## EMAW Testimonials Collection for Inspiration

## **Reflections from the Inside**

Tony L – Michigan

2018

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## From a prisoner in Michigan - Jan. of 2018 "All I wanted was to be a criminal!"

Tom's opening statement to our *Every Man A Warrior* group captured and broke my heart as I continued to listen to his story that led him to take residence in a Michigan State Correctional Facility. He chose a path that had a most regrettable destination - years of incarceration. Those years were taking their toll as loneliness; the realization of missed opportunities and the long list of unfortunate choices bore down on him like a massive block of granite. Suddenly the release valve was opened in him, and the tears began to flow and saturate his abundant facial hair.

During his time in the confines of a correctional facility a fellow prisoner named Ben, came alongside him and courageously and boldly reintroduced the power of the Gospel into Tom's life. Ben was faithful, committed, and relentless in his pursuit to befriend Tom. As a result of Ben's dedicated quest, Tom joined *Every Man A Warrior* where the Word of God is breathed-out, and brotherly accountability is lived-out in love.

We laid hands on Tom that night, and his story put another layer of God's love, mercy and grace upon my heart. I am so privileged to live out the "3-C" Core Values of *Every Man A Warrior:* 

• The Great Commandment of Matthew 22:36-38

to "Love God and Walk with Him Always"

- The Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-28 to "Make Disciples Who Make Disciples"
- The Great Compassion of Isaiah 61:1-3

to "Bind Up the Brokenhearted and Set Captives Free"