Just Ask Me Nicely

*By Marilynn Reeves*

I never learned anything from someone who yelled at me, except to try to avoid encounters with that person from then on.

I never changed for the better if someone attacked my self-esteem. It only made me feel worse about myself, and about them.

I never was able to do a job more quickly or efficiently if someone was hovering over me, urging me to hurry. My mind and my motivation simply shut down.

If you were to force me to do something I didn’t want to do, I would balk, I would stall, and I would give you only the barest minimum of whatever it was you were demanding.

But if you asked me nicely to do something for you and I had the ability to grant your request, I would bend over backwards to try to please you. I would feel honored that you had come to me to ask for a favor. My ideas would start to flow and the creative wheels inside my head would start to turn.

It might take me hours – even days – to come up with the right thing for you. But the end result could possibly be something even better than whatever it was you had in mind.

Just ask me nicely, and it would be my pleasure to serve you.