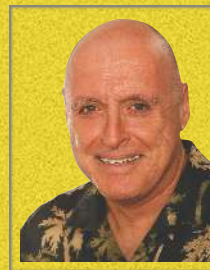


# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 669 When You Have to Get Away

Did you ever feel that you just needed to get away, to gain some separation from all the stuff going on around you? I'm Jerry Roberts and today, let's talk about how to do that, on The Extra Point.

I left Guam after the better part of a decade doing the J.Q. Fanihi Show on KUAM and K57. In the latter part of the 1980s I went to live in the Bay Area, then moved to Southern California.

What was I running from? It wasn't Guam. I've always loved our island. Truthfully, I was running from morning radio and the continual challenge to just enjoy life. I went so far as to switch time slots with Joe Cunningham, Uncle Toting, with me going on at 2pm. I finally had normal hours, could sleep well, and single again, could have a social life. It was going to be great.

Except, it was over in a flash. KUAM's owner, in Honolulu, received a live feed from our station in his office, and he called up to order us back to our normal times. I explained that I just needed a change, and that it didn't have to last forever. He said no way, so I knew I'd had to leave radio in Guam and pursue it elsewhere, though I didn't want to.

After I had been in L.A. for a short time, I took a job as the Southern California director of a broadcast services operation. It was busy and the job had its moments, but there were times when I had to get away.

The company had a Santa Barbara office for a short period of time, which I helped set up, and had to drive 75 miles up and 75 back every day for a couple of weeks, and I didn't enjoy that much. However, I grew to like Santa Barbara, and even after I had exited the company, I would occasionally drive up the coast to see friends when the L.A. traffic and smog made me buggy.

For years, people used Saipan, Palau, Manila, and Hong Kong as places to jet off to for a few

days of fun and relaxation. Of course, those options aren't available right now. Until they are, what other ways are there for us to "get away" for a short time? Books, Netflix, sports, social media? Social media.

I've been on Facebook for over 13 years, and only recently — with a little extra time on my hands — did I start regularly posting my thoughts on political issues. I quickly found that trying to take a reasoned and balanced approach would attract certain people who were mostly positive, but would rile up others who were in attack mode...first against a specific candidate, and then against me because I wouldn't denounce that candidate.

On and on it went. No matter how rational I was, there were some who were very irrational, and rude, and profane, and disagreeable. It was ugly almost every time they showed up and decided they had to unload on someone or something.

There are some folks, I know, who live for this stuff, this unceasing dump-a-thon. Believe me, I'm not judging. If you just gotta get your shots in on Trump, Biden, Harris, Pelosi, McConnell, AOC, conservatives, liberals, BLM, Antifa, the Proud Boys, Lou, Mike San Nicolas, Robert Underwood, the legislature, (deep breath) — who'd I leave out? — I get it, I do understand.

But I need to get away from this for a bit. I also have the Live2Lead event starting up and that will need more attention, but the ugliness and noisiness of this election year has convinced me that I need to disengage for a while. I had a couple of very good exchanges with bright people over the weekend, where we disagreed at first, then ended up finding common ground.

However, too few people seek common ground. They just want to argue and be snarky. I'm generally as tolerant as they come, I think, but now I need some separation. (Con't.)

But wait, there are only 30 days before the election...the president has COVID...we may or may not have more Trump-Biden debates... mail-in ballots are being sent in...some may be falsified...the riots...quarantine...test results we're not sure of...the lockdown that isn't working...federal stimulus...and so much more! How can I possibly walk away from that, and all the incredible Facebook threads it will no doubt produce?

Yeah, how?

Well, by just not going there. Oh, actually I'll still be on Facebook, but in group areas that have to do with my event, and software, and other things. I just won't be posting on politics, and not reading the posts of others about politics.

Will I miss it? There are a few posters whose content I really look forward to receiving, and I share a lot of it. I'll also miss the fun stuff I see and share. I know I'll miss those things.

I just won't miss the nastiness. I won't miss people who cheer for a president to die from a disease. Yeah, I saw a lot of those, but not from anyone in Guam — thankfully.

I knew it was time to jump off for awhile when I read those posts. I'll start with a week and see where it goes from there.

We all need to get away, you and me, even if it's not actually getting away.

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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