail). This program has impacted my life in so many ways. I just want to say "thank you" for changing my life.
- 4) Biggest change since EMAW: My heart became softer towards others and I'm more willing to share my testimony with others. I want everyone around me to experience freedom and peace through Christ Jesus our Lord just like I have



The next two are from inmates currently sentenced to "Life" in prison. In PA, that means, until you die. The first has 43 years in and the second is in his first decade.

Fred House – 43 years as an inmate in the PA Department of Corrections (in book 2)

I have greatly benefitted from participating in the EMAW Christian Discipleship program here at SCI Smithfield.

First, since becoming involved in the EMAW program, I have developed a more intense Spiritual Focus. Prior to getting involved in this excellent program, my devotional time with God suffered. I allowed the cares of the world to sidetrack me. I knew that I needed to spend time with God, but I was always being drawn away by other things. However, since becoming involved in EMAW, I now see the importance of "Putting God first and making the observance of daily quiet times a priority".

Second, I have also benefitted from the discipline of memorizing scripture verses. My favorite verses so far, Matthew 22:36-28 and Philippians 4:6-7. As these verses together declare, there is no higher calling in life than to totally love and rely upon God, used the talents and abilities he has given us to witness of his goodness and mercy and serve each other.

Although I've memorized only about half of the verses in the verse pack so far, I have already been using them in ministering to others in our church here. I am on the prayer team in our church. During a recent worship service, a brother came up for prayer for a serious medical issue that was worrying him. After praying for the brother, I quoted from memory Philippians 4:6-7 and encouraged him not to worry but instead trust in God. I explained that God was so much bigger than any problem we could ever face. If we can only grasp that truth, we could make it through anything we encounter in life!

As a member of the prayer team at our jail, my prayer life has been greatly enriched through learning and applying the WAR method of prayer. What I especially like about it is the emphasis on praise and confession, with personal prayer requests coming last. In the past my prayers were focused primarily on asking God to do things for me. The WAR method, however, puts our relationship with God first, which is right where it should be. Everything else, spiritually speaking, flows from that.

Finally, I enjoy the fellowship I have with the brothers in our circle. Over the months that we've been meeting, we have grown quite close and I am excited by how God has been moving in our lives. We have all developed a very strong desire to really draw close to God and take our spirituality seriously.

David Little – Making a Warrior

There are not many programs that reach down to touch the core place which determines who, along with, what type of man you are or will be. Every Man a Warrior did that..



What makes EMAW special is that it addresses the spiritual aspect of a man's life, because it is only from there that you will experience the type of true and lasting change which will permeate into every facet of any individual's life. I'm living proof that programs which only address the mental and sociological behaviors of an individual have, in most cases, been unsuccessful to attain perpetual transformation in the person's life. The fact remains true that it is from all out of the heart that evil flows (Matt. 15:19) as the Bible tells us. It is a heart transplant that most of us are in just as much of a dire need of, as we are a transformation of the mind. Gratefully, for us, through a relationship with Christ are we then placed in the hands of the most capable Physician, by whom we can receive a successful double-transplant of the mind and heart which in turn will give us a fresh start at a new and fruitful life.

For myself, EMAW has challenged me in many different ways spiritually by setting a high moral standard and demanding of me, my time, daily to be invested in the Word of God and in prayer, the foundational building blocks of not only starting, but maintaining a close and vibrant relationship with God. In addition to that, the curriculum of the program has also added an abundance of wisdom and understanding to my proverbial toolbox as a man and leader. It is remarkable how within many of the EMAW lessons I've gained knowledge and wisdom to be successful in areas of life that my own father never trained me for; which sadly seemed to be the theme in most of the men's lives in the program. Surely, I would hedge my bet on the possibility that this same sad truth would resonate in the lives of the majority of men, young and old, that find themselves in places such as this. Having the opportunity to receive enlightenment concerning what it truly means to be a "real man" must be afforded to as many men as possible, because having a correct understanding and image of what manhood is and should be is paramount and plays a major role in the success of every man!!! In gaining some of the knowledge throughout these past months, I've not only noticed how it has affected my assessment of crucial life experiences and my decision making in response to those events, but this program has also provided me with wisdom with which I can share with others in their time of need. For example, a month or so ago, I was blessed to speak with an older cousin of mine that confided in me how he was going through some major struggles in his marriage and he

was basically teetering on the edge of walking away from his marriage. He didn't know what else to do. At the time I was studying lesson 3 of book 2 "When Marriage Hurts" and because of what I was learning in that lesson I was able to share with my cousin words of wisdom, guidance, and encouragement to get through his present situation. In his words "It was just what I needed to hear cuz!" You see, not only does EMAW benefit you as a participant, it also equips those in the course with the knowledge, wisdom, and character skills to be a successful leader and positive influence for Christ, for his family and those around him.

It is my personal opinion that EMAW sets itself apart from any other program in which I've taken part of for the reason being that it has all the necessary ingredients with which to form a completely well-rounded individual. Surely, with the knowledge and wisdom gleaned from this program, it is well within the possibilities for one of the most irresponsible individuals to be transformed into the "Responsible" man that God created him to be.



John Charles Thomas
PA Regional Director &
National Prison Ministry Development
Every Man A Warrior, Inc.
www.EveryManAWarrior.com
Mobile: [\(814\) 424-2863](tel:8144242863)
johnt@everymanawarrior.com
To Give: twr.org/jthomas

*Build an army of men who love God (Matthew 22:36-38)
who become disciples who make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20),
and who bind up the brokenhearted, setting the captives free. (Isaiah 61:1; Proverbs 24:11)*