

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1121 Are Blessings There When You Look For Them?

The last 48 hours or so have been a mixture of a bunch of good stuff and other stuff for me, and it has led me to draw some conclusions. I'm Jerry Roberts, and I'll share those, next, on The Extra Point.

On Tuesday, I noticed that the refrigerator was a little light, so I headed out for groceries. I went to two stores, and in both cases the shelves were sparse — especially for items I frequently buy.

I was disappointed, but Guam is now facing a shipping problem, so I understood. I was able to get a few things in both cases, but what stood out was the cheerfulness of the cashiers.

They looked me in the eye and apologized for not having their regular level of inventory, smiled and thanked me for shopping. These weren't the fake smiles you so often get in stores. They were sincere. I had virtually the exact same experience in both places.

I was trying to buy something on eBay, and the seller was having a horrible time trying to get the EBay software to recognize a Guam address. Even though I had paid for the item, I figured he was going to cancel the deal over the hassle.

Why? Because the "I don't want to ship to Guam" virus has seemed to spawn a new variant recently. Where I thought we were over this menace, I have run into dozen of sellers in the past few weeks who refuse to do business with us folks out here.

So, here's this guy who sold me his product, and he can't make the software work. The EBay shipping app wouldn't print his label. Then he asks me if it would be okay to send it via FedEx. That would triple or quadruple the shipping charge and before I could respond, he came back with, "Never mind, FedEx won't print my label either."

I was able to reach the Barrigada post office, and got some assistance. The guy was still at it, trying to make it work. Finally, after two-and-a half hours, he was able to print the label and send it out via the postal service. I thought to myself, he could have easily thrown in the towel, cancelled the transaction, and sold it to someone else. He didn't. He stayed with it, and wanted me to have it.

Speaking of the Barrigada post office, I was there two days ago. I stood in the line inside the main area, and while waiting my turn the thought came to me that I've been going there for nearly 30 years. The faces at the counter are people I've been visiting for 5, 10, 15 years, and one who I believe was there when I first rented my P.O. box.

It's a great post office. The people are super-efficient, and they do their job well, with a helpful attitude. I've lived elsewhere and I've traveled, and I've visited a fair number of post offices. None come close to Barrigada.

Facebook also reminded me of a bunch of people I've known for a long time. Post after post came through my newsfeed, either from people I haven't seen in a while, or it featured comments from them. It got me to thinking.

I've been blessed to know a lot of people for a long time. We don't always stay in touch, but when we do it's like I saw them yesterday. You know what I know, it's a special part of living in Guam.

So, out of challenges and disappointments, if we're paying attention we may also have realizations that lead us to recognize how blessed we are, even in difficult times.

(Con't.)

News is often bad, politics makes everything worse, and there's a tendency to let life get us down. That's when we have to look a little bit harder for the silver linings.

My son just got his first job, and he's quickly learning that the workplace is a unique setting, and there are good days and other days that aren't so good.

I'm okay with those tough days for him for two reasons. One, every such experience on the job will help him in the long run, if he looks at things in the right way.

Second, all of a sudden, what I do for a living has greater relevance for him. I'm able to talk with him about job-related issues, and he's more interested now. Maybe that's the biggest blessing of all.

Have you been going through issues, troubles, and stuff you wish you didn't have to? If you think about it, is there a positive aspect to any of it? Is there a blessing in there that you can dust off and reclaim today?

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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