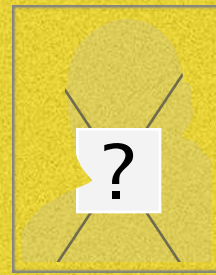


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



556 A Story of Extreme Kindness in These Difficult Times

A student stranded in Spain by the virus and unable to get back to her home in Italy. A taxi driver with a unique desire to help. I'm Jerry Roberts and that's the setup for today's edition of The Extra Point.

Sars-Cov-2 has wreaked havoc the world over and this includes shutting down colleges and universities. An Italian girl named Giada had been studying languages in Bilbao, Spain, and when the virus hit her community she decided to remain there to see how things would play out, instead of going home.

Things didn't play out her way. The university closed and her roommates left. She was alone and staying in Bilbao didn't make sense. She bought a plane ticket but arriving at the airport in Madrid, she learned that due to restrictions she wouldn't be allowed to board.

On top of this, hotels in Madrid were closed. There was no public transportation to her home in Italy, and the Italian embassy was of little help. Frustrated, Giada reached out to a friend for any assistance possible. The friend then got in touch with a taxi driver named Kepa, who said he was available to help.

Maybe he would take her to a small hotel or inn somewhere outside of Madrid so she could relax and plan her next move? No, Kepa drove from his home in Bilbao, almost 250 miles to Madrid, picked Giada up and drove 250 miles back to Bilbao.

Arriving home, she discovered her apartment was no longer available. No problem. Kepa asked his parents to take her in and they made her feel like one of the family.

The next day Giada and Kepa began to brainstorm ideas, and came up with a plan for him to drive her to her home in Italy. They called around to get the required authorizations, then prepared to rise early and leave at 8:00 AM.

The trip was smooth. At the borders with France and Italy they encountered police, but weren't stopped. A total of 12 hours and many hundreds of miles later, they arrived in Montebello, Italy, near Venice. Giada was home.

Pretty good so far, right? It gets better. Giada tried to pay Kepa for his services, but he only would accept a small amount for a portion of his expenses. Just a portion. In all, Kepa logged 1,800 miles to pick up Giada in Madrid, run her back to Bilbao, and then the trip into Italy. The mileage would actually be more as then he had to return home.

Giada's family put Kepa up for the night and make sure he left with a big basket of regional goodies as their appreciation for his kindness.

"It's something I will never forget," she said. "I was a complete stranger to this young man." This pandemic can also show the best part of people."

What an extraordinary gesture during equally extraordinary times.

Have you got stories of people going above and beyond to help others, or to show an extra level of effort or kindness? I'd like to hear them, and share them on the air.

Email me at: jroberts@guamtraining.com, or find a new page I just put up on Facebook. It's called Guam Cares. You can tell your story there and maybe we'll share it here on Ray's show.

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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