

From The Pastor's Study Don't Get Comfortable

I have learned one of God's great secrets, at least where I am concerned, don't get comfortable. It seems just as I got comfortable He made sure I was on the move and that was even before I had committed to Christ.

I was stationed at Norfolk Naval Station, USS America and was up for orders and was planning to stay in the area. I had a good part time job so we were making it pretty well. Surely as large as the area was I knew there would be no problem getting a set of orders. But the detailer informed me I was headed for Patuxent (PAX) River MD. I couldn't believe it, we had a good life in Norfolk.

I had heard of PAX most of my Naval career but I never anticipated it to be a small base connected to a the small town of Lexington Park, MD. I eventually got a part time job with the Navy Exchange Garage while working at night at the Battery Locker where spin test batteries were developed, tested, built, and all maintenance took place. I actually began to enjoy the job and the area.

While we were there we were tricked into going to church (another story for another day) and I joined Joyce in baptism, even though I was baptized when I was 13. And I began teaching senior high students. VQ4 is a patrol squadron at PAX and I had lined up orders there as an Air Crewman. Man, was I comfortable, I had work at church, a great part time job and I would be flying patrols all over the East rather than go to sea. Did I tell you that God hates it when I get comfortable? As a result of a manpower evaluation team my billet was eliminated and once again, I was back aboard ship, USS John F Kennedy.

My assignment aboard JFK wasn't bad and financially we were doing ok and we went church hunting. We hit a few terrible failures and landed at the base chapel at Little Creek Amphibian Base. After a few months we settled in and became a part of the community and, you guessed it, we became comfortable then later offended and went church hunting again. We landed at Bayside Presbyterian Church.

We made a lot of friends there and I served three separate terms on the session. I worked with the youth and really loved that and I sang in the choir. The people for the most part the people were great and we made many friends there. The we began a contemporary worship service for Saturday evenings. From day one the senior pastor hated it. In fact one night he didn't show up to serve communion. I decided to make sure that didn't happen again, I decided to complete requirements and certify as a Commissioned Lay Pastor CLP. It was fun, and I was comfortable, but after completing and certifying as a CLP the church shut down the Saturday night service and I was offered a position as associate pastor at Greenbrier Presbyterian Church.

As associate pastor I was seldom called to preach, I taught Sunday School, sang with the choir and was doing pretty well. But I wasn't comfortable. The prior pastor was the type person who had to be control at all times. I was over ruled at every turn, I was very uncomfortable so God decided I was going nowhere.

But that pastor accepted a position in CA just before Easter and leadership of the church was dropped on me, now I was very, very, very uncomfortable. I have been kept uncomfortable from day one and I have only been slightly less uncomfortable since then. I thought one paster was making a joke when he said "Sunday comes every week, don't forget that". I began to take his comment very seriously and I am still uncomfortable, though the people here are wonderful. After being at GPC for fourteen years, I still am not on top of everything.

If you are looking for a permanent seat here at GPC I suggest you stay busy and look for more ways to serve. God calls us in service and He often calls us to jobs we aren't qualified to do but God doesn't send the qualified He qualifies whom he sends. God doesn't find the perfect person for a job, look at Noah, he did a great job then fell into sin; King David took out a giant and was later named king and then fell for a beautiful woman and murdered her husband. So when God calls you fear not, He will equip you as need be and success is in your path. Don't get me wrong, success is doing what God wants, not what we expect.