

The Life of a Rescued Man – Ian Reilly

Ian Reilly was born in 1966 in Northern Ireland. Together with his twin brother Paul and four other siblings, he grew up in a home marked by fear, violence, and neglect. His father was a severe alcoholic who terrorized the family. Hunger was part of daily life—so extreme that Ian remembers eating soap. He never knew a childhood filled with safety or care.

At the age of six, his father was arrested, and the children were placed in a state home. But even there, they found no safety. Ian and his brother became victims of severe abuse. What should have been a place of protection became another chapter of pain and darkness.

At eleven, Ian returned to live with his mother. For a short time, life seemed to stabilize. But this fragile hope was shattered when his mother died tragically on the night before his thirteenth birthday. This loss deepened the emptiness and despair already within him.

As a young man, Ian was filled with anger, pain, and inner turmoil. At eighteen, however, he experienced a turning point in Belfast. He heard a preacher say that while his earthly father had failed, there was a heavenly Father who loved him deeply. These words changed him. For the first time, he encountered a love that heals instead of destroys.

This experience transformed his life. Anger gave way to joy, peace, and freedom. He no longer defined himself by his past, but as someone who had been rescued.

At twenty-one, Ian married a young Irish woman. Shortly after, she became seriously ill with schizophrenia and lost her hearing. Ian stayed by her side, learning sign language and caring for her for sixteen years. Despite the hardship, his faith gave him strength.

They had a daughter named Rebecca, but eventually the marriage broke apart. His wife returned to Belfast with their daughter, and Ian was left alone. He lost everything and became homeless in the Netherlands.

In this desperate situation, he prayed for help. Shortly after, he met a woman from Syria. Despite having nothing and facing many obstacles, their relationship grew. They married despite cultural differences and doubts from others.

Today, Ian lives with his wife in the Netherlands. They have two sons, Michael and Jonathan. His life, once filled with pain, is now marked by stability, joy, and hope.

Ian sees his life as a story of rescue. He believes that God sees human suffering and responds to it. Again and again, he has experienced being led out of hopeless situations.

Today, he shares his story to give others hope. He is convinced that even in the darkest moments, a new beginning is possible. His identity is no longer rooted in his past, but in the reality of being rescued, and his life stands as a testimony to the goodness of Jesus Christ.