



The Community Baby

Finally comes a long awaited breather from the cartoons about bipolar disorder. In this issue, I get back to what Etooinin' is really supposed to be about: me and my community. Etooinin' is also about our God, and what He does in our lives. I hope these cartoons reflect what He is doing, even to just a small degree. For I am proud to tell of how He orchestrated our community to band around one young lady when she most needed help. Our friend Jess took her son to full term as a single mother. This proved a tough choice for her as others voiced erroneous opinions that she should give her son up for adoption. Robin, whom Jess calls her "Big Sis" really demonstrated the love of Christ by doing something most might not even consider: fully supporting Jess. Robin went to birthing classes together with Jess. She also took many hours off from a busy work schedule to accompany Jess to the hospital and was there when Nathaniel was born. Another friend, Ashley, coached Jess through the birth (1:13am) and then went to work at 7am the next day! Jess' boyfriend, Ryan, was there at the hospital eagerly awaiting his turn to hold Nate. He was so enthused to meet Jess' son, even though he wasn't his own. Jess had the most visitors of anyone on that maternity ward with people showing up around the clock. Although most of her friends are single, they all banded around her. That is why I consider Nate the community baby. And through it all, the love God lavished on Jess was just amazing. She was really singled out.

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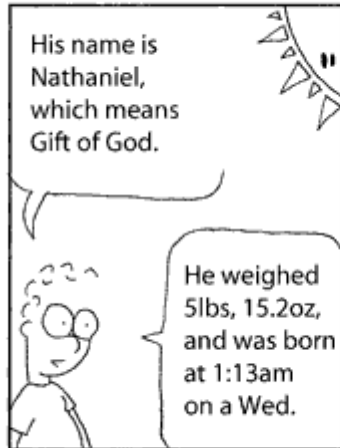
Other events mark our community. Our men have banded together with the purpose of seeking fulfillment through the Holy Spirit. We started a Men's Group, for which I am the ad hoc facilitator. I'm not sure if it the group will catch on, but my vision is that, through the men, God will demonstrate His power when people act together for his Name. He will pluck us out of our isolation and unite us to serve and minister to Himself. Some of the side benefits I anticipate is that our purposes in life will be revealed, we will learn how to reach out to and love others more effectively, we will find gainful employment, and we will learn how to support and love the women of our community better. I've been a Christian for 12 years now, and I have learned some awesome things that I would never expect about God, and now I can only assume He will teach us similar new and exciting things through community. - - I also started a Bipolar Support Group called the Bipolar Bible Club. I can't say too much about it, but we met for the first time in July and it was a smashing success. - - I took it easy on the cartoons this time. You would not believe how hard it is to turn the focus from myself. I'm celebrating my accomplishment by not pushing it. Hoping more to come. Stay tooned... Love, Jim

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toon in'...

Jess & Nate

Aug. 23rd, 2009



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Birthing class

Aug. 23^{1/2}, 2009



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Meeting the Baby

Aug. 25th, 2009



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