

# EMAW Testimonials

## Collection for Inspiration

Dr. Benn Gilmore – Detroit, MI



## “And, then .... It Happened”

As a result of an innocent question from my friend, Russ (Are you willing to commit 6 months to get closer to God?) to which I asked a few question and got disquieting answers. He told me that the study involved weekly readings, Scripture memorization and something called Quiet Times. I thought “No!!!”. However, he is the same friend who got me to go to Edge (though I wanted to kill him that first Friday night) which was another life-changing experience. So, I trusted him in matters of getting me closer to God. I hated Scripture since it was always just memorizing words disconnected to any study or experience and, I hated so-called Quiet Times because I am an American who loves multi-phasic thinking; I felt I was unable to be alone with God for more than the seconds to say “Grace” after or before a meal. Well, “surprise, surprise, surprise” to quote Gomer Pyle. There were 5 soldiers and a general in the person of Bill McGlone. Bill kept us to the book of Mr. Berger (“Lonnie” to Russ). We were asked to commit and sign our names to the official commitment. We all kept our words. Our “yes” was “yes”. We held each other accountable. If one of us came up with an excuse for why he may not be able to do his QTs or his Lesson or not practice his verses, he was reminded (in the most gentle way :) that he gave his word.....and integrity is in the heart of a warrior. We pressed on in the manner our leader insisted.

And, then,....it happened. I got to the point where I GOT to do my Quiet Time with God. I GOT to memorize Scripture in the context of a Lesson and principles that we discussed and learned how to dissect a Bible verse and Ask Questions that brought the Word to life. I got to know God so much better. I sometimes got lost in my QTs. I was so moved and changed by His Word, as expressed in EMAW, and the sharing and discussing that I committed to lead one 6 weeks later. That second group was fired up and 3 out of 6 men are now leading or co-leading a group. I am now leading my 3rd and 4th group (about 2 weeks apart). And, it will be exciting when I start groups 5 and 6 in the fall.

So, I have done 4 separate books and each time I learn more about me and about God. My relationship with my children is so much better than before my 1<sup>st</sup> time through EMAW. I am still flawed, and, yet, I feel loved and know that they, likewise, feel loved by me. I have said “I was wrong” or I am sorry” to my children and wife more times in the past 2 years than in the prior 20. And, we are all the better for it. It isn’t that I have made more mistakes in the past 2 years.....I just acknowledge them a bit better. NOT as well as I will after 7 and 8 EMAW.....better than before EMAW. Thank God that Mr. Berger, Bill, Russ and all of the men who will follow the calling of the Holy Spirit to continue to share EMAW.

Initially, I regretted not experiencing EMAW before marriage and parenthood. The good news that I tell my guys is that I (and they) can start right now to be a better spouse, parent, child, brother, friend and human. And I have done that – better; not perfect, but better. That is my story and I am sticking to it!