

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 111 We All Need to Plant Trees

When you woke up this morning did you think that today you'd be planting a tree? You just might, and I think I can help with that. I'm Jerry Roberts...grab a shovel and let's get busy, right now, on The Extra Point.

Sometimes you read or hear words that are so powerful they stop you cold in your tracks. You know when you're confronted with pure truth.

I saw this quote the other day and I had that kind of experience. "A society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

I'm going to say it again and I want you to drink this in, because it definitely applies to you. "A society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

To me, this is about passing along the things we've learned. There are trees within you that need to be planted. There are trees within you that one day will cast shade for somebody. Somebody will be the beneficiary of lessons you've learned, of wisdom that you've accumulated in the workplace or life in general.

If you're under 40, or possibly 50, you might be lured into thinking, "Yeah, maybe someday. When I get old and have nothing else to do, I'll sit around and give people advice they didn't ask for, about stuff they don't care about. Then, I'll spend the rest of the day outside with the dog, and we'll both bark at people walking by." Not that this has ever crossed my mind, you see.

Question. What's the right age to do some of this planting? The age you are right now. There are people who need to know what you know.

Yes, the majority of those who need your wisdom won't care about it and will likely be

thinking about posting to Facebook or Instagram while you're talking. Fine. People write books, give speeches, and conduct training classes for those who are willing to be reached, not those who care more about their virtual world than the real one. It's not their time yet. Maybe one day it will be, and they'll find shade under a tree that somebody planted for them, years before. Maybe that'll be one of your trees. Look around and you'll find willing participants. Focus on them.

I have to tell you, this is one of the reasons I got into and stay with the business of training. I push and prod, and do everything I can to reach people, and I'm looking for those who get it, because I know if they get it they'll likely one day plant their own version of the same tree, and that's how my ideas live on and are spread — just the same as those I've found valuable from people who walked this planet, tens, hundreds, even thousands of years ago.

It gets better. Doing this doesn't require any formal credentials. You don't need to be a teacher, quote-unquote. What you need is a heaping helping of the willingness to do it. Just share your ideas. Share your story. Then answer their questions as best you can. Keep it simple. You do it today, one day they'll do it with someone else, and on it goes.

Plant trees, so someone you'll never know will enjoy its shade. People have done that for you and me. Let's return the favor.

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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