

The World Needs More Nutty People

By Liz Gibbons

We need more people who color outside the lines, who not only think outside of the box but get rid of the box, and who have dropped the word impossible from their vocabulary. We need more dreamers, more nonconformists. We need more people like Nikola Tesla, Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Oskar Schindler, Steve Jobs, the Wright brothers. What is it that directs them on a different path from the majority of their fellow humans? You can use the cliché that they march to a different drummer. True. But why? Why don't they conform to society's norms?

Most of us are conformists? We conform to be accepted and to avoid conflict or ridicule. We are programmed by our family, our culture, the education system, religious institutions. As young children we rely on our parents and accept their beliefs. How many of our beliefs are not our own but are the beliefs of our parents, teachers, ministers, and government?

I sometimes wonder what the world would be like if we had been told from infancy on that we are spiritual beings having a physical earthly experience, and that we can accomplish great things. The Christian Bible reports Jesus as saying that those who put his teachings into practice can do what he did and more. We have that power within us. But that does not seem to be emphasized or believed. What if we had been told every day how loved we are? What if our education had been whole-brain learning instead of left brain dominance? What if we had been taught logic, taught how to think instead of how to recite answers back to the teacher? I think the world would have a plethora of people who according to our present programming would be called nutty.