



When we interviewed Barry, we had to conceal his identity for safety reasons. His story and upbringing were traumatic and involved some circumstances he couldn't mention - so, we didn't want to take any chances. Barry's father was a member of a notorious motorcycle gang and abandoned Barry. After a horrific motorcycle crash, his dad returned home but never became a real dad to Barry. All the while, Barry's mother was a drug abuser and dealer. Barry was raised to follow in their footsteps and for a season, he did just that. But there came a turning point. Part of Barry's story is a love story fit for the Hallmark channel. When he married his now wife, Barry gained a father figure in his father-in-law, who would pour into him and become like the dad he never had. In one of the most powerful stories we've heard to date, his daughter tells the story of how her dad, after nearly being burned to death in a fire, came and sat to watch her perform at her gymnastics meet, even though he had second and third-degree burns all over his body. Then, Barry went to the hospital after the meet. Doing the interview was a tremendous sacrifice for Barry because he has moved on from his past and doesn't like to revisit it. He was kind enough to tell his story in hopes that it will bring encouragement to a young man who may now be walking in the shoes he once walked in.