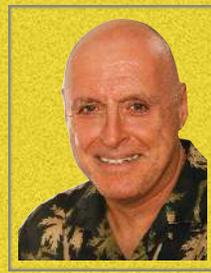


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



106 Build Your House With Care

A short story today about something we all share. I'm Jerry Roberts and this is your story. I promise. It's mine, too, today, on The Extra Point.

An elder carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer, a building contractor, of his plans to leave the house-building business to live a more leisurely life with his wife, and to enjoy his remaining years with his family.

He would miss the regular paycheck every couple of weeks, but he wanted to retire. They would find a way to get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked him, "Would you build just one more house as a personal favor to me? The carpenter agreed, but over time it was easy to see that his heart really wasn't in the job. The workmanship didn't match his normal high quality effort. He even used some inferior materials, where he'd always been so careful before. It was an unfortunate way to end a well respected career.

When the carpenter finished his work, his employer came to inspect the house. Then he handed the front-door key to the carpenter and said, "This is your house. My gift to you."

The carpenter was shocked! A feeling of shame fell upon him as he knew he hadn't done his best. Then, a feeling of remorse followed. If he had only known he was building his own house, well...he thought how he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then comes the day we realize we have to live in the house we've built. If we could do it over, of course we would give it our best. But, we can't go back.

You and I are the carpenter. Every day in the workplace we hammer away at building relationships, our reputation, and the foundation for our future success. And if we're really into building, we spend a good deal of our time helping others to erect something good in their lives and careers.

I'm thinking about this and writing, after talking with many old friends as we all met to honor Bill Gibson, Ray's dad, at his memorial gathering this past Sunday. In finding this story, it was clear that Bill was a builder in that way.

Maybe you've heard me talk about one of my first bosses, Big Ed — he was another one who went out of his way to build in my life, and did the same for others.

Now here's the best part. You and I can also be builders. We've all learned something that can benefit someone else. What's needed is to look beyond ourselves once in a while to see what another person might need, and then see if they're open to a couple of minutes of conversation. It can be as simple as that. Like they say, it ain't rocket science.

Life is a do-it-yourself project, and that includes our career. Our attitude and the choices we make today, help build the "house" we'll live in tomorrow. It makes sense to build it intentionally, build it wisely, and help others to build theirs, too.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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