



## Testimonies from the Battle for the Heart for Men in Pennsylvania

After five years of dreaming and praying for God to bring the Battle for Your Heart to Butler FUMC and western PA. we are savoring God exceeding our expectations for the Men and Women's events held just two weeks apart!

When I came to this church five years ago, Melanie and I sensed God wanted to use us to turn back some of the generational sin that plagues this area and affected my own family growing up here.

There has been lots of resistance and challenges to get here, but it has been worth it as we are hearing every few days fresh testimonies of God working in individuals, marriages, families, and church relationships.

We are seeing long term patterns beginning to break, hope arise, and people tasting the life changing power of God's love in their hearts and relationships.



In the midst of the spiritual hardness of western PA we see God breaking through. That gives us great satisfaction and courage for the next part of the journey.

**Rob Gilgrist**

Discipleship Pastor

First United Methodist Church – Butler, PA

The BMH event held at the Antiochian Village Conference in Bolivar, PA on September 2016 was a key milestone event for both me personally and for FUMC Butler. For our church it established a significant new catalytic opportunity for men to experience authentic biblical masculinity as a means to pursue their sanctification through the transformative journey of discovery of God's image in the depths of their hearts. I saw the experience of the Holy Spirit's inner work open the eyes of the hearts of the men in attendance. It was glorious to experience God's faithfulness demonstrated during our time together and I was honored to be a part of it. The Battle for the Heart will be a key piece in empowering our men to grow personally and pursue our church's vision to be "A growing community of believers where Jesus Christ changes lives".

For me personally, the retreat was a time of inner healing as I embraced my desire to be authentically vulnerable, and shared my pose with my brothers in attendance. It was a very scary thing for me to do, but through my testimony God faithfully turned my feelings of anxiety, tension, and nervousness into fulfillment of my deep desires to be known and valued and to experience a peace and wholeness that can only come from fully engaging with the protective work of the Fellowship. As a team equipping facilitator I am looking forward to fulfillment of more of my deepest desires by living deeper into my various roles and pursuing our collective hearts together with my team. It truly was a battle to get to the point of offering this event at Antiochian Village, but having now come through it, it was truly worth the effort.

**Bill Hess**  
Task Force Member  
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