
Wake up O sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.

Has anyone ever told you that God loves you and that He has a wonderful plan for your life? It's true. I have a second, quick but important question to ask you: If you were to die this very second, do you know for sure, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that you would go to Heaven?

If you are not sure, let me share with you what the Bible reads "for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" and "for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". The Bible also reads, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". And you're a "whosoever" right? Of course you are, all of us are.

I'm going to say a quick prayer for you. Lord, please bless this Etoonin' reader and his or her family with long and healthy lives. Jesus, make Yourself real to him or her and do a quick work in his or her heart. If this Etoonin' reader had not received Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, I pray he or she will do so now.

Etoonin' reader, if you would like to receive the gift that God has for you today, pray this prayer with your heart and lips out loud or silently:

Dear Lord Jesus, come into my heart. Forgive me of my sin. Wash me and cleanse me. Set me free. Jesus, thank You that You died for me. I believe that You are risen from the dead and that You're coming back again for me. Fill me with the Holy Spirit. Give me a passion for the lost, a hunger for the things of God and a holy boldness to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I'm saved; I'm born again, I'm forgiven and I'm on my way to Heaven because I have Jesus in my heart.

If you prayed this prayer, I can say, as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that all of your sins are forgiven: past, present and future. Always remember to run to God and not from God because He loves you and has a great plan for your life.

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The preceding is an adapted version of "The Gospel Soul-Winning Script", something that street evangelists use to quickly win converts over for Christ. I am including it because I have never mentioned to Etoonin' how to be saved. It is very simple: to be saved, call upon the Lord. Without faith it is impossible to please God, but anyone who calls upon the Lord shall be saved. I called upon the Lord when I couldn't tell if I was alive or dead and He saved me. I ended up spending one month in a mental hospital because I was psychotic. At the time, I thought for sure that I was dying and I

prayed, "God, if I am going to die, lead me to die like one of your sheep." I believe it is because of this call to the Lord that I am still here today. I suffer greatly from bipolar disorder, but better to enter life with half a mind than to have a full mind and be cast into hell. Don't wait until the last minute like I did.

Before I was a Christian I was quite entertained by street evangelists. I don't know why, but I was. I used to go up and talk to them a bit before boarding the subway. I took and read their tracts not knowing what they meant. Now I can't imagine my mindset back then. I can't bridge the gap between an unbelieving mind and a Christian one, so I find it hard to relay the Gospel to you, Etoonin'. I can only imagine how weird it must seem. How do I relay that it is true?

The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. There are many spiritual principles in effect that make it seem God does not exist. There are many spiritual principles that work whether you believe in God or not. You reap what you sow. And this doesn't work just in the bad sense: if you bless others you become blessed. Try this while driving: let a few drivers go when you can, and see if someone just doesn't wave you on when you need it most. Give your money away and see if you don't get some when it's your turn to be in need. Be gracious unto others and they will be gracious unto you. Love and you will be loved.

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This issue we have a guest artist and two guest writers (poets). We hope you will enjoy their creativity. Please send along feedback as our guests are always interested to know what you think of their work. We hope you enjoy this issue of Etoonin'! Love, Jim Bures.

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toon in'...

The artwork of Daniel Jorczak



Love Machine

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On the following page you will find the first installment of Dan's first graphic novel, Project: Time Lapse. We will be featuring four pages each issue until either Dan or I get tired of this arrangement. Daniel Jorczak is a fellow I met through the Friday Night Bible Study, or God Group as it is called. Dan's position with Etoonin' would be classified under the area of Special Operations, which basically means we don't know what he does. Currently Dan resides in the Springfield area. We hope to visit him out there some day. Dan is a singer and performs at various Churches with a choir. Dan is a fan of Chick-fil-A.

For Official Use
Only

Project: TIME Lapse
- CLASSIFIED -



Our Covert Operative

This man will win the
favor of the people...
He will be a high ranking
Government official



We believe we have
located the subject...
He will be detained...
We will repatriate him
We have identified
his thermal image
Signature



thats him alright
I'd know him
Anywhere



The Poetry of Tara Hephzibah Kennedy

Tara is another person I met through the Friday Night Bible Study. She is a passionate writer, poet, and song writer. She resides in Salem, NH. Hephzibah is her Christian name.

Surrender

January 24th, 2009

It comes down to this-
I stood at the alter,
Made a pledge,
To follow you-
And you took me as your own.

In that time I have lacked nothing.
I gained freedom from the things that enslaved me,
Forgiveness for sin,
And a new name.

One day,
I will be a princess in heaven forever,
In a robe of white,
Laying my crown at your feet.

I find myself here and now,
Remembering my vow-
My life, my body, my desires-
Are not to be my own.

I must once again decide,
By your grace-
To put the vain idols away,
And bow at your feet,
Laying down invisible crowns,
And remembering you are THE ONE.
Not I.

Two pair of feet

October 26th, 2008

Grey-brown work boots,
With steel toes,
And white splatters,
Lie untied in the doorway,
After being banged against the door step,
Three times each,
And falling to the ground,
With a thud, thud.
“Daddy! Daddy! Daddy!” is heard,
Bare feet pitter-patter,
To meet the man,
Standing in his socks,
In the doorway,
Beside the boots.



Unedited Ramblings

December 15th, 2008

I am ready,
To be changed,
One day at a time,
Into who God wants me to become-
Tired of being fearful,
Checking out and being numbed,
I want a reflection-
I can truly see,
Don't want muddy mirrors,
But your light shining inside me-
Who can I run to,
Where can I hide,
When I wrestle with lust,
And blinded by pride?
I am on my knees,
Cannot raise the water in my cup to my lips...
Feel like I am flopping and shaking like a fish,
But you cup your hands-
Large and strong,
Filled with liquid,
I drink deep,
As you bring the water to my lips...
my soul is refreshed
I thirst no more ...
Like the woman at the well,
I have been through my hell-
But that was gone, erased-
Your living water,
Is a balm to my soul-
Welling up,
Springing up-
Alive, and true-
Bringing life.

You are the fountain-
I just a patch of thirsty ground-
But you turn gravel into soil,
And dust into dirt.
Dirt becomes saplings,
Saplings become trees,
And trees bare fruit-
All from the hand of the one
who turns deserts into gardens,
Who uses common clay
For glory.
You would use me?
The closer you draw me to your light,
The more impurities I see-
Yet you use me-
Or want to...
Help me get out of the way!



The Poetry of Lisa Veloza McCall

Lisa McCall is a mother to three who is attempting to adopt her sister's abandoned children out from state control. To do so, she must find a home big enough for six total children by March 1st or they will be adopted by someone else. Under this stress, she has suffered worry and doubt. This is what her poem is about. Lisa is a friend through Rebeckah's Koinonia circles. She was the prime organizer of the Blues Be Gone Scavenger Hunt. If you are a praying man or woman, please pray for help adopting her sister's kids.

Untitled

January 28th, 2009

In the quiet of the night, I listen for your voice.
I wait for your answer, so I can make the right choice.

What is your will? What should I do?
I cry out and surrender all to you.

Just tell me how to move, tell me what to say
Actually, I just want to hear it will all be ok.

It is a constant struggle to wait on your perfect timing,
This molehill has turned to a mountain that I am constantly climbing.

I know in my heart that you care for me, and no matter what, you'll provide.
I know I just have to have the faith and patience to wait out this crazy ride.

But all too often, that hopeless voice of evil
whispers promises of failure and constant upheaval.

It makes me so confused; so distraught
I question over and over; is it really your will? ... what if it's not?

I'm falling; I'm drowning; the breaking point is nigh.
Then Your Love surrounds me and I feel like I can fly.

You pick me up when I've fallen and feel I can't go on.
You show me the blessings that I've been ignoring all along.

That's when I realize what You've been saying from the start
"Just be still. I Am God. I have your best interests at heart"

My body shivers from tiny explosions erupting from deep inside.
My jubilant heart sings; I am still. It was then that the fear died.

It had nothing to hold on to, no more lies to portray.
When I completely surrendered my all, Your love washed it all away.

I remembered Your promises are constant;
The same yesterday, today, and forever
It's only in my mind that they fade,
When Satan's lies are just too clever.

But armed with Your Word and a soul on fire
My heart will always seek Your will. It will be my one true desire.

When I'm feeling down and depressed inside
I'll look back to these words and know that with You, I won't have to hide.

I can face the unknown, without a care because Your Love will always be there.

Blessings will abound if I surrender to Your will
It may not go as I planned, but the outcome; better still.

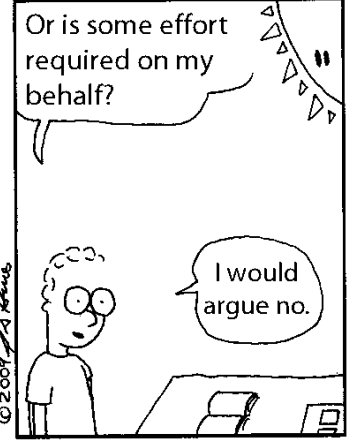
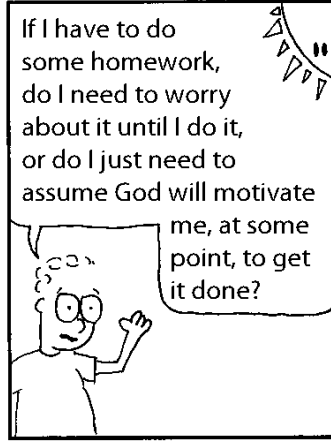
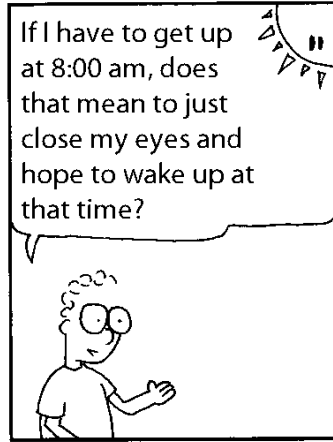
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Lisa was instrumental, along with Rebeckah, in planning the 2009 Blues B Gone Scavenger Hunt which took place this weekend. It truly did eliminate the blues! It was a lot of fun. We drove around taking photos of various stunts: pumping a stranger's gas, hugging a stranger, giving a piggyback at a playground and various things like that. Lisa and Beckah took care of all the logistics. They also cooked a pasta dinner for everyone. We watched a slide show of every team's pictures and, through furious debate, determined if they'd followed the scavenger hunt photo instructions properly. It was close, but my team one. Although I was also a coordinator, all I really did was invite people to come.

This is the first in a series of engaging social events to which you are invited. The next event will be a talent show. We aim to find those willing to share their special talent, whether it is singing, performing, story telling, comedy, guitar, piano or... anything really! All in a comfortable atmosphere. We will be serving dinner and then hold some kind of vote for best performance, most creative, and other categories of awards. We have located the perfect venue for this at Atlantic Union College. More information coming soon. Stay tuned! And now for some cartoons...

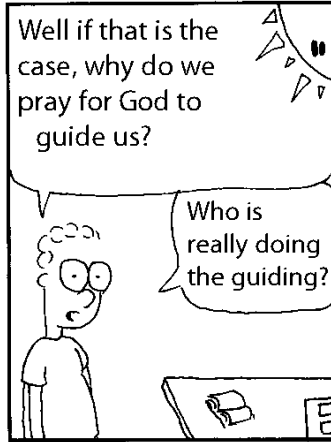
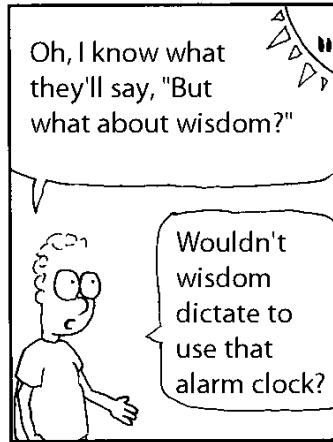
toon in'...

Jan. 23rd, 2009



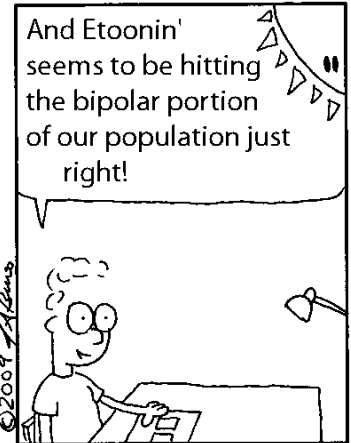
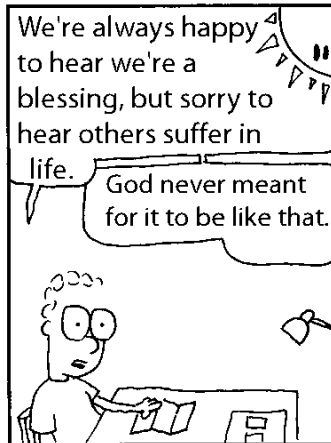
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Jan. 24th, 2009



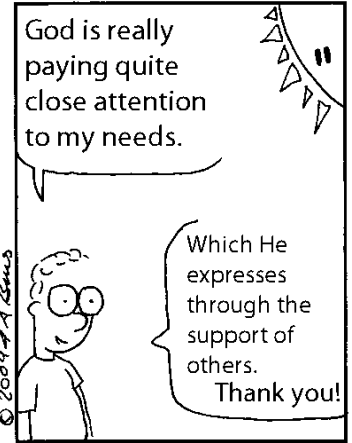
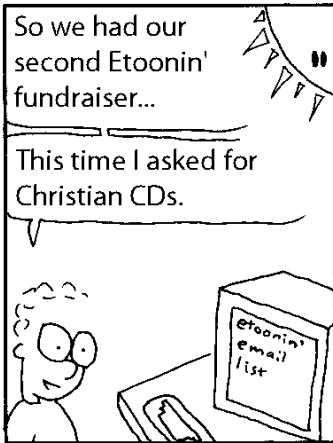
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Jan. 25th, 2009



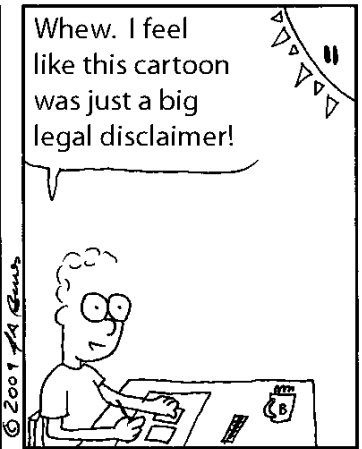
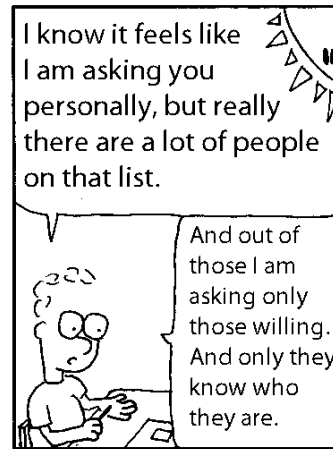
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Jan. 26th, 2009



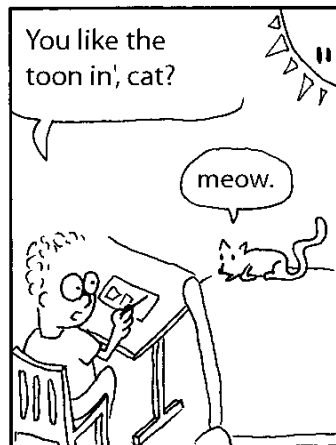
toon in'...

Jan. 27th, 2009



toon in'...

Jan. 28th, 2009



toon in'...

Jan. 29th, 2009

As we end another month, I find myself without money once again...

Running on the fumes of an empty bank account before checks get cashed.

But I am rich, because I have God.

He will never let me down.

Actually, I just looked at my expenses and it looks like I almost broke even this month.

That couldn't be right.

Did You cooks the books, Lord?

I just added a little seasoning.

toon in'...

Jan. 30th, 2009

Even though I went to bed at 9pm, I still slept through my alarm at 7:30am and missed all my classes.

This is not a new problem, just a new place. You ask any of my old employers and they will tell you: I am always late.

Dang, and I did all my homework too.

My mind always races to the worst conclusion: will I flunk out of school?

I just want people to know how I feel, Lord.

It is just not as easy as saying, "Well, why didn't you just get up?"

But at least I got a lot of cleaning done so far. I won't worry.

toon in'...

Jan. 31st, 2009

Can I just tell you how pleased I am to have new music?

Thanks to everyone who lent me some!

So we have a special treat for you this cartoon...

You always see me sitting at my cartoonist table in cartoon format...

Well now I drew a realistic picture of it!



So now you can compare cartoon versus reality both as depicted by my eye!

This type of media mix I first saw in the comic strip Bloom County as a child.

toon in'...