



I took this photo Sunday afternoon at Cherokee Rock Village, in Sandrock, Alabama. It is situated on the southern end of Lookout Mountain, with a panoramic view overlooking beautiful Weiss Lake. (On a clear day there is a view from Rome, Georgia to Gadsden, Alabama. The area is made up of large, freestanding sandstone islands with a maze of passages & caverns in between. It is believed that the Cherokee Indians and other tribes used these formations for religious and ceremonial rites.)

In the picture are Phil, Stephanie and Tom; my new friends from Southside, Alabama. It was so refreshing to watch them climb the rocks. They tackled the rock-face as a team; each encouraging and supporting the other. I did not sense any competition or rivalry between

them; only the realization that the only way they could climb effectively and safely was as a team.

They never cheered when one would slip and fall; instead, they encouraged them to try again. They reassured each other again and again, “If you fall, I will catch you. Do not worry! Keep on trying! You can do it!” And you know what happened? They did do it. And when one would slip and fall, they were held securely by the safety rope gripped in the others hand.

We are all a part of many teams (Our family team, our company of friends, work, church, etc.). What kind of team member are we? Are we the kind that continuously complaints and criticizes? Or the encouragers and supporters in our organizations? Let us look back on the roles we have been playing in our groups; which words have been coming out of our mouths most? Stop or keep going? You can do it, or I told you so? Criticism or encouragement?

**Something to think about:**

- Don't point a finger—hold out a helping hand.
- How many people stop because so few say, “Go!”
- We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own. - BEN SWEETLAND
- The men who are lifting the world upward and onward are those who encourage more than criticize. - ELISABETH HARRISON
- Tell a man he is brave, and you help him to become so. - THOMAS CARLYLE

Keep on climbing

Rickey Moore