



A little bit about Him...

God has made me so intelligent, I praise His Name. I am so smart even despite the demons I face. You wouldn't think one could find ways to use intelligence at a job so simple as T.J. Maxx, but each day He has me use my creativity and intellect in new and encouraging ways.

I am in the process of switching Churches to Grace Chapel from Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. The main reasons I am trying to do this is that I feel called to serve amongst my peers (people my own age). Mt. Calvary has people that are typically 10+ years older than me, or 10+ years younger. In addition, Grace has an evening service that I can not possibly sleep through. This change is a very difficult decision for me, for Mt. Calvary is the warmest Church I have ever attended. They really, truly do focus on community and love. At this Church I have only had one interpersonal problem in 4 years, while at Grace I have had numerous in just two years. Everyone accepted me as I am, bipolar and all.

Mt. Calvary is a Church. Grace Chapel, from what I can tell, is a corporation. It is well run for the Lord, but it is set up like a corporation I have noticed. At Mt. Calvary, a small Church of 300 members, when I want to talk to the Pastor, I just call him and he sets up an appointment in 1 week. At Grace Chapel, a mega Church of 3,000 members, when I call the Pastor in charge of my ministry, it takes him weeks to get back to me. When I call him on the phone, he returns my call 2-3 days later with an email. Booking a Men's Group room is regimented with some kind of computer coordinated reservation system as you'd have at an engineering company. While at Mt. Calvary I could just show up and find a space to meet. It is very different for me and I am still testing the waters to see if I will make Grace Chapel my home. They have helped me so much: they gave me over \$3,000 for bills this year and Skip Galanes has personally helped me establish a budget and financial tracking system. Grace is good, I am just getting used to them.

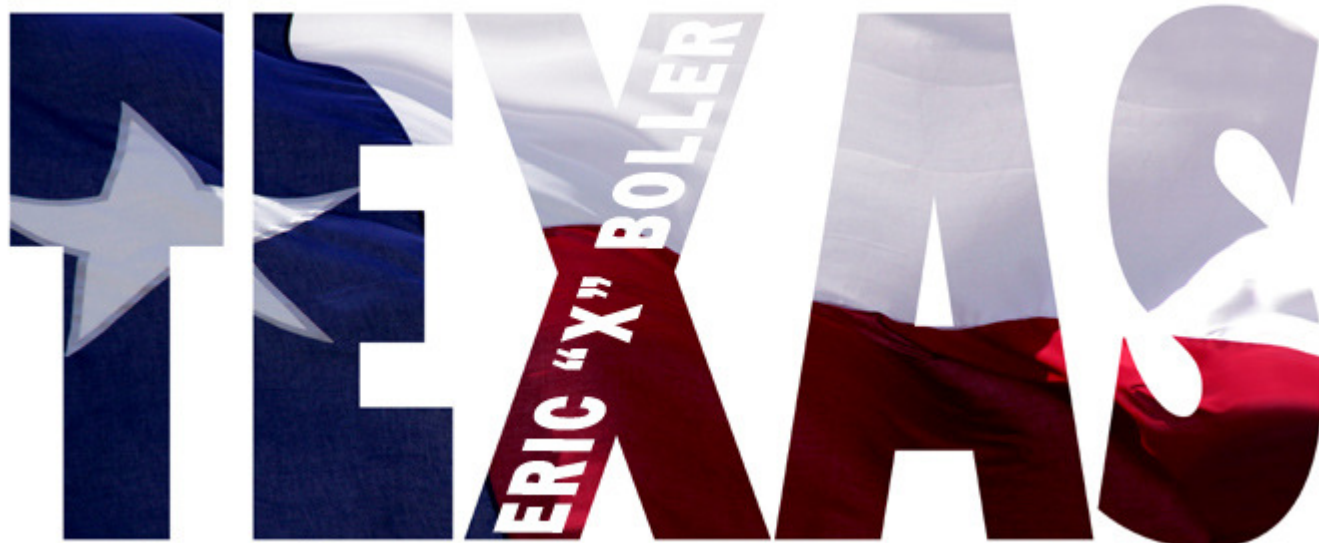
Yesterday I received the best compliment of my life, ever! I was telling the cool manager, Dan, about how I was raising funds at T.J. to support a 19 year old pregnant employee who was kicked out of her dad's house. I knew it was a conflict of interest: T.J. does not allow solicitation. However, I followed the chain of command and he explained the policy in an easy to understand, warm manner. He said I could do it, basically. Later I was sitting in the break room and Dan came in and sat down. He proceeded to tell me, in detail, slowly and methodically, how he was impressed with my character and called me a good man. He said that if people treat themselves good it is a plus and if they do a good thing for others it is icing on the cake. He said he was very glad to have the opportunity to meet me and that it has left him a better person.

This is what I strive for. This is who I am in the Lord! You all remember what I've been like in the past and God has changed me and continues to do so. The power of our awesome God is amazing. People have told me I have made their lives better in the past, but never to this extent. I truly am a wonderful person: fearfully made in God's image. It is so wonderful to be in His courts and get respite from all the negative voices I hear in my mind.

When I make plans, it's because I am hypomanic. My manic plans often come to an unpleasant end. I spend too much money. Today, I have manic plans: work here, work there. But these manic plans involve making money! Praise God.

May the Lord, strong and powerful, continue to bless your life and show you His amazing grace! Love, Jim Bures

And now I'll tell you about me. I'm going to...



In Feb 2010, courtesy of my friend "X" who bought my plane ticket and will provide a room and a ride from the airport. What a Christmas gift! I met "X" in college in 1993. He is called the "X" because he was an ex-this major, ex-that major. I'll meet Hani's family, Laurie's family (both have new children) and the Marneyman. I can't wait! Thanks, X!!!

Also, I enrolled in...



Mount Wachusett
Community College

Gardner Campus, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440-1000



Blackboard

For the 2010 spring semester. I'll take Illustrator & Typography 2 days/week. I'll pay tuition & books with a \$1750 loan. I'll work at least 20 hours/wk to support myself. I'll have time to study and work. I'll collaborate with friends to practice.

Until 2010, I'll work through Christmas at...



It is a wonderful place to work even if a tad boring. I've lost 24 lbs and broke the 300 barrier. The people are wonderful and the managers encouraging. I am grateful for the chance they gave me at my lowest point. That deserves loyalty until Christmas. God likes that. My goal is to work there through Christmas. Please remind me if I seem to change my mind.

God also likes fiscal responsibility, so I am going to try and save \$100 towards a new vehicle starting in December. I am going to try to get the maximum reliability for the minimum price. My current car has probably six months left until it needs more repairs, and with 213,000 miles there is no point in fixing it. God likes it when I ask, so I will try to pray for it.

I'll save for a new car and go...



1997 Honda Civic
← 213,000 miles
Very limited life

Used Car
Standard w A/C →
Reliable



This will also require a lot of prayer because I don't make very much and haven't yet balanced my spending plan. I really hope God blesses me, because I'm not eligible for a loan and don't want to ask others for money. That's irresponsible.

I also want to try and pray that God grant some special requests. I've decided that I'd like...

A Dog



&

A Puerto Rican Christmas



If I can financially and responsibly care for one. I think it would be good practice for raising a small child. He's given me such a wonderful cat in Priscilla. She's so sweet!

I felt really down this year, because of my poverty and bipolar. I felt like an outcast from my family because I couldn't relate. But I'd like to join them in Puerto Rico for Christmas and see if God doesn't bless us. I want to see Oscar Sr, whom I really like. He survived cancer this year. And I'd like to see my step-brother Joe; he's really cool. My niece, Amalia, is getting baptized.

The rest of my plans are hypomanic ones.

For example, in 2010 I'd like to get a part-time job at...



or



At Denny's I'd try being a cook or serving tables, where I can experience the joy of serving customers. At Advocates I'd work with the mentally ill as a "Peer Specialist", forging communication between clients and staff. This position requires me to have a mental illness! I want people to be more a part of my day. At T.J. Maxx, I work alone doing things like opening boxes of merchandise and assembling lamps. It gets really boring and my mind starts to ruminate on recriminations. I do enjoy my coworkers so much though. I realize that it is a very encouraging place for me right now.

These last plans are really unrealistic, but I'll share anyway...

Although I have no money, I'd like to go traveling somehow. I have friends all over the country and visiting them is fun.



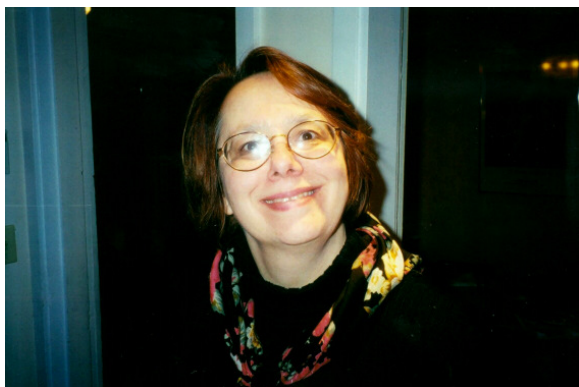
Visit Gregger in Colorado!

My friend Greg moved to Colorado. I was really bummed that he left, because he is a valuable part of my community and a great guy. I was also worried that he'd fail, like I often do. But he's surviving fine. I'd like a road trip with my guy friends to visit him in January. I know it is unrealistic because I'd spend lots and lose income, but the opportunity to travel with others is very attractive.

[Colorado image courtesy Joe from the Library.]

Love your neighbor as yourself, or in my case, love yourself as you love your neighbor. – Jim Bures

My Mom!



My Mom is the best. Throughout my unemployment she supported me so much. She voluntarily gave me \$3000+ to pay my bills. To thank her, I made her a special gourmet dinner of breaded scallops, steamed asparagus and baked yams. I even made Nestle Toll House cookies for dessert with honey instead of sugar! She loved it so much and I am really glad I was able to do something nice for her. Then we shopped at T.J. Maxx with a 20% discount.

I am very proud of this Etoonin' because I put God first and more realistically shared my manic plans. God bless you!

toon in'...

Written, Created and Published by Jim Bures.
All works ©2009 Etoonin' Incorporated.
Edited by Hani Le & Sarah Nadeau.

== donate online at www.toonin.com ==

Checks to: Jim Bures, 58 Spencer Road – 16K, Boxborough, MA 01719



Visit Squite and Ginger!

I made a friend nicknamed Biscuit my freshman year of college. In 1995 we traveled the country and landed in Seattle. I left, but he stayed and met his wife there. Now they live in Alaska and I'd like to see them and to experience the land of the midnight sun next June. I want to take Alaska Air because I believe they are a Christian company. In 2002 I flew them through credit card miles on my sabbatical. Returning home they gave out this card, which I took as a blessing from God...

