

GREG BERTISH

Inspirational Speaker



"I was an insecure, bullied child with bad acne and no self-belief. I believed I would never amount to much. At age 30, I was infected by a rare tropical bacteria that attacked my aortic valve. I spent over 200 days in hospital and underwent two open heart surgeries. Optimism, a dream and a small baby saved my life!"

In April 2016 Greg sailed an 8- foot children's Optimist dinghy 200km around the Cape of Storms, to fulfil a childhood promise he made to his father. His journey raised over ZAR 1.3 million for the Red Cross War Memorial Hospital, and OPTIMIST, the documentary, has inspired thousands of people at film festivals around the world.

Greg is the founder of the internationally acclaimed Sharkspotter Program, and in 2017 he founded the Little Optimist Children's Trust. In 2019 he was awarded the Dame Charity Award in Amsterdam, in recognition of the charity work he does in Africa.

Greg grew up in Cape Town, South Africa and is a businessman, humanitarian and author. He is a respected sailor and big wave surfer. He Shifted Perceived Reality when, as a cardiac surgery survivor, he became the South African national champion in Lifesaving and Stand Up Paddle Boarding.

Greg teaches others that obstacles and challenges in life, can be overcome through positivity and daring to think differently. He is a master of resilience and harnessing disruption, and his talks are powerful and raw, and known for injecting optimism and inspiration into his audiences.

"I know ME as an adult, would have inspired ME as a kid, to believe in myself more, dream bigger and reach for more quicker. "

- Greg Bertish