How to Beat the Odds
By Jeffrey Davidson Schrager

The worst thing someone can say to me is "you can't do it, or it can't be done". That's because, I believe in what's possible not what isn't. Time and time again, I see things that were not possible become realities and I ask myself how that is?

If everyone says it can't be done, then I know who won't do it. If you beat yourself first by focusing on what isn't possible you take energy away from the real task at hand and that is to *make it happen*. The only thing you might accomplish by saying "it can't be done" is to provide yourself a prearranged excuse not to try and to rationalize your failure in advance for no other reason other than not trying in the first place.

I tend to take an opposite approach. I think anything is possible and find joy in trying to find the answer to making something work. It is amazing what is possible if you just try. Every great symphony ever written starts with just one note. Every great book starts with just one letter. There are examples all around us, if we choose to look, of things that people say couldn't be done.

When first proposed a novel idea is heresy and a threat to an accepted view of the world. People scoff while saying "it can't be done" and then when the impossible is first accomplished it appears that magic was responsible because it "couldn't be done". Soon as the idea becomes implemented and widely accepted as a fact of life, we begin to think of it as obvious and even mundane. We tend to forget that it takes a pioneer to try and *Make a Difference* and show what *is possible* while turning accepted thinking on its ear.

Consider the telephone, radio, TV, powered flight and our lunar missions, things that have become realities just within the span of our lifetimes. If people listened to those who say "it can't be done" then we would all still be sending smoke signals to one another while staring at our campfires for entertainment all the while wondering what flavor of cheese the moon was made of.

No, the only way to beat the odds is to simply *try*. If at first you don't succeed try, try, again and sooner, or later, you just might find that what was once thought impossible is obviously possible. Take Thomas Edison, for instance, I can't remember how many filaments he tried that failed in his attempt to create "artificial light" but once he found the right one, voila'. He said, "genius is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration".

The Legacy Ride is a similar such endeavor. We hope to do a few novel things that haven't been done before to engage people in our efforts. The difference being in our case, we are doing it with 100% perspiration. We are working diligently to bring our journey to people through a webcam on The Legacy Ride Motorcycle, and use it and a GPS to share "Real-time" pictures and tracking of the bike on our journey from Visalia to Milwaukee via our website at www.LEGACYRIDE.org.

If you don't break a sweat then I can assure you that you won't beat the odds because you simply haven't tried or tried hard enough. If you want a sure thing, the only way to guarantee a result in anything you do is to not try and you are guaranteed to fail. The only chance you have to succeed is if you at least start by trying. So the next time someone says to you, "it can't be done", smile to yourself, and realize that you are just one simple step away from proving them wrong! Give it a try!

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." --- Thomas Edison