



I'm Possible

by Eric Stephenson, LMT, NCTMB

On August 7th, 1974, a 23 year-old French street performer named Philippe walked back and forth for over an hour on a high-wire 200 feet long and two-thirds of an inch thick. That wire just happened to be twenty thousand feet above the ground between the North and South tower of the World Trade Center in NYC. Headlines read: "Frenchman does the

Impossible!" The plan took over four years to devise and required the contribution of twenty people- a true team effort.

He walked the wire for 45 minutes, making eight crossings between the towers, a quarter mile above the sidewalks of Manhattan. In addition to walking, he sat on the wire, gave knee salutes and, while lying on the wire, spoke with a gull circling above his head.

I knew nothing about this historic feat until I watched the 2008 British documentary, *Man on Wire*. Months later, I am still asking myself what I believe to be impossible in my own life. Perhaps when we come up against our own perceived limits it's because we're looking at the word impossible the wrong way. Add a little space and another character: I'm possible!

At the beginning of a new year, we can draw on the inspiration of a French tight-rope walker to move beyond limitations in 2011.

Will you join me out on the wire?