EXTREME ESTEEM
The dream, big and beautiful, comes first.
Murray Fuhrer

Don’t be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream, you can make it so.

-- Belva Davis, award winning broadcast journalist

It was Career Day at the high school and the counsellor was making his rounds, chatting with students. He stopped to ask my daughter what career she had chosen to pursue.

“I dream of making a million dollars as a writer,” she replied. “Just like my dad,”
The counsellor was impressed. “Your dad made a million dollars as a writer?”
“No,” my daughter replied. “But he sure dreams about it a lot.”
The dream, big and beautiful, comes first. Then the effort to realize it begins.

“There are only two kinds of people in this world,” said humourist, Robert Orben, “the realists and the dreamers. The realists know where they’re going. The dreamers have already been there.”

I love this quote because it affirms the value of dreaming. I think most successful people strike a balance between dreaming big and setting realistic goals. So what stands in the way of dreaming big in your own life?

The following are three of the most significant barriers. As you review each, ask yourself whether one or more of these roadblocks are keeping you from really going after what you want from life.

Fear

Vincent van Gogh said, “The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.” Is there a particular fear that is keeping you from venturing out on the big sea of possibility? Fear of failure? Loss of security? Fear of criticism or judgment?

Before you pack up ship, ask yourself, what’s the worst that could happen by striving to reach my dream? If the best that could happen outweighs the worst, move forward in confidence.
Lack of knowledge

Just because you don’t know all the details, that’s no reason to keep from dreaming big. History is strewn with great discoveries that came because a daring soul ventured into the unknown with a big dream.

If lack of knowledge is your excuse for not pursuing your dreams, ask yourself, “What is the least I need to know in order to go for it?” or “Where do I go, whom do I see, to acquire the necessary skills?”

Negative associations

“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions,” said Mark Twain. “Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you too can become great.”

With what type of people do you associate? Are they people who become as excited as you when sharing your goals, desires, and dreams? Will they hold you accountable for doing the things you need and challenge you to keep on going? “Show me whom you frequent,” reads a French proverb, “and I will tell you who you are.”

Greg Anderson, best-selling author and founder of the American Wellness Project puts it this way: “When we are motivated by goals that have deep meaning, by dreams that need completion, by pure love that needs expressing, then we truly live.”

Perhaps your dreams will bring you a million dollars or simply the satisfaction that comes setting worthwhile goals and then achieving them. The truth is any worthy goal must first be dreamed before it can be accomplished. Pursue your passion and have the courage to dream big and know that if you can dream big, you can make it so.