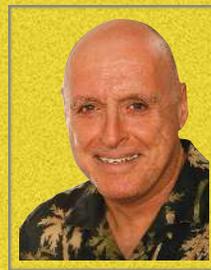


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



532 Dealing With Change and Seeking Rays of Hope

A few observations from the last couple of days, since our world was turned upside down. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, we talk about getting used to Guam's "new normal," change, and looking for hope. That's next on The Extra Point.

Since the announcement Sunday night that Guam had confirmed cases of COVID-19, I've tried to observe how people around me are adapting to what is called "the new normal."

On the whole, I think most are handling it well. Guam is a warm and friendly place and that is still coming through. We're not touching much and that's a good thing for now. We don't want to get the virus from anyone or pass it, either.

One day we'll again be able to give each other a big hug, and what a joy that will be. For now, let's all give each other space. The new normal, as mentioned.

Over 300 people attended our Live2Lead event last November, and we've got a brand new version scheduled for this coming November. For now, however, events are limited to 50 people. That may change again to no more than 10, as is happening on the mainland.

COVID-19 has brought change, and change is a big part of that new normal. Frankly, some of those changes are the stuff of movies. Who ever imagined we'd see major metropolitan areas like the San Francisco Bay communities almost completely shut down?

After weeks of portraying this Coronavirus outbreak as nothing to get worked up over, President Trump has turned a corner and now acknowledges the severity of the crisis. Things are going to move quickly now in the federal government's effort to catch up on the time it squandered.

Guam will follow suit. Today's normal may be

something totally different by this evening. That's just the new world that is upon us.

The whole idea is to protect our fragile health infrastructure, so that we don't end up like the poor souls in Italy, where the disease has gone completely out of control and overwhelmed their system. We don't have enough hospital beds or other equipment needed to fight the virus, so our only alternative is to slow it down. If we all do our part and stay home as much as possible, be careful with hygiene, and protect our immune system, we'll turn the tide and get a handle on things.

Encourage people where you work to continue to do those important things. We beat a foe like COVID-19 one person at a time. Each of us has a hand in striking it down.

One more thing. Be hopeful. The best minds in the world are working on a vaccine and got a jumpstart from efforts made against the SARS virus years ago. Experts had predicted it would take a year or longer to get one approved. If further tests are successful and with the president engaged, perhaps the vaccine can be put on a fast-track. There are no guarantees, but it's something we can be hopeful about.

Share the latest news with your team, and make sure you share why you're hopeful, too. Every day you put them first and help them to deal with their concerns, it's a trust builder. Take advantage of that. Everybody wins if you do.

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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