

# 2009

## The Year in Review

2009 was a bad year for Jim Bures. Crops failed; locusts ate the leaves; the vineyard produced no grapes. However, I remain an incredibly fascinating person and served an increasingly elaborate population base. 2009 was my most prolific year of cartooning with 182 drawn and my first toon published in a newspaper.

2010 seems like it could be much better. I'm enrolled in college for Graphic Design. I may have found a lucrative part-time job in social work. My sciatica is feeling much better and I have the options of surgery available while seeking non-invasive recovery. Christmas was very good and I feel joyful at the moment.

The Puerto Rican prayer watch revealed too much difficulty in traveling to make it worth it. And I couldn't afford it anyway. However, I still had a wonderful Christmas and felt a tremendous part of my family despite the separation of many miles and several degrees. I've moved on to my next fantastic prayer request vacation and that is to visit Alaska in June. I've a friend who lives in Anchorage with his wife. We moved to Seattle together back in 1995. He made it there, I didn't. I want to visit him and also see the land of the midnight sun. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, the daylight will last 21 hours in Fairbanks, AK, where the temperature averages in the 60's. Even the night sky remains twilight. Perfect for a manic person! I'm going to celebrate life and love for a full 24 hours in the sun. And after it all? I'm going to Denny's! There's one in Fairbanks, I already checked. As with any Jim Bures plan, many components need to come together, and many facets expand to the maximum. First: Biscuit (in AK) must agree to have me visit. Second, I really want Joe from the library to come. Joe suffers from chronic depression. He feels like he lives in a very big jail cell with no walls. So I told him to try a different cell in Alaska. Furthermore, since there will be a layover in Seattle, I require some time to visit my old stomping grounds. There is where Steve and I got our start into adulthood so many years ago. I'd like to visit Joe Cheng too, but his wife will be delivering a baby around that time, so it may not work. All these things must come together and, oh yes, there is the financial thing. Somehow I must finagle the money out of God to go. Not likely given my penchant for poverty. So I'll be doing a lot of praying and if you'd like to waste your breathe, you could too!

2010 already has two other vacations lined up. In February, X treated me to a 5 day vacation in TeXas. I'll see two college buddies, the local heiress to the Hess gasoline fortune, and Marney. Other than X, I'm looking forward to seeing Marney the most. I visited this man in Seattle also after meeting him on an internet chat board (hosted by Odd tOdd). There's a warm place in my heart for atheists. During spring break in March I'll perform my usual Southern Circuit Tour (this being trip #7). It may be my last chance to visit my Grandmother in her natural habitat, as she is moving to MA to be closer to family. And finally, I'd like to fly the Denver - San Diego leg to visit the Gregger and Roger, both who thought they could escape the trajectory of Jim Bures in a new locale. There's much to look forward to and God makes me feel great.

Finally, in other news, I've decided to start moving on from the major source of my problems: my father. I've tried to love him from within the context of our relationship, but soon will have to try from the outside. I'm giving him a year to improve and then, to protect myself, the door of my heart will close and I'll seek lost affirmation from the close relationships of Christian brothers and other friends. I will heal without him.

# 2010

## The Year to Come

The New Year's Eve Special - - - X / 105 (12/27)

As I continue to heal, I will continue to seek a life's partner. I've looked around a while and determined that my psychological problems are the major obstacle to finding a wife. As I look around, I see that I've surrounded myself with successful woman who, at least on the surface, seem well. It is time to seek my target market: the mentally ill (like myself). I'll stay in the state of Massachusetts, so here's the stats:

6,500,000 The Population of Massachusetts  
65,000 1% of those are mentally ill  
10,000 of those are roughly my age  
5,000 of those are women  
2,500 of those are single (or undermarried)  
1,000 of those are Christian (I hope)  
100 of those are possible to meet in the next 2 years  
1 is the perfect one for me!

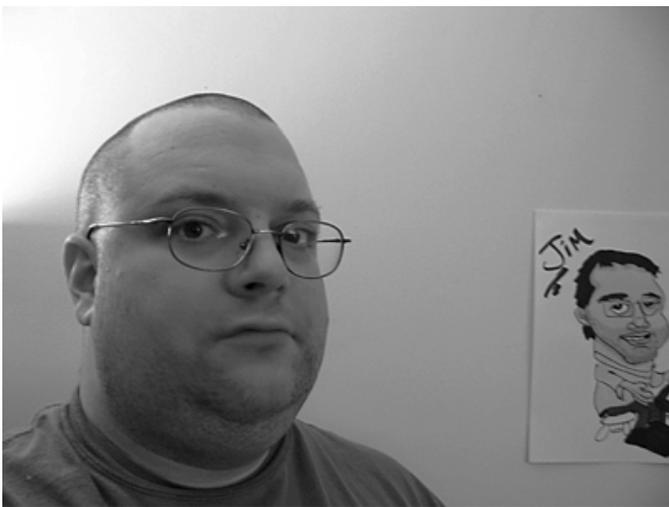
I am confident I am man of God enough to find and love a woman of similar character, and even raise a family. As I continue to heal, I will seek a woman that's interested in me (not many seem to be) and ready to partner in a life of suffering and glorification of God together. It's the only way. I've gotta do it. I've gotta try. I may pray about this too.

December 31<sup>st</sup> marks the first complete year since I incorporated Etoonin' as a public ministry for Jesus Christ. It's been a difficult year and I failed to hit my target audience as well as I'd like. Etoonin' tends to be very "me" based. However, I did minister to my friends, people at T.J. Maxx, and others that I met around. My biggest client remains Joe from the library. Not that he is really a client (I hope he isn't embarrassed that I said that), he's become a great friend. That's why I want to go to Alaska with him. However, I have paired up alongside Joe as he deals with depression, low self-esteem and abandonment issues (just like me!). Anyway, so I realized that my target ministry audience is not the well, like the high society people I know (but I do try to serve everybody), but the sick: the depressed, the poor, the outcasts, the lowly and those who basically desire and respond to love. Many people in my circle of friends would rather host game nights weekend after weekend than explore their own soul and find their own healing. I've painfully learned that often I miss the cues that would tell me to let go of certain people and groups. I am tenacious in maintaining friendship; I hang on like a steel trap. You, reading Etoonin', should know! But often I misinterpret what God is going to do and thing He means to do more and through me. There is a time to realize an aspect of ministry is not working and let go gracefully all the while clinging to the people who are responding. Hopefully I will be more cognizant of this in the future. Another problem I have encountered is frustration and impatience at the people who are caged by no walls but choose to live in a prison. I don't mean like Joe: he is tortured. But some friends of mine have every need of theirs met yet chose to live alone, isolated with only their computer and distant relationships to sustain them. These people are in the unique position to explore the world yet they aren't even interested in giving us a phone call. Situations like these require the Jim Bures muscles to relax, and like I must with false ministry situations, let go of the people who don't want help. With God's help I will continue to wake up to my ministry and learn more about how to serve others, to give it a proper try. There is nothing more rewarding and you see that God gives me a lot of the frosting too. Even as a poor man I have traveled every year of my underemployment on more than one occasion. God is worthy to be served. Some think you must serve God solely for God's sake and God's sake alone. But He allows my desires and meets many of them as a courtesy I don't even deserve. I forgave a friend this week and it was so easy because so many have forgiven me!

On New Year's Eve I will again attend Common Ground Christian Coffee House and celebrate what we have done...

**God, Jim, & Etoonin' Inc.**

# The Many Faces of Jim Bures



March / August / October / November

Shown with Priscilla in August / Caricature by Tom Montgomery in October / First hike since 2005 shown in November

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Presents

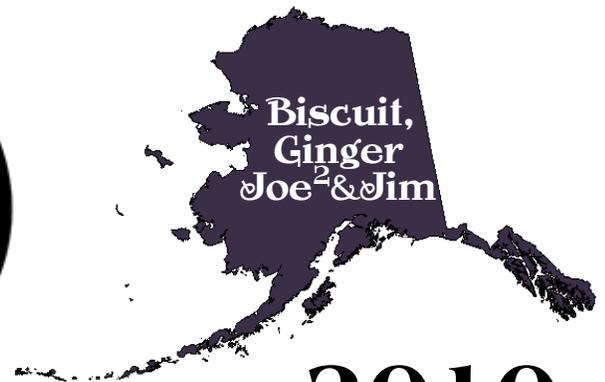
**Alaska**

Find a wife



A partner in life

**2010**



**2010**