

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1542 Whose Dream Were You?

You and I occupy space on this blue piece of roundness or flatness, depending upon your point of view, for a very short period of time. We have a lot of things that compete for our attention. Do you ever think of what it took to get you into the here and now. I'm Jerry Roberts, and let's grab a look at your family tree, next on The Extra Point.

You are here. Nice to see you. What had to happen to get you here? I saw a Facebook post from Lee Webber, who shared someone else's post that featured a long series of requirements for you to be here in this time. I'm going to share it with you.

In order for you to be born, you needed:

2 parents  
4 grandparents  
8 great-grandparents  
16 second great-grandparents  
32 third great-grandparents  
64 fourth great-grandparents  
128 fifth great-grandparents  
256 sixth great-grandparents  
512 seventh great-grandparents  
1,014 eighth great-grandparents  
2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Got that, if we go back just 400 years, the number of our ancestors are over 4,000.

The author of the post went on to say that we should think for a moment about how many struggles, how many battles, how much sadness, happiness, how many love stories, and what kind of hopes did all of those people have for the future,

Did any of your ancestors ever stop and wonder what one of their future family members would be doing and how would they be living decades or even centuries after they left active duty on this planet?

If they had, you may have been the dream they had, that one day their struggles would pay off for one of their own, someday.

Let me add to this every teacher you ever had, and every manager who worked with you. They also contributed to your growth and your story.

Some of who and what you are was likely molded in the workplace, and that means their imprint is on you, too, just like certain teachers you had.

Most of us can sing the praises of teachers and bosses who invested themselves into us. What if they had decided we weren't worth it? What if my first boss, Big Ed, had looked at a rough-around-the-edges 19 year-old, and said to himself, "Nah, he's not worth my time?"

We owe a debt of gratitude to those thousands of ancestors who got us to 2024, as well as the teachers and managers who planted seeds in us, to help us achieve more and reach our goals.

And we owe a little bit to the ones who will come after us. Some of us are parents, some are grandparents, and a relatively small group has reached the great grand-parent level. Fewer yet will make it to the great-great grand-parent stage.

Do you ever wonder about the ones who will one day wonder about you, and what your life was like? How will they live in a world ruled by AI, or whatever rules their world?

We don't know the specific of the lives of those who preceded us, unless we study the era in which they lived. If this world goes on well into the future, people connected to us won't know how we lived. It doesn't matter.

What does matter is that we know there is a connection to us from those in the past, and there will be another connection from us to those who reside in the future. (Con't.)

There is a connection to and from us with people who invested to get us here...and those we've invested in to move them along.

So, what's the message in all of this? Honor the commitment that so many have made that ultimately led to you getting your turn at-bat. Then, teach the next generation to do the same. If we all did that, generation by generation, what a difference that would make.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I'm Jerry Roberts.

###

For information on training and consulting services with Jerry Roberts, please click this link: [guamtraining.com](http://guamtraining.com)

