

Forward Together

New beginnings has been a common theme in my life for the past twenty-seven years of marriage. Since being married, I have had three children in two countries, moved several times, bought and sold houses, traveled the world, obtained several degrees, changed careers, sent my children off to college, became an empty nester, became a surrogate grandmother to triplets, and now, here I am, with another new beginning. I praise God for this new beginning. I have been granted the opportunity to join a new family to love and grow with in the sunshine state. Indeed, the words of the song are true:

All my life You have been faithful All my life You have been so, so good With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

These words have been the anthem of my life and I suspect they resonate with you as well. It has been the joy of my life to be my husband's partner in ministry. Each new assignment has been both rewarding and challenging. The challenges have helped me to grow and mature in ways that I least expected. I became more confident, competent and courageous in ministry. I experienced relationships on more intimate levels. I was challenged to step out of my comfort zone. I also made mistakes and learned from them.





There were many times when I tried to play it safe, trying not to get into trouble. However, playing it safe became self-paralysis at times because I couldn't be myself, I couldn't be all God was empowering me to be. But just like a master potter, God took his time with me, shaping and molding me into someone who is comfortable in her own skin and could walk in her own shoes. I became someone who would eventually find my own voice, hear what God was speaking to me and serve out of my strengths. Yes, God is still working on me, but I keep growing as He keeps stretching me. The stretch has helped me to reach and disciple women in every sphere of my life — at work, in my community, in the church, at professional conferences — basically everywhere God sends me, He opens a door to share His love. Thank God for the stretch.

You may also be in a new beginning. Perhaps you are starting a new ministry appointment, degree, career, becoming a parent or grandparent for the first time, getting ready to retire, or facing some other transition. No doubt there are also women in our lives dealing with new beginnings. Let us leverage every opportunity to share our testimony of Christ's work in our lives by walking in liberty, boldness, and conviction about what Christ has called us to do.





As we embrace the stretch together and fulfill Christ's mission,

- We will intentionally help women to embrace their God-designed destiny as they serve in various areas of ministry.
- We will intentionally raise up evangelists who have a burden for souls and a vision for transformation who will preach the Gospel in their homes, in schools, on their jobs, and wherever the Spirit of God would open a door for ministry.
- We will intentionally train disciple makers who will seek out relationships with unbelieving women before these women come into relationship with Christ.
- We will intentionally mentor, train, and create platforms for the next generation to expose their gifts, affirm their calling and ability to lead, and encourage them to bloom where they are planted.

Sisters, I count it a great privilege and honor to serve with you. I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you personally. Thank God for the opportunity to grow together.

Forward together, Aileen Reid

