

February 2019

Moving from a man's perspective



As women who are caught in the emotional maze of moving, we often don't know what our husbands are really thinking and feeling as they deal with a move and a job change. Our struggles and frustrations may be lessened by understanding their needs and expectations.

I thought it would be helpful to get insight from one moving man's perspective, so, years ago, I asked my late husband, Bill, to share his thoughts.

Plus, below my message, you'll find a link to some great ideas on our website for keeping the romance alive in marriage. **Please share Bill's thoughts and the "romance ideas" link with the married women in your past and current study groups!**

From Bill:

"Few people can appreciate the strong, direct connection that a man's self image has to do with his job and his ability to succeed in that job. [Sadly, I have found myself associating my value with what I do, rather than who I am in Jesus Christ.](#) Emotional needs continue to follow us, and sometimes we listen to the world rather than the Word.

Our experience shows that the man usually starts the job before the family moves. The [loneliness and isolation](#) caused by distance in miles and emotion, added to the fears associated with a new job, new co-workers, new city, and maybe even a new company, can shake our very value and identity.

For the most part, men may not know how to recognize or deal with these feelings. Since we usually "act out" rather than "sound out" our feelings, (we may get quiet under stress rather than interact) we may be more than just physically absent during a move - we are most likely [emotionally absent](#) too!

With all these fears going on inside of us we may not be ourselves. With the stress of a new job,

many times we are not available to help you make family decisions, keep the kids stable, arrange for movers, tie up loose ends, say farewell to friends or other tasks associated with moving. [Please give us grace during this time.](#)

[Our greatest need is for you to encourage us on as we struggle with our fears, our self-doubt and all of our earthly battles.](#)

The physical aspect of a move is a temporary event that should not have a permanent emotional toll on the marriage relationship. [Marriages have been strengthened by couples who have learned to work through their emotions and feelings together through good communication and a commitment to one another.](#)

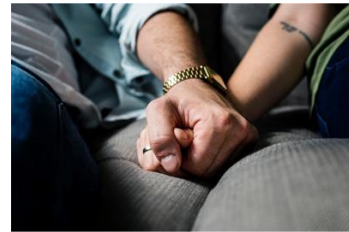
I hope this will give you greater insight when ministering to the hearts of your married newcomers!

From My Heart - and Bill's - to yours,

Susan

[Tips for Keeping the Romance in Your Marriage](#)

Moving can put a lot of stress on a marriage. Make a decision to keep the romance alive despite the pressures and challenges of your move. The health of your marriage will add physical and emotional strength for both of you and is a gift of stability to your children. You may only feel that you can do one romantic idea each week or each month, but that's a start! [Click here](#) to read the tips.



[New Issue of Bloom! All about courage](#)



Courage is most often made up of many small decisions and actions to move forward when your mind is telling you to run away. It takes courage to attend a

gathering where you know no one, to speak up for someone else, to live with uncertainty, to lead an *After the Boxes* study, or to start over in a new town. This issue of *Bloom* looks at everyday acts of courage — choosing to listen instead of arguing, acknowledging and learning from deep emotions, making friends all over again,

embracing vulnerability, courage in the face of real and imagined fears — and may surprise you with some new and counter intuitive ideas.

When you place an order for your *After the Boxes* books, a Bloom publication is tucked inside each book.

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A Question for Susan Miller



Question: I am in Session 6 of leading the *After the Boxes* study and a new woman would like to join us. Should I let her?

Susan's response: I always keep my sessions open and if a new woman comes, I welcome her! I don't close my study group to newcomers, unless it's the last session. By then, it is better for them to join the next *After the Boxes* study group. The women in my class embrace a new member with a sensitive understanding of what it's like to be the "new newcomer" and they bond through having much in common. It also helps that each teaching session stands alone. Of course, newcomers missed the benefits of the previous sessions, but they are welcome to join us the next time the study is offered. They are also encouraged to read any missed sections in the *After the Boxes Are Unpacked* book. I've never experienced a problem with letting a newcomer join us after we've started. I find that the benefits of enfolding them at their point of need far exceed missed sessions. I hope this helps if you are faced with this situation.

February 2019 After the Boxes Group Spotlight!



The Woodlands First Baptist Church, The Woodlands, TX
Nancy Webb, Group Leader

"Such a great ending to our study of *After the Boxes are Unpacked* by meeting the author who wrote it. She is a beautiful servant to God. So many women have benefited by her book. If you have found yourself transplanted to another place please find a class to join. It has made all the difference in my life." - a newcomer in the ABAU study group (Susan Miller traveled to The Woodlands-FBC to speak at the church last December for their Women's Christmas Banquet.)

We want to celebrate you and your study! Send a photo of your study group and a few words about your group to [JoAnn](#) or [Paulette](#). *After the Boxes* groups LOVE being featured on our [website](#) and on social media.

Cheering you on,
Paulette & JoAnn

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