

Talking Points

August 2019

My name is Jim Myers.

I wish to give testimony to MEN ON THE EDGE (MOTE). In 2013 MOTE, one of the many ministries of Saddleback Church provided me the opportunity to change my life and "save my marriage". One evening as my wife was visiting family out of town, I found divorce papers on my desk at home, with an attached note saying, "*Think about it!*" Having been divorced previously, I suddenly felt very alone and very much a failure.

I immediately went online to the Saddleback Church website and there I discovered MOTE. So, a couple of days later I attended my first MOTE meeting in November 2013. The first night was awkward! I felt like I was the only new person there and other guys there are wondering what's wrong with ME. But that isn't the case. As the night progressed, I begin to realize this is a group of men going through similar, but different circumstances. Being church affiliated men's group, over time I began to SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD, as I turned the situation over to HIM thru prayer and scripture. After the teaching portion of each group meeting, we broke into smaller groups providing a chance for each man to share how his week was going. The one-on-one sharing time, helped me open up to the REAL ROOT ISSUES that were causing problems in my life and marriage.

The MOTE book and study guide *Don't Give Up!* provided many eye-opening points, as I read the words authored by MOTE support group leader Gary Hoffman. As weeks went by, the chapters allowed me to see my life from a different perspective. And, I begin to see things differently, then when I first joined. I was NOT attending MOTE to "save my marriage," rather I was attending to SAVE MYSELF. I was becoming the person God INTENDED me to be. And, if you're lucky (like me), your spouse will begin to see and feel the changes in in your heart. It is not about giving in or giving up your joys, it's about truly improving yourself, to where being good.... begins to feel good.

One of the true pleasures I got from attending was learning from the many guest speakers, which gave of their time to talk to us. If you attend MOTE, you'll hear from some very wise and discerning leaders and counselors with some absolutely wonderful ideas on marriage mending.

I believe the most important thing I learned at MOTE is change is NOT permanent if you lose sight of your goal, and it is easy to slip back to into your old habits if you're not careful. You can easily take your wife and marriage for granted again. That happened to me at least once, probably twice. I returned to MOTE to re-energize myself with God and by being around other Godly men. I also realized that growing to be more like Jesus must be part of your daily living. With God's help, "*all things are possible.*"

I feel much more fulfilled, than ever before in my life, as I continue to attend MOTE sessions every so often. I also have joy in seeing the support group leaders; Gary Hoffman and Gary Dahl. Though we don't socialize, I consider them friends and thank God for finding them and the MOTE men's group.

Thank you,
Jim