

## BIOGRAPHY OF MATTHEW HAROLD ROBERTS

Matthew was born 6 December 1968 in Quincy, California. He weighed 10 lbs at birth and the nurses said he was ready for kindergarten. He was number 7 of 9 children and came into his world determined to make his mark. He was smart and good looking, blond and blue eyes. He was not a sweet, gentle submissive child like Camille and Fon, but was strong willed and aggressive. He was his father's favorite child. His father worked the afternoon shift on the railroad as a teletype operator, His hours were from 4 till midnight. Often his father would come from work at midnight and go get Matthew out of his crib and put him in bed with us, right in the middle. Whenever Crawford took a bath, he would get Matthew and put him in the bathtub with him as his "pillow."

When he was about three, I thought I would take some classes at the college. I left Matthew and his baby sister Mary, with Crawford one morning. Matthew decided Mary needed a bath. He filled the bathtub with cold water and tried to get his sister in that bathtub. I came home to find Crawford asleep and Mary screaming her head off, butt naked, and blue with cold. I decided that my college classes were going to have to wait a few years.

His father always took him home teaching with him. After, they would go get an ice cream cone together. Crawford loved those ice cream cones. However, the Dr. told Crawford not to eat them anymore because he had allergy problems. When he took Matthew home teaching he did not get an ice cream cone.

"Daddy, where is our ice cream?"

"Son, the Dr. said I couldn't have them anymore. They are not good for me."

"Don't go to that Dr. anymore"

When he was in the first grade, his teacher told me he should be a writer because he had such a vivid imagination. She would show me the stories he wrote in the first grade. We couldn't believe it. I always told him and his sister Bible stories. One day I went out to hang clothes. Here was Matthew standing on a post in our yard with a sling shot in his hands screaming,

"OK GOLIATH, COME AND GET ME. I WILL FIGHT YOU. I AM NOT AFRAID!!"

When he was hungry as a baby he didn't just let us know, he would pound his knife and fork on his tray and scream. I remember putting him in his high chair and giving him a banana. He got so sick of those bananas he would squeeze them through his fingers and pound on his tray.

Fast and Testimony meeting is when he would entertain the whole ward. Everyone got the latest saga of the Roberts serial. We tried to warn him not to share family secrets, but it did no good. He had to tell everyone in the world each Fast and Testimony meeting all about our family problems.

"Last week Dad chased David down the street throwing bottles at him and the neighbors called the police, but you see, it is not Dad's fault. David goes around showing his muscles and acting like a big shot. That makes Dad mad. By the way. When I grow up, I am going to be the prophet!"

He was on the wrestling team in high school at the lightest weight 103. He was late maturing and some of the other boys gave him no end of trouble, especially the Gamburg boys. They called him a girl. Once when they were on a wrestling tournament in another city they stayed at a motel. Gamburg got all the Bibles from the rooms and took them to Matt's room and started in their teasing again. Matthew got so mad he said,

"LISTEN HERE YOU HEATHEN JEW. IF YOU DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE, I WILL CALL DOWN THE FIRES FROM HEAVEN AND CONSUME YOU BOTH BODY AND SOUL!!!"

They got even with him. Later on, he was in a match with one of them and Robbie Gamburg put a move on Matthew that torn his ligament in his leg and he could not wrestle for the rest of the season. He never did recover from that injury. He went on his mission to Canada and had trouble with it. He thought he may have to return from his mission, but he prayed that he would be able to complete his mission, which he did in fact as an assistant to the President. After his mission he had surgery to repair that torn ligament in his leg. He had to go to Redding to have a particular surgeon fix his leg. His sister, Tessie took him from the hospital into her home. She took care of him for about a week until Dad and I could take him home.

He worked hard in scouting. He became an Eagle Scout and his eagle project was to clear about seven miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. He organized a three day camp out to Rock Lake. He had about 10 scouts to help him. They carried tools up to that trail and worked all day. They came back about 2: PM sweltering hot and hungry. Then they would eat and spend the rest of the afternoon swimming in the lake. We were all very proud when he was awarded his Eagle.

He had compassion and love for his father. He knew how to handle him in spite of his father's disabilities. He loved his father and his father loved him. His father worked very hard to provide for his family and was deeply religious. He would not miss any home teaching assignments. In his 76 years, he only missed one, and that was because he was in the hospital. Crawford was the group leader over the High Priest. He was determined that they would have 100% home teaching. Every month he would start calling each high priest around the 10th of the month and ask them if they had their home teaching done? If they said no, he would ask them when they were going to do it? Then he would call them back every couple of days to see if they completed it yet? The high priests would get so mad at him they would complain to the Bishop, Stake President, and everyone else. Jerry Holland tells how he was on vacation in Hawaii and he receives a call from Crawford asking him about his home teaching? It got so that whenever there was a church gathering and Brother Warren was there, he would announce loud and clear so that everyone could hear him,

"Crawford, I have my home teaching done."

He did this so the rest of the priesthood would know they were not alone.

Matthew had compassion for others of his friends who were disabled. Some of his friends would say,

"Why do you always hang out with all those losers?"

"Because they need to be loved too."

I remember how he took John Leal camping with us. John had never been camping before. It was very cold and late at night I heard John crying. When I got up to see what was the matter, he was shaking with cold. I knew he was in danger of hypothermia. I got him up and put him in my sleeping bag. Then I got hot rocks from the fire and wrapped them in towels and put those rocks in bed with John. I asked him why he didn't put on his coat?

"Matt told me to take it off."

I then put his own sleeping bag over him and I crawled in Crawford's sleeping bag with him. Needless to say, I did not get much sleep that night but John was safe.

His father gave him a little red Subaru truck. He worked on it at his auto mechanic class and gave it a new paint job, with money he earned selling wood. He was really proud of that little truck. When it came time for him to graduate from High School he decided to skip school one day and take the truck to Reno with his friend Rick. Big mistake!! Someone saw him and reported it to the principal. The principal called both boys in and they lied and said they were there on family business. The principal said they had to bring a note from their parents. Matt came to me and asked me to write a note for him.

"No, I won't write you a note."

"Why? Rick's mother wrote a note for him."

"Well that is Rick's mother. You did not ask my permission. I will not write you a note."

"You are a chicken mother!"

"So be it. I will not write a note!"

As a result, Matt had to stay home from his graduation party. Rick got to go, but Matt thought I was the "Wicked Witch of the West." It wasn't until about 10 years later that he had to give a talk in church while he was going to medical school and he told about how he learned to take responsibility for his decisions because of this experience.

Matthew liked to go on camping trips with the family. Every summer we would arrange these three or four day camping trips along the Pacific Crest Trail. Matthew would keep everyone awake at night cracking one joke after another. We really enjoyed his company. He was popular and everyone liked him. His brother, Jonathan said that the first thing he wanted to do when he came home from his mission was to go on another camping trip with the family. He liked hiding rocks in Matt's back pack.

Once, when we were in the Lakes Basin Area, Matt would complain because of the weight. Jon would say,

"Well, let's stop and rest."

During the rest stop Jon would add another rock behind Matt's back to his pack. Poor Matt. He was just a little guy, about 12, and the sweat was pouring off his beet-red face and he was really dragging his little fanny. We finally decided to see what we could do to lighten his load and help him out. That was when Jonathan decided to take out about 10 pounds of rocks. I couldn't believe he did that!

Once I had a very real temptation. One of the professors at the college was very interested in me and I in him. He gave me an invitation which I rejected, but I came home and started to cry. Matthew was 15. He asked me what was wrong. I told him. He said,

"Mom, I am going to give you a blessing."

He did and I felt the spirit. It was beautiful and I had the strength to end the relationship

Matthew went away to college and fell in love with a beautiful girl, Renae, that the Lord had prepared for Matthew to marry. He finished college and went to Medical School and became a very successful Doctor. He has a practice in Oklahoma and is now the Bishop in a little town called Fairland Ok. They have five beautiful children, and a beautiful home. They have even build a house for Mom to live in nearby in the woods that overlooks the lake and the forest.

When people ask me how I raised such a wonderful family, I always reply that I don't think it was the raising. We had plenty of problems with our marriage, and our family, but we did hang in there through it all. I honestly feel we were just given special spirits. In fact, Crawford's patriarchal blessing tells him that if he would be faithful, God would send him some of his most choice spirits.