



Thanksgiving morning finds me walking an old fence row near Rabbit Town in Cleburne County. It was a gorgeous morning for a walk and I was amazed by all the things I saw which had sharp points and barbs. There was an old barbed wire fence running parallel to this country road that was patched with new barbed wire, which was also surrounded by thorns, thistles and briars on both sides. This photo is of one of the many friendly plants that lined the fence.

While I was bent over my camera looking at this piercing picture a man in a pickup truck stops to ask what I was doing. (I am sure I must have appeared something of an oddity straddling the ditch with a camera on a tripod peering down into the thorns and barbed wire.) I wished I could have said something like, I am searching for some endangered species or a cure for the common cold, but all I could say is, just taking pictures of this fence. I went on to explain Moore than meets the Eye and my purpose for being here was to gather photos for my Photo of the day.

To my surprise my new friend could not have been more friendly or helpful, he even invited be back for coffee and to look at some other things I might find interesting on his property. It was remarkable how one kind word and a smile from a stranger can change your outlook when you find yourself surrounded by thorns and barbed wire. Our words and expressions carry great power. Our words have the ability to kill as well as to heal.

I remember when I was in junior high school, a fellow student made fun of my nose. He flattened his nose into his face with a finger, made an awful face and called me, Pugged Nose. I remember feeling ashamed and embarrassed and for years afterwards I felt subconscious over my freaky nose. It was not until I was in high school and shared this story with a new girlfriend that I finally realized that I was no freak but an amazingly handsome person. I tell this story to

say this, every time we speak; our words have the power to hurt, damage and destroy or build up, strengthen and bring life.

Today, let us choose our words carefully. Let us decide to bring blessings, encouragement and good things to the lives of those with whom we live, work and share this day with, by using words of kindness and encouragement. What have we got to lose?

Something to think about:

- Tell a man he is brave, and you help him to become so.
- The men who are lifting the world upward and onward are those who encourage more than criticize.
- Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving; cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled by them.
- Kind words are the music of the world. They have a power that seems to be beyond natural causes, as if they were some angel's song that had lost its way and come on earth. It seems as if they could almost do what in reality God alone can do—soften the hard and angry hearts of men. No one was ever corrected by sarcasm—crushed, perhaps, if the sarcasm was clever enough, but drawn nearer to God, never.
- Cold words freeze people, and hot words scorch them, and bitter words make them bitter, and wrathful words make them wrathful. Kind words . . . soothe, and quiet, and comfort the hearer.
- Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless.

A kind word got me out of the ditch
Rickey Moore

For Moore photos visit www.rlmoore.com