



Global Interaction's VIC/TAS Young Adult Consultant, Jon Coombs, puts his feet in the sandals of Jesus' disciples and imagines what it's like to be grateful to God during uncomfortable times of transition.

Change and transition are inevitable in life. But that doesn't mean it is comfortable.

When I left school and then uni I knew things are about to change but didn't know what my career path would look like a few years down the track. When I became engaged I knew I wanted to get married but wasn't entirely sure what it would be like a month after the ceremony. When my wife became pregnant for the first time, I knew that in nine months there would be a baby but the full extent of that impact was also not quite clear.

I am comfortable with the now because I know it, but the not yet, well, that can be fairly scary. At each transition stage I was filled with joy, excitement, fear, and anxiety - sometimes all at once!

Whenever I'm going through a period of change I'm reminded of the beginning of Acts; I find it puts things into perspective. For the disciples and followers of Jesus I imagine this would have been a frightening time. Jesus had been resurrected and then he tells them he will be leaving them, again. I can't imagine the disciples would have been too thrilled by the news.

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But as Jesus left, he promised the disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit and be His witnesses in the places where they live, the wider community, and to the ends of the known world (Acts 1:8). A huge, exciting, daunting, humbling call on their lives! Jesus left and the disciples waited. And waited. For about ten days they were living in the uncomfortable 'now' not knowing what was to come.

Those sensing a strong inclination to be personally involved in cross-cultural mission spend oodles of time in transit, and not all in comfortable airport lounges. Waiting to hit the ground and begin building relationships with people who don't know Jesus can be years away from the initial sense of call. Sometimes decades. Even when people have made the step of contacting me or our Global Interaction team, it's still often 18-24 months til I'm waving them off at the airport.

But this waiting and preparing period is so vital, and something to be recognised as part of the journey.

Trusting God in this uncomfortable transitional time enables us to have greater trust in Him over the long haul. It can be a gift of time to grow deeper in our knowledge of God and of the people we are passionate about sharing our faith with. It also helps build our own capacities and understanding about the complex issues of mission life.

If you're on this path right now may you shake off the discomfort and embrace the time now, knowing it is where God wants you to be. But at the same time look forward with anticipation for what God is preparing for you and the least-reached.

The disciples received the Holy Spirit and fulfilled that promise of being witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. That promise is still active for us today. In whatever our circumstances we can continue to be a witness for Jesus. I'm more than comfortable with that!