

EMAW Testimonials

Collection for Inspiration

Reflections from the Inside

2018



EMAW Leader Serving Life with 43 Years as an Inmate

"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.