



Are the floodgates?

In this Etooinin', for probably the first time ever, I share photos of my family. Perhaps this is because, for the first time ever, I am making a concerted effort to reach out to them in the same style I reach out to others. It is harder because family comes along with so much baggage. The first part of my approach involved giving them thoughtful Christmas gifts. The second part involves just trying to be myself a bit more, let go, have fun, and stop taking things so personally. The third part might involve going to Puerto Rico with them. Christmas is, after all, a time of family and friendships above all other worries and concerns, or so we pray and hope.

The Christmas Card Promotion has been successful with 4 clients so far generating 130 much needed dollars. One client ordered a cartoon! My first paid cartoon commission. And I am giving an airport ride. This could be the start of something good. It beats painting. I give God the glory for the skills He's given me to accomplish these tasks and many more. Job #28 lies on the horizon. There is hope for prosperity in my future. But I'm still making manic plans which could threaten to ruin these advances. Oh, to watch the zigzag life of Jim Bures. In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. My steps, however zigzag, lead to Heaven.

Job #28 could be with Advocates, a mental health care company, as a "Peer Specialist". I have a casual interview with them on Monday. The job seems an ideal fit: working with people and helping the mentally disabled in an environment more tolerant to my own mental health issues. There's also a freelance position involves selling someone's baseball cards on Ebay. Just a note: freelance business under the auspices of "JimBures.com", "Etooinin' Incorporated", and "Toon in'..." does not count towards official Jim Bures jobs. Finally, I have an interview with Mt. Wachusett's Student Life Office next week for a Work Study position. I'm hoping one of these or any combination thereof will support my schooling in the spring. Finally I feel like I have some options for a change, it's not just life happening to me. That's when Capitalism works for you, when you have options. I still hate Capitalism though.

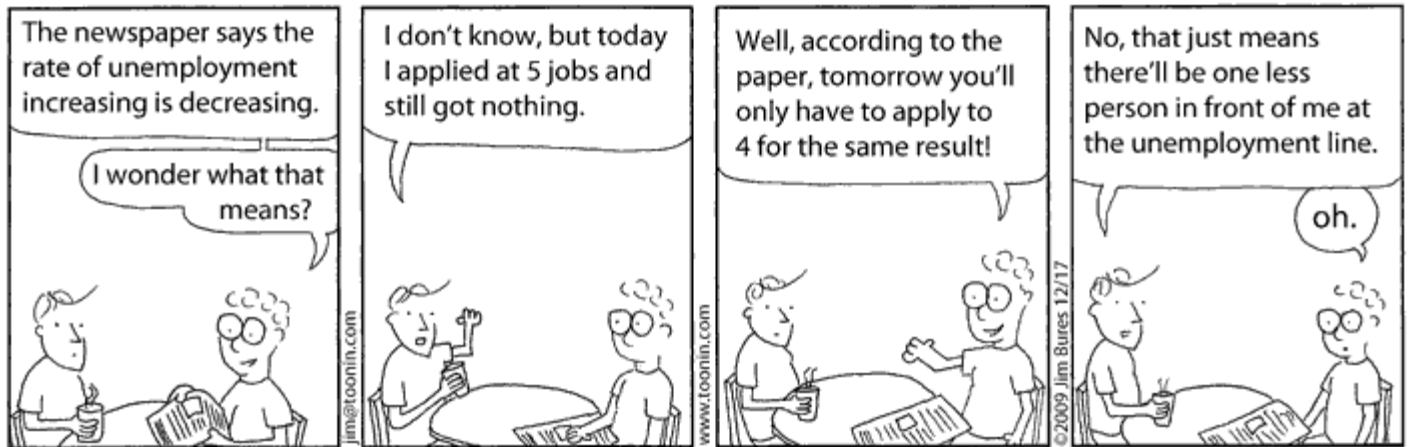
The Good News & The Bad News

A Thoughtful Newspaper / Matthew 9 : 35

Before I even became a Christian, I had an idea for a novel kind of newspaper. So much of the news is bad. Why not tell the good news also? This paper I plan to start will have two sections: The Good News, and... The Bad News. Now, if the Patriots win a game? That goes in the Good News. But if they lose? Bad News. Just by demarking articles to go in the good or bad section, I can editorially tell people what is, in fact, good news. The Good News section will also contain the comics, because those are generally good. But if I don't like a comic, like Zippy the Pinhead, I'll put it in the Bad News. Who can understand Zippy anyway? So you get the idea. I think it this is possible. I think within the end of 2010, I could have something going on this. This is a manic harebrained idea. This is the kind of idea I stay up until 2 am thinking about. I've thought through some of the initial parameters. For example, the first offering will be 8 pages long in a tabloid format. I'll give away copies of the newspaper for a month or two to get people hooked, and then start charging money. I'll target a city at first, like Boston. I'll probably pull news from the AP for a while, at first, even though I hate the AP. There is just no other way to get world news though. And I will employ freelance journalists to cover positive local news. Also, I will buy comics from budding artists (read: cheap) to get the comics page going. And that's my plan, man, and I will put it before the Lord too.

Extra Nickels

by Jim Bures



My first newspaper cartoon will be published in Spare Change, circulating 7,000 bi-weekly, on Thurs, Dec. 17th!

God gave me the idea; God gets the credit: Yay God!

Extra Nickels

by Jim Bures



My second newspaper cartoon (shown above) will be published in Spare Change on Thurs, Dec. 31st!

The Editor at Spare Change gives me the general topic, and I, with God's help, translate it into something funny. Although I don't get paid for these cartoons, the Editor is very encouraging and appreciative, which helps. It also helps that he gives direction. He has really been floored by these two comics and I look forward to a good working relationship. The chance to reach a much wider audience brings my cartoon career to a whole nother level. Yay God!

Meet the family:



Top Row (L to R): Jule (my sister), Oscar, Mario (step-dad), Sari, Joe (step-brother)
Btm Row (L to R): Mom, Kara, Stephen (step-brother), Tom (brother), Liesl, Amalia (my niece), ME!

Jule's husband (in red) is Tom's wife's (in white) step-brother.
Joe (in navy blue) is the guy I'm trying to convince to go to Puerto Rico.



And there's Ms. Amalia playing with her favorite Uncle, Tio Diego!

At the family dinner, she came up to me right away and wanted to play all kinds of games.
I passed out all my Christmas gifts first thing and people loved them.
Not shown is the sign I hand made for Amalia.

Puerto Rican Prayer Watch

The Puerto Rican Prayer Watch is in a holding pattern as I determine if there will be free accommodations for Joe, Sari and myself should we buy a plane ticket. It looks likely, but will be a tight squeeze. I'll know more on Monday night. I'm bummed

because my back still hurts, which makes an enjoyable, do whatever I want vacation unlikely. Also, I am still broke. My hope to pay for a plane ticket depends on enough Christmas gift revenue coming in. Tickets are hovering around the \$500 range. I'd love to see a \$400 ticket, but it's unlikely I'll buy anything above \$450. I meet with the Doctor next Friday, Dec. 18th. Then I decide. This prayer request, as they often do, is coming right down to the wire.



I asked my 94 year old Granny to sell her 1994 Buick Century to me. Initially I was worried my father would get involved and encourage her to say no. But when I just talked to her just now that did not seem the case. Granny just stopped driving three weeks ago, but seems to want to hold on to the car in case neighbors want to drive her in it. I need a new car soon. Mine has 215,000 miles on it and two minor mechanical problems: one brake is grinding and it needs a new idler cam. It's not worth fixing. Granny's car would be perfect for me in that it'd be cheap to buy (~\$1000) and relatively low miles. If you know of a cheap car, please let me know! Thanks!



The other pipedream I have mentioned before is Alaska. I'd like to stay with friends in Anchorage for a few days, but also go to Fairbanks for Summer Solstice. There they have wonderful all night celebrations: perfect for a manic person! I invited Joe from the library to come. He facetiously agreed. Joe needs to try chess at the library in a new city. Since there'd be a layover in Seattle, I could also show him Fremont, my old stomping grounds. Seattle is a lot of fun. This pipe dream is very enticing. I've spent numerous nights up way too late planning it all. That's what hypomania is like: I just can't stop thinking about irrational things, for I can't afford it. I've even considered spending my next disability check on a plane ticket rather than my mortgage. But that would screw up family relations when I run out of money. So hard to wait for a miracle from God! Anyway, the other problem is that I can't reach my friend, Biscuit, in Anchorage. I don't even know if he'd want a visit. Hypomania forces me to become overbearing when there's something I want. Please, God? Alaska?

Etoonin' created and published by Jim Bures. Edited by Hani Le & Sarah Nadeau. All works ©2009 Etoonin' Incorporated.

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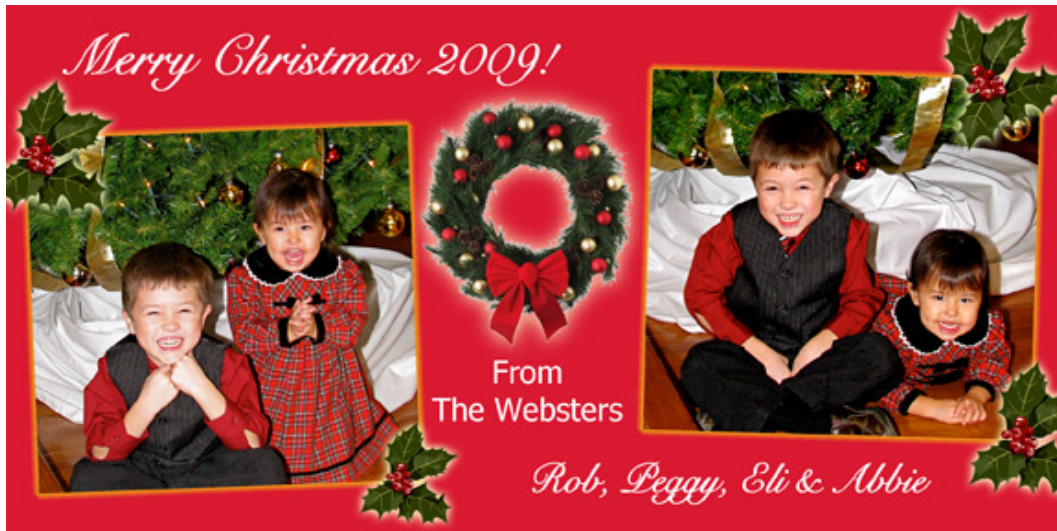
== please donate online at www.toonin.com ==

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

Thanks a bunch when I was in a crunch!

Last call for Christmas Cards!!!

The season ends Tuesday, Dec. 15th...



Order your Christmas card with Etoonin' today!