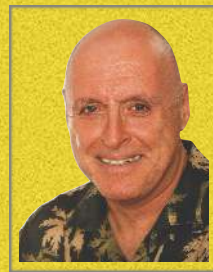


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



591 The Future's So Bright...

"Things are tough. So much has gone wrong in such a short period of time. I don't know how much more we can take." On the other hand, "We've taken a huge hit and we're still here. It's been rocky but we're coming back. The only thing that stands between us and great success is time." I'm Jerry Roberts and today, the value of choosing your attitude, on The Extra Point.

This isn't the 2020 that anyone imagined. As last year ended and we began to think about the coming year, we had plans and dreams we were going to chase.

I had just produced what I believe was the most successful leadership event ever staged here, and people were calling me to set up trainings. Plans were in place for the next Guam Live2Lead Conference. That seems like a long time ago. In reality, our world's been upside down for less than four months.

What were your plans? How about those of your family members and friends? How are you and they seeing things at this point? Be straight, are you pessimistic about the future or are you optimistic?

Before I go further, let me acknowledge people who are struggling to just get by right now. Your job is gone. The one-time stimulus money came and went. Unemployment compensation hasn't come out yet. Every day you're just trying to figure out how to get food on the table for your family, and in no way would I ever minimize your trouble and frustration.

I know a lot of people are upset over how our government has dealt with the crisis. There's an election coming and you'll have a chance to show your displeasure in the appropriate way.

However, let's recognize something else that I feel is important and I thank my wife Nellie Joy for reminding me of this yesterday.

Put aside politics for a moment and marvel at the fact that you and I live in a country where leaders could decide to add \$6 Trillion to its debt and hand out various forms of relief to the people who need it, until we can rebuild our economy. How many other countries are there where the citizens aren't so fortunate? So we should all stop for a moment and praise God for the land upon where we draw breath.

And for the future? We'll sadly say goodbye to some businesses. If that's where you are right now I understand how you feel. I once lost a business in another economic plunge. Figure things out, retrench, reinvent yourself and get ready for the next stage.

We'll also say hello to new businesses and new job opportunities. We'll see new leaders who will emerge, and they'll have new ideas to propel their organizations forward.

The reimagining of Guam, both in the private and government sectors, will be uncomfortable, challenging, and beneficial for Guam citizens. I believe the economic growth effort led by former governor Carl Gutierrez and others will bear fruit we can all enjoy.

It's hard to see it now but if we make the right choices in the next couple of years, I believe the Guam of 2025 will be an exciting place to be; and 2030 will be even better. If we make the right choices it's not a matter of "if," but "when."

Part of that is how we choose to deal with the people we see as our adversaries. How we treat others is more about us and our character, than it is about them. We can oppose people without demonizing them, and there's a very strong reason for it.

(Con't.)



That reason is that we're not just expressing ourselves and going through the daily business of life, we're also teaching the next generation how to do it. If we don't want the mistakes of our moments in leadership repeated in the future, let's make sure we teach them well.

There are Millennials and Generation Z workers who are ready to reimagine and reinvent their organizations. Let's give them a chance to do that by embracing the thought of what we can be, rather than trying to protect what we are.

There are doctors, corporate leaders, business owners, managers, educators, engineers, senators, and even future governors who are watching us and wondering what we're going to do with Guam before we hand it off to them.

I know you, like me, want to provide them with opportunities and inspiration that will keep them here, not feeling they have to leave their home to find a decent career and standard of living.

In 1986, a group named Timbuk 3 released their only top 20 hit song, "The Future's So Bright I Gotta Wear Shades."

I think that's what we've got coming for Guam. We're going to get past the virus and we're going to rebuild our economy. If we do it right it will be better than before.

Get to work on improving your skills and look for ways to add value to others. Better times are coming. We all want to be ready to be a part of it.

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

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