

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1515 From the Vault: Your Most Important Job

I've got a question for you. Of all the jobs you've held in your career, which one was or perhaps is the most important for you, and why? I'm Jerry Roberts, this is a commentary I gave here exactly five years ago. It's one that I think about from time to time. We'll talk about it, next, on The Extra Point.

Live2Lead is tomorrow, and a room full of people are coming to be inspired by what a group of national, global, and local speakers have to share. Bringing this powerful program to Guam is part of my job.

I began to think of all the things I've done in my career, what might be the single most important job of all?

I thought back to the days when I had a paper route, during college. Four hundred papers and I delivered them seven days a week. I had to show up by 2:30 every morning and the papers had to be on the doorstep by 5:30. There were no days off.

If I had a date it was going to end early. Forget about studying late into the night for a test the next morning. That job was a huge disruption in my life, but it taught me to value time.

It also taught me that when someone doesn't show up for work, somebody else pays the price. If a carrier didn't make it in, the manager had to deliver his papers, in addition to doing the rest of his job. He was a good guy and I didn't want to be responsible for that happening. For the lessons I picked up, that paper route, at age 19, might have been my most important job.

When I decided I needed more normal hours I applied for a job to clean and take care of a fleet of corporate vehicles. If you've heard me talk about a man we called Big Ed, this is where I met him. His philosophy deepened my understanding of the value of work and how to deal with people.

He showed me that when you commit to giving a solid effort every day, the right kind of boss would make a commitment to you. I started to learn about how to be a good manager from Big Ed. Would the time I spent with him qualify that job as being my most important? It might have been.

I sold life insurance for a few years. Two of my customers died. For their survivors, I'm sure that job was my most important. There's no experience quite like delivering a check that's never enough to a widow, who now has to rebuild a life for herself and her children.

Or was it the eight-plus years as J.Q. Fanihi on the radio? It was a major turning point in my life, allowed me to become known in the Guam community, and I still get the benefits from that to this day.

It's when I connected with Bill Gibson, who introduced me to his son Ray. If I don't get that radio job and I don't meet Bill, and if I don't meet Ray, then it's unlikely I'm standing at this microphone today. So, for me, that very well could have been the job that was most important.

Then again, in terms of providing long-lasting value to others, I'm thinking the most important job is likely the one I have right now. I get to talk with, listen to, train and learn from a lot of good people spread throughout Guam's workforce.

The exciting part is seeing people grow now, and then realizing what I'm passing to them will benefit other people, most of whom I'll never meet. They, in turn, will do the same for yet more workers.

Okay, what about you? Have you gone back over the years and thought about the jobs you've had?

(Con't.)

Have you considered whose life was made better by your efforts?

Which one of your jobs helped others, while helping you?

Which one was your most important?

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

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