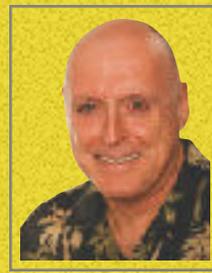


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



973 Enthusiasm is Common. Endurance is Rare.

People who have the gift of enthusiasm can light up a room. People with endurance keep coming back to that room, even when those with enthusiasm no longer have any, or are long gone. I'm Jerry Roberts, and let's chew that over, next, on The Extra Point.

I recently picked up on an article where psychologist Angela Duckworth was quoted as saying, "Enthusiasm is common. Endurance is rare." I just stared at the screen for a while, as I began pouring over files in my memory. Some were things I'd learned, and others came from my own experiences.

My mom once told me that life was going to throw some pretty big obstacles my way. Some risks that I might not feel good about. She said, "Sometimes, the best choice is to pick up and run...but, on balance, there's something about people who choose to hang in there."

She grew up on a farm, the oldest of four kids, with a father who was never there. She wouldn't leave her mother until all the younger kids were grown. She could have gotten married and run off, but it was her choice to hang in there.

When it comes to employment, I know people who moved from company to company, ending up okay but never spending more than a few years with any of them. It's increasingly rare these days, but I know several who signed on with one employer and never left.

They went through good times and other times, rose through the ranks, and also ended up in good shape. They chose to endure the tough times, and it paid off.

I think to endure, you need a healthy dose of enthusiasm to start, but a steady stream of belief to stay with it. You have to believe in the people you're with, and with the overall worth and value you create. If you feel valued and

fulfilled, and enough of your positive buttons are pushed through your work, there's no reason to leave.

Last year, Steve Harvey, host of Family Feud, told the Live2Lead audience that he lived in his car for three years, showered at a gym, and did gigs at comedy clubs in the hope of being discovered. It worked out for him, but many give up their dream, without knowing how close they may have been had they decided to stay with it.

Michelangelo spent seven years lying on his back on a scaffold to paint the Sistine Chapel. Seven years.

Howard Schultz of Starbucks fame pitched over 200 investors looking for a loan to acquire the company. After a year of rejections, three people put up the \$400,000 needed. Today, Starbucks is one of the most recognizable brands in the world with more than 32,000 stores in 83 countries.

We've seen people in Guam feed families and put kids through school with a small business, and hanging in there through up and down economies.

Because I grew up with a single mother, I'm drawn to the stories of single parents who have endured often back-breaking struggles and sacrifices to deliver their kids to adulthood. What giant shadows they cast.

Then there's the story of the high school basketball coach who was attempting to motivate his players to endure through a difficult season. Halfway through the season he stood before his team and said, "Did Michael Jordan ever quit?"

The team responded, "No!"

(Con't.)

He yelled, "What about Tom Brady, did he ever give up?"

"No!" the team yelled.

"Did Wayne Gretzky ever quit?"

Again, the team screamed "No!"

"Did Elmer McAllister ever quit?"

There was a long silence. Finally, one player was bold enough to ask, "Hey coach, who's Elmer McAllister? We've never heard of him."

The coach snapped back, "Of course you never heard of him. He quit!"

I wish you ample supplies of both enthusiasm, and endurance.

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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