

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



569 Seeing Your Job a Little Differently

If you ever wondered what real importance your job has, I've got the answer. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, a dose of employment reality, next on The Extra Point.

How important is your job? I've asked that question a lot over the years, and too often I get a response that starts out with, "I'm just a _____", adding in what they do and more or less downplaying its importance.

Look, modesty has its place, and generally I have no problem with that. However, times are different now. The value of a job has changed, and our view needs to change as well.

We began talking about this on Friday and I feel it's necessary to follow up.

If you've been working since the pandemic began, or have just gone back to your job or will soon, your position has just taken on an extra level of importance because the world is different, your employer is different, coworkers are different, and your customers are different.

The buildings are the same and the details of what you do every day may seem the same, but the people have changed. Expectations may have been altered. The level of patience may not be equal to what it was before. We might have buyers focus more intently on details than ever before. Therefore, we also have to be concerned more with details, and our own patience.

But there's more and it has to do with why your job is important right now. As we begin to reopen Guam's economy, everything you do either makes your employer stronger or weaker. This has never been more critical than now. If you're a big picture person, that means what you do makes Guam stronger or weaker.

A stronger and safer Guam is more attractive to potential visitors. Thus, you don't have to be

directly employed in the tourism industry in order to influence its success.

Back to something I mentioned the other day. If you are involved in the effort to clean and sanitize your place of business, or you supervise people who do, then please listen carefully.

There is no more important work than what you do. So, as mentioned before, if you've ever said to someone, "I'm just a custodian," "just a janitor," "just the cleanup person" — then you've got a revelation coming.

Now you're a key member on the team to make your workplace safe for workers and customers alike. If you took that to heart, would it add value to your position?

If you're the supervisor of that team, does it change how you view each member? If you see each member as being a key component in your employer's effort to keep people healthy and reduce the possibility of infection coming into your place of business, would you talk to them any differently or treat them differently?

In truth, everybody is a member of the cleaning and sanitation team, or should be. It's going to take all of us to get this job done. In my column in the Guam Daily Post tomorrow, I dig into this a bit more.

Do a great job today and know why it matters. If you have kids, tell them. They don't always see the whole picture. Help them understand.

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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