

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



538 Lots of Things in Life Are Contagious – Thankfully So

Some days your optimism tank runs low and others notice. I'm Jerry Roberts and it's a blessing when, on those kinds of days, they step up and help reset your vision. We'll talk about that today on The Extra Point.

I was angry yesterday at the news that the Trump Administration was seemingly giving up on trying to beat back the virus, and instead was planning to encourage Americans to get back to work and play, ignoring the obvious dangers. It goes against the advice of medical experts and scientists, and makes no sense because other parts of the world have made tough choices to seriously lock down, and they've been successful.

They knew that tens, maybe hundreds of thousands of Americans would die because of increased infections, but it would be okay as long as the economy was protected. My parents grew up in The Great Depression and I heard stories of what tough really is, when almost everyone struggled to just eat every day. Segments of society weren't sacrificed and we came out of it.

The Declaration of Independence doesn't say "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness until we have to let you die to protect the stock market." We're Americans and we've never played the game that way. So yes, I was mad, perhaps also fearful of what it meant if this is indeed what the president intends to do. This emotion came through the radio and was picked up by a friend, Kim Anderson Young of Security Title, and she reached out.

Kim reminded me that I've always been a positive voice, sharing ideas that she could pass to her team. She said my voice hasn't been the same the last week, and that caught my attention.

I see The Extra Point as a privilege to be able to share thoughts that can help others, mostly

in the workplace, to be able to communicate more effectively, expand understanding, and create better opportunities for everyone. I've always tried to be optimistic. Yesterday, there was some optimism, but less than usual.

Kim talked about a conversation with her mom, who told a story about looking at embroidery. On one side of the embroidered item you see a tangled mess of threads. However, when you flip it over you see a beautiful image. It's hard to see that now because we're still early in the tangled mess, but one day we'll read and hear incredible stories of courage from the women and men on the front line who are right now fighting the virus, and about others who went out of their way to help others.

There are going to be hard days ahead and the news will sometimes be difficult to take. That said, we have the ability to influence the safety for ourselves and our loved ones. Regardless of what happens with the federal government, if we continue to keep our distance from others, and keep our immune systems strong, we have the best chance to avoid infection. We can choose to take the necessary precautions.

Something else Kim said yesterday that struck a chord with me, is that a lot of things in life are contagious. It's not just a virus. Love, joy, encouraging others, those can all be contagious. We should each try to make those viral every day. So, thanks Kim, for encouraging me, showing me that we all need to occasionally flip over our tangled mess to see the better image.

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

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