

Hope for the uprooted woman



An Important Message From Susan Miller

Writing this letter is one of the most difficult things I have ever had to do. The very principles of change and transition woven through my book, *After the Boxes are Unpacked*, are also applicable to this season of my life and the life of our ministry. It is time to let go and trust God for the next chapter in my life and in the life of Just Moved Ministry. This much I know, countless lives have been changed for Christ in the past 30 years. The legacy and impact of our ministry outreach will live on for the next generation.

On August 26th, after months of prayer and counsel, our Board of Directors voted to retire Just Moved Ministry at the end of 2025 after 30 years of outreach to uprooted women and families.

Therefore, we will not be accepting donations for the remainder of 2025. Our office will continue doing ministry and business as usual with outreach, teaching, and on-going classes through the end of 2025. Our books, workbooks, and other resources can be ordered from our office through the end of 2025.

The good news is that Focus on the Family, Tyndale, and Amazon will continue to sell the book and audiobook version of *After the Boxes are Unpacked*. Effective January 2026, an electronic Study Guide in workbook format will be available for download at no cost when purchasing the book. Beginning in January 2026, we will make available my 12 teaching sessions on YouTube at no cost! No matter where you live, these sessions will be available for individual use or for a group setting. The book and teaching will continue to be available to all uprooted women.

Our outreach to countless women world-wide would not have been possible without you over the years. Your financial support has been the catalyst for our outreach and enabled us to grow far, wide, and deep. Your prayers and encouragement have been the foundation on which we grew each year.

For the leaders over the years who have faithfully poured into the lives of uprooted women, you have been a light for Christ. Your servant's heart as a volunteer has enabled us to reach, touch, and connect with women world-wide.

So many of you have become my friends over the years. I treasure our relationship and look forward to continuing our friendship for many years to come. After thirty years of ministry with Just Moved, this will not be an easy life change for me. Yet, God has made it clear that it is in His perfect timing. The scripture "To everything there is a season..." resonates within my heart. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Just Moved Ministry will finish well, my friends. Together we can say, "to God be the glory, great things He has done!"



Dear readers, with gratitude and a touch of sadness, I want you to know that this is the final issue of *Bloom*.

For 15 years *Bloom* has been a space for reflection and encouragement. Across our pages, we've explored powerful moments that shape our lives: friendship, loneliness, resilience, and countless other aspects of the human experience.

It has been a joy and honor to bring this publication to life.

Ann Kelley, editor

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With Hands Open and Ready For the New

Excerpt from *To Pause at the Threshold: Reflections on Living on the Border* by Esther de Waal

In the Gospels we watch a Christ who, in dismissing certainties, shows us what freedom might mean. We watch the way in which he enters into people's lives and dissolves an existing situation, whatever it might be. The likelihood was that the condition had promised security, safety, but now Christ challenges the people to leave their nets, or to leave a nice safe booth, and follow him. He says to Peter, James, and John, "Come," and to Matthew, "Stand up, move, walk, come with me."

Our God is a God who moves and he invites us to move with him. [God] wants to pry us away from anything that might hold us too securely: our careers, our family systems, our money making. We must be ready to disconnect. There comes a time when the things that were undoubtedly good and right in the past must be left behind, for there is always the danger that they might hinder us from moving forward and connecting with the one necessary thing, Christ himself.

Of course there is loss and it is right to grieve and not to pretend otherwise. Insecurity makes certitude attractive, and it is in times like these that I want to harness God to my preferred scheme of things, for it is risky to be so vulnerable. Yet it is this vulnerability that asks for trust and hope in God's plans, not mine. So I try to learn each time that I am called upon to move forward, to hand over the past freely, putting it behind me, and moving on with hands open and ready for the new.

Esther de Waal, *To Pause at the Threshold: Reflections on Living on the Border*, rev. ed. (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2004), p.54–56.

This Thing Is From Me by Polly Wick

"Redefinition is a nightmare. We think we've arrived, in our nice Pottery Barn boxes, and that this or that is true. Then something happens that totally sucks, and we are in a new box, and it is like changing into clothes that don't fit, that we hate." - Anne Lamott,

When redefinition is forced upon you, you're faced with two choices: hang on tight to what was, resist the change with increased self-will, or let go to what is, even though it comes without a map or guarantee. The "what is", even though painful, could turn out to be a turning point that is good for you.

Have you woken up to a life you don't recognize? Do you feel like a stranger in your carefully planned out, once comfortable life? Are you scared to death about your future? Do you wish you could climb back into the comfortable place of before?

"When the superfluous is stripped away we find the essential and the essential is God. Normal life is full of distractions and irrelevancies. Then catastrophe: Dislocation. Exile. Illness. Accident. Job Loss. Divorce. Death. The reality of our lives is rearranged without anyone consulting us or waiting for our permission. We are no longer at home." - Eugene Peterson

Are you faced with a turning point? Are you open to a road less taken? As my mom often said, this too shall pass, and it will. The opportunity for a changed life, awake to what really matters, will pass. If you hear from the Lord today, don't harden your heart.

*"My child, I have a message for you today; let me whisper it in your ear, that it may gild with glory any storm clouds which may arise, and smooth the rough places upon which you may have to tread. It is short, only five words, but let them sink into your inmost soul; use them as a pillow with which to rest your weary head. **This thing is from Me.**"* - Cowman, Mrs. C. E. (2009). *Streams in the Desert*. Zondervan.



To Let Go Is . . . by Polly Wick

Polly Wick has been a long-time friend of Just Moved Ministry. She's also a blogger, teacher, and renowned baker. When you're tempted to take on more responsibility than you ought, keep this list handy. Try the helpful exercise that Polly suggests at the end.

To let go is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To let go is not to try to change or blame another, it's to make the most of myself.

To let go is not to care for, but to care about.

To let go is not to fix, but to be supportive.

To let go is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

To let go is not to deny, but to accept.

To let go is not to adjust everything to my desires but to take each day as it comes and cherish myself in it.

To let go is not to criticize and regulate anybody but to try to become what I dream I can be.

To let go is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.

To let go is to fear less, and love more.



Here's an idea. Cut each definition into a strip, fold it, and put it into a bowl or basket. Each morning for your quiet time, ask God to give you the particular definition for you to focus upon during your devotion time. Write the definition you chose in your journal. Think about the message on the strip of paper. Does it apply to your life? Write about it. Ask God for guidance and support if it is important to your growth and the health of your relationships.

The Flying Trapeze

Excerpt from *After the Boxes Are Unpacked* by Susan Miller

Until you let go of the past and begin to cherish it, you can't start over and cling to the present and move forward to embrace the future.

In Paul Tournier's book *A Place for You*, he gives a wonderful illustration of letting go that I have shared with many women and want to pass on to you:

I thought of the trapeze artists, swinging on their trapezes high up under the dome of the circus tent. They let go of one trapeze just at the right moment, to hover for a moment in the void before catching hold of the other trapeze. As you watch, you identify yourself with them and experience the anxiety of the middle-of-the-way, when they have let go of their first support and have not yet seized the second support. What is the force that holds people back, what prevents them from letting go? It is the middle-of-the-way anxiety. It is the void in which they are going to find themselves before being able to seize a new support.

All this to say, we must always be letting go: leaving one place to find another, leaving one support to reach the next, turning our backs on the past in order to thrust wholeheartedly toward the future.





A Guide for Reflection

Tools you may want: a journal or paper, pen, quiet space, candle

Step 1: Prepare Your Heart

"Be still, and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10

- Find a quiet place and settle in.
- Take a few deep breaths.
- Invite God into the space:

Prayer: *God, I welcome Your presence here. Help me to be honest, open, and willing to let go of what no longer serves Your purpose in my life. Give me courage to face what's ending and hope to see what You are unfolding.*

Step 2: Name What's Ending

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..." — Ecclesiastes 3:1

- In your journal, finish this sentence: **"The chapter I am leaving behind is..."**
- Be specific. What has ended — a home, a job, a habit, a relationship?

Write down what this phase meant to you. What did it give you? How did it shape you?

Step 3: Release the Weight

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" — Isaiah 43:18–19

- Write down what is hardest to let go of.
- Then, ask yourself: **"What am I still carrying that I no longer need?"** (Guilt, regret, fear, bitterness, disappointment, etc.)

One by one, name these burdens and imagine handing them to God.

Prayer Prompt: *Lord, I surrender _____. I don't want to carry this anymore. Heal what hurts, and help me release what I cannot change.*



Step 4: Look for the Lessons

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..." — Romans 8:28

- What did this season teach you?
- What qualities in you grew stronger?

Write a short note to your past self, offering kindness and gratitude: **"Thank you for..."** **"I forgive you for..."** **"It's okay to let go of..."**

Step 5: Embrace What's Ahead

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." — Jeremiah 29:11

- Write down what you *hope* for in this next chapter.
- What kind of person do you want to become? What do you want to invite into your life now — peace, purpose, connection, rest?

Prayer:

God, I don't know everything that lies ahead, but I trust that You do. Give me eyes to see the new path You're creating. Fill me with hope and courage for the future. I release the old and step forward with You.

Step 6: Close with a Symbol or Ritual

You might:

- Tear up the page where you listed your burdens.
- Light a candle to symbolize new light in a new chapter.
- Write a single word (e.g., "Trust," "Freedom," "Hope") and post it somewhere visible.



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