

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



218 Are Your Goals Big and Hairy?

What are your plans for 2019? Is there a big goal you're going after? Maybe you're not sure. I'm Jerry Roberts and maybe something said in the next couple of minutes will get you thinking of the possibilities. That's today, on The Extra Point.

Today, right now, I'd like you to think of something you'd really like to accomplish in the upcoming year. I'm not talking about a small thing, I want you to think about a big goal, a really big goal. I had a friend once call this a BHG — a big, hairy goal. Big, hairy, goal.

This is the kind of goal that's so big it kind of scares you, makes you feel like you need to catch your breath. It's a goal so big that when you look at it, it looks back at you and shakes its head, and says, "Nope, you can't have this. I'm too big and too hairy for you. Now you go back and play with your small goals and don't even think about messin' with me."

You getting the picture here? What kind of goal would it be that would take your breath away?

Many years ago when I began getting interested in this kind of thing I came across the story of a guy who was doing pretty well working for a financial services company, but bored out of his skull reading profit and loss statements, etc. He dreamed of traveling the world.

While at a conference he was introduced to a man who would change his life. This man spoke several languages fluently and was contracted by the U.S. government to accompany diplomats on their trips to foreign lands. Our friend was in awe of this gentleman because he was doing exactly what he wanted to do. So he asked a million questions. He had done reasonably well in high school and college with languages, but he wasn't fluent. So, he asked, "How good do you really have to be to do this kind of job?" The answer was that he had to speak and understand the language like a native. That good.

He decided he wanted to live the kind of life this interpreter had, so he set out to become fluent in Mandarin, a very hard language to learn. It took him three years of constant study and practice to reach a degree of fluency. He made several trips to China to practice in business situations and slowly, people began to learn of his talents, where he married up his financial knowledge and the ability to interpret the Mandarin language.

He was hired by a friend to travel with his CEO to Shanghai, for a series of high level meetings. It all went so well that he was contracted to be the man's permanent interpreter, which allowed him to quit his finance job. Other work followed and his life changed from sitting behind a desk and computer monitor, to traveling first class with major business executives. He achieved his big hairy goal.

Is that too big, too hairy for you? If so, can you think of something a teensy bit smaller, with a little less hair on it? What would that be?

Forget about age or finances, or what you think will block you from what you dream about. Pick up a pen and write about what you want. Then, break your goals into small, doable chunks like we discussed a couple of days ago. Is it about your career, your health, your family? Whatever it is, you'll be amazed at what you can accomplish once you are truly focused and have a good plan to achieve a goal that's outside your comfort zone...a bit big...a bit hairy.

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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