

CLIMBING

You may remember the classic movie {and play}, "Sound of Music". In the story, the leading nun at the Abby (or church) sings a song, "Climb Every Mountain".

The word's and melody of this song are an inspiration as the strong voice of the nun seems to guide the Van Braun family from the pursuing Nazi's to freedom beyond the heights of the Austrian mountain range. As you may also remember, the family appears to escape through the assistance and prayers of the nuns. It is a great story!

Recently I was at the Space Museum in Huntsville, Alabama. Even with all the space stuff to see and touch, rock climbing and rappelling was available. While watching the kids test their speed and balance, I was reminded of a similar scene at Stone Mountain when Matthew did the same.

Even to the observer, mountain climbing is dangerous and sometimes unforgiving. From observation only, the sport must require extreme mental preparation and control not to mention physical strength and capacity. To watch televised images of climbers carefully choose each move and location does not fully describe and define the experience where wind, fatigue, and limited view are some of many factors in the effort. Recently, I watched a climber who does not use safety equipment, and climbs up as well as down the chosen cliff – the exhilaration apparently exceeds his fear of falling...of dying.

What is your mountain - or what is so important to you that it warrants your love, your life, and your all? For Maria Rainer (the character name of Maria played by Julie Andrews), the mountain may have been finding a place where she was needed, desired, and fulfilled. Though the children were not accepting at first, Maria maintained her determination and with persistence and patience, soon won the love and acceptance of the children. Now, go and climb your mountain.

Climb ev'ry mountain
Search high and low
Follow every byway
Every path you know.

Climb ev'ry mountain
Ford every stream
Follow every rainbow
Till you find your dream.

A dream that will need
All the love you can give
Every day of your life
For as long as you live.

Climb ev'ry mountain
Ford every stream
Follow every rainbow
Till you find your dream



In a

WORD