

# FORWARD

By  
Wayne P. Messmer




Il too rarely in the course of our lives do we stop to recognize the eternal flame that burns within another person, but when we do make this amazing discovery, the brilliance of the glow can never again be extinguished.

As in the normal passage through the circuitous paths we take, invariably, it is the journey we take with those whose hearts are in lock step with our own that are truly the most memorable and precious moments of our personal history. I have taken just such a journey with the author and I encourage you, the reader to appreciate the relationship into which you are about to enter.

In what has become a temporary society composed of disposable parts and discarded relationships, it has become my personal quest to seek out individuals who not only have the vision to clearly see beneath the surface of the mask behind which we pose, but possess the courage to unselfishly allow their own mask to be removed. It is this supremely personal interaction that gives us a small glimpse of the much anticipated, moment of unconditional acceptance to which we aspire when we will take our final leap of faith as we surrender our soul to the Lord.

This is a mere glimpse into the friendship that many people, including myself have been privileged to share with the author, Matthew Berrafato. "The Elephant Hunter" has quietly and unceremoniously collected a series of lasting and meaningful encounters with people who have crossed his path and have been touched by his enthusiasm, passion for life and his faith, as well as his enviable and undying commitment to family and friendship... invaluable qualities and traits of an unconquerable spirit that have been sewn into the fabric of our lives as a result of merely having met.



As a professional speaker and author, I fully appreciate the depth of the material that lies ahead for the reader in the following pages. I am also quite humbled to have been chosen to write these words as a voice for all of us whose lives have been touched and for the countless readers of this work who will be changed by the exposure to the wit and wisdom of “The Elephant Hunter” as you take this wonderful adventure. 

***Enjoy the trip!***

***Peace,***

***Wayne P. Messmer, M.Ed., Ph.D., CSA***

***Certified Senior Advisor***

