

learning for life



# Settling for 100% success

by Robin Booth, Life Coach & School Principal

“So, Robin, if you were guaranteed 100% success in whatever you wanted to do, no matter what it was, what would you do?”

The question created a silence that was longer than I was accustomed to. I had no idea how to answer that question, probably because I had never really thought that deeply of my life and my dreams. Oh sure, I had thought about the overseas surf holiday, the nice new car, the easygoing career and the happy family life. I mean don't most people want this?

But these first responses came from a context of my culture and what society perceives as a dream life'. It felt borrowed, and the more I thought about it, the hollower it began to sound. These are the things that would make my life more comfortable and, to a degree, happier (or so society makes me believe). But if I was guaranteed 100% success

(financially, emotionally and in my relationships), what would I choose to do?

I began to realise that the criteria I used to define the choices in my life related to the degree I thought I would be able to make it happen (or be successful in that activity). On the surface this looks appropriate (I don't want to set my sights too high and then fail, right?). But if my choices in my life are defined according to the degree I THINK I will be able to make it happen, then my thinking is going to limit what I really could achieve or be successful in.

About five years ago, I wanted to open up a school for young children (three to 13 years' old) that would shift education from being just about reading, writing and the underrated life-skill subjects, to a vision that included the academics as well as that of supporting children, teachers and parents in making responsible choices that would

enable them to live empowered and dynamic lives in relationship to the people around them. If I was guaranteed 100% success in whatever I wanted to do, I would open up schools like this in every city, village and country. I would bring Teacher Training in line with the appropriate skills-development that would really make a difference in the classroom that extends way beyond the latest reading methodology. I would make a really big difference to the lives of everyone.

But because I was not guaranteed success, and I did not know how to do this on such a grand scale, I 'settled' for less. My thinking, based on the beliefs and information I had at that moment, limited me to what really could be possible. And if I did have the information on how to open all these schools would I do it? Not yet. I would need a lot of money. So, if I found this money would I do it? Yes!



It's a different conversation now. My focus would then be on the steps needed to get the information and the money. It is now more possible than earlier. My beliefs about whether I could do it or not have been holding me back from the possibility of actually doing it. There are Waldorf and Montessori schools worldwide aren't there?

If you don't think something can be done, then it will never be attempted, and then subsequently never achieved. The Wright Brothers tried over and over again until they succeeded their first aeroplane flight. There is a PEP store in most South African towns. Millions of people have 56 full circle

watched at least one Walt Disney-made film. Richard Branson and his Virgin Music, Virgin Atlantic, Virgin Money endeavours, demonstrate what can be possible by an attitude of "I can...". Maybe he starts with the belief that he will succeed 100%. And if he doesn't, then he just shrugs and says, "I haven't succeeded...yet!"

People who say something can't be done should not interrupt those who are already doing it.

What beliefs do you have about yourself which may be limiting you from really accessing the potential you know you have?

What information do you feel you need, that

if you had it then you would be doing something really important for yourself?

What assumptions have you made about your life and your ability to change it that may be limiting you from living the kind of life you really want?

My passion is that you discover yourself to be a greater person by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be.

The only difference between you being an empowered person or a disempowered person is if you know you CAN or you BELIEVE you can't. ✂