



Back to the Basics



Team up to Present...

Hello,
how can I help
you today?



Jim Bures
the employee

In three years, my pay rate went from the max (\$35/hr) to the minimum (\$8/hr). I'm glad to be employed though. Asking people for money was getting kind of stressful. I noticed that no matter how much people gave me, I always needed more. And I grew bitter in spirits about it if people said no. When I started asking for money, I thought it didn't matter if people said yes or no. But when I was desperate, my attitude grew out of control. I did things I regret. I lost friends, or injured relationships. I caused myself psychological harm. I almost checked myself into a mental ward. I gave up. And then I got a job at T.J. Maxx.

I'm not saying T.J. Maxx is the solution, but it sure beats trying to justify my existence by making people food. Not that I don't like helping people, but apparently this is not a viable profession. When I applied for T.J. Maxx I was in a funk that rivaled my top depressions. I filled out the application only because I needed something to do that day. When I walked in the store, I never thought I'd get a call back but they interviewed me right on the spot. I hadn't even showered! The manager did all the talking, practically selling me on the store. I disclosed my mental illness and it was not a problem. Twelve days later, on 9/16, I started. Now, I want to tell you about the number 9:16. 9:16 is an important number to me for reasons I don't know why. 3:16 is also an important number for me, representing John 3:16 {For God so loved the world that He gave his only Begotten Son}. When I first got my illness back in 1997, I grew very fearful from 3:00 to 3:15, but when 3:16 came, I knew I was safe. Same with 9:16 - when it was between 9:00 and 9:15 I was very scared, but at 9:16 I calmed down. 3:16 and 9:16 are my favorite times, but I could never figure out the verse for 9:16. Anyway, when I got my job with the newspaper last Spring, I started on 3/16. And now I started at T.J. Maxx on 9/16. What this means, I can't be sure. But for now, it means I've got a job.

It kind of bothers me that I depend on God to survive; I need him to lead me because I am not capable of leading myself. Yet here He lets me fall to the very bottom before giving me some direction in my life. Why do I have to get absolutely, totally broken down before He rescues me? Why do I have to totally give up before He steps in? Very strange, this God we have. And yet He led me to a place that seems perfect for me for the moment. Yesterday my boss said, "See? There's nothing to worry about. It's good to work with happy people."

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Today I had a breath of fresh air from the stale vapors of my mind. After Church, I walked up to Craig, who was talking to a friendly woman. He mentioned that I had posted how many jobs I've had since becoming employed. I told her to guess how many. Her first shot out the barrel was "27!" Exactly right! Then I correctly guessed her job history at 14. She was told to work on an Orchard, so I gave her some pointers. I asked her if she'd ever fired a gun. It was a great start.

Anyway, I realize that if my brain is allowed to roll around unchecked there's going to be problems. I'm a "glass half empty" kinda guy, and that's not fit for press. So I'm thinking of hiring an Editor for Etoonin', the first paid staff. What I'm looking for is another Christian, someone who knows me kinda well, and someone who is not afraid to speak their mind about how Etoonin' appears to others. I need someone who can bridge the gap from normal to me, if you know what I mean. This position requires rapid edit turnaround via phone and email. I'm paying \$10 per issue. It should only take 1 hour every 2 weeks. I'm also looking for a Technology Specialist. This is more of a long term need. This person (doesn't need to be Christian) will administer my email list so that I won't be tempted to delete it anymore. I will also forward all my Etoonin' emails to this person so they can moderate them, approve them and send them out. This will contain and isolate any crazy emails. Salary negotiable, volunteer preferred. If you are interested in applying for either of these positions, please forward a cover letter and resume to Laurie Jones, our Director of HR, care of Laurie@Etoonin.com. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, please call our friendly operators at Etoonin' Headquarters, (978) 274-2476. Thank you for applying, and good luck!

Love,

Jim Bures

V.P. - Etoonin' Incorporated

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