

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



262 Channel Information into Knowledge and Wisdom

We exist in a free-flowing avalanche of information. It comes at us in a never-ending raging river of details, ideas, and reactions. I'm Jerry Roberts and let's talk about channeling that river into knowledge and wisdom...today on The Extra Point.

I frequently work with managers and am asked to help them develop their supervisory skills, to become more effective in working with the people on their team. So where does that process begin? Number one, with desire. You have to want to improve.

Number two, with your personal GPS, that inner positioning device that — if you're honest with yourself — tells you where you are as a manager, and how far you still have to go to be where you want to be. This is critical because if you think you've already arrived and you don't need to learn any more, I know you're not going to listen to anything I have to offer and we're starting at a bad place.

I add to this something I picked up years ago: information is relentless, it never stops coming. But information is worthless without context. That is, why it's relevant to us. Why should we care about it? That turns our receptors on and allows them to capture what we need from the mountain of stuff that comes our way daily.

Let me toss another ingredient into the mix. My mom used to tell me that knowledge is a wonderful thing but experience is the true teacher. Knowledge doesn't enrich us. It just sits there until we use it. When we do, we go through an experience and we learn from it.

Cooks understand this. You pick up an award-winning recipe and try it out, and the first time it might be good, but not as good as the third or fifth times you use it. Why? Because you alter the instructions. You add more or this and less of that. You might cook for a few more

minutes, or perhaps a few less. You modify the recipe based on your experience. In the world of managing a team, that translates to trying different strategies and tactics, winning some and losing some. You make changes and more changes, and eventually you hit on a method that works.

There's one more key to this. Look back at how we got there. We started with random chunks of information, adding those we felt were the most relevant for us. We then rolled them up into a useful packet of knowledge (our strategies and methods), and implemented them to develop experience.

What do we have in the end? Results. The end results of what happened when we tested our ideas, and we learned valuable lessons from the fruits of our efforts. Those valuable lessons are otherwise known as wisdom.

People yearn for wisdom and they respect those who have it, because it always comes at a cost. The good news is that wisdom doesn't always equate to age. It's about learning, which happens at any age.

So wrapping this up, what should be the takeaway? I think it's that turning information into knowledge, knowledge into experience, and experience into wisdom is an easy to follow method. You don't have to be a genius. It takes effort. You can do this. Get after it.

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.

###

For information on training and consulting services from Jerry Roberts, please click this link: guamtraining.com

THE POINT
93.3 FM / 1350 AM / 104.3 FM HD-3

GUAM TRAINING