

We asked our readers about the best things of 2009 and their resolutions, and this is what they had to say...

Greg H. writes:

The Ten Best Things of 2009 for me were -

1. Moving to Colorado.
2. Trusting in God enough to make a big change in my life.
3. Valuing and appreciating friendships and family like never before.
4. Excelling at my job.
5. Doing more service work for Jesus.
6. Keeping the weight off.
7. Going on an amazing trip out west with great friends and seeing God's beauty.
8. Gaining a greater acceptance of myself for whom I am.
9. Learning to be more content as a single man, and
10. Telling each of my family members that I love them.

My Ten New Years Resolutions are -

1. Increase customer loyalty at work.
2. Do what it takes to get my shins fixed.
3. Explore and enjoy Colorado and try new things out here.
4. Start dating again.
5. Continue and increase involvement in Celebrate Recovery and recovery in general.
6. Invite people from work to hang out and go to church.
7. Find a quiet time with God method that works and that I look forward to doing.
8. Step out more into service and ministry work.
9. Explore buying a home and getting roommates.
10. Pray more.

My brother (Tom B.) writes:

One of my resolutions was to eat at least one piece of fruit a day (real fruit, not canned, jarred, processed, etc.). Day 10 and still going strong.

I had some resolutions too, but they won't happen unless God wills them in me. Some of them include giving up sugar (for the second time), using that elliptical machine that serves as a coat rack, finding my target audience that might lead to a relationship with a woman who would become my wife, and to follow God wherever He leads. These are some of my resolutions and like most resolutions I will not do them unless God wills me to, and we're still waiting at the moment.

In other news, although Etoonin' is supposed to be about community it is always about me, I bought a replacement car...



It's a 1993 Geo Metro Station Wagon. I call it a station wagon because it kinda looks like a miniature one. I bought it for \$900, but it cost \$1,073.97 after tax, title, registration, state inspection, and mechanical inspection less a \$100 trade-in (at the junk yard). The mechanic said it is a very good car, only 77,000 miles, and will probably last at least a year. I am proud of myself because I bought it without any help whatsoever from my family. My friends helped me car shop, gave me rides to put down a deposit and then pick it up (1 hour away). I am also proud because I used all the wisdom God has given me to make a smart purchase in a somewhat desperate situation. My last car was dead and I couldn't afford anything more than \$1,000. I grew anxious and somewhat depressed during the process because of the possibility that I could lose \$1,000 I don't really have on a potentially foolish purchase, but I praise God because it all worked out alright.



January 21st will be my first day in all three classes I am taking at Mt. Wachusett. I am looking forward to it. I've decided to relax to avoid overtaxing myself, so I am going to stick to working 15 hrs/wk in a job yet to

be defined. Disability only permits me \$719/mo of earnings without penalty, so I won't earn much. In addition, I am planning to sell my condo. An easier schedule would help permit that. Downsize on the car, downsize on the condo, downsize on my lifestyle, education towards a new career: the road to financial recovery! Oh, and I have two vacations to look forward this winter: TeXas and Southern Circuit Tour #7. We'll see how the little Geo does on the open road. I'm still broke so if you want to donate money to Etoonin', I'd appreciate it. Visit www.toonin.com to do so. Thanks! -JB



2009 Annual Report

- Notes: 1. January not included (records lost)
2. All percentages are of Total Income

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Income, Total | 29,087.61 | 100.0 % |
| SSDI | 20,933.00 | 72.0 % |
| Work | 1,695.92 | 5.8 % |
| Etoonin' Donations | 3,413.35 | 11.7 % |
| JimBures.com | 309.93 | 1.1 % |
| Other | 2,735.41 | 9.4 % |
| Expenses, Total | 28,437.27 | 97.8 % |
| Giving | 3,434.00 | 11.8 % |
| Saving | 0.00 | 0.0 % |
| Debt | 3,443.74 | 11.8 % |
| Housing | 9,202.05 | 31.6 % |
| Automobile | 1,969.76 | 6.8 % |
| Insurance | 2,009.67 | 6.9 % |
| Household | 3,944.19 | 13.6 % |
| Entertainment | 1,937.59 | 6.7 % |
| Prof. Services | 1,506.35 | 5.2 % |
| Cash | 831.73 | 2.9 % |
| Etoonin' Inc. | 652.63 | 2.2 % |
| JimBures.com | 225.56 | 0.8 % |
| Difference | 650.34 | 2.2 % |

On December 31st of 2008, Etoonin' was incorporated as a public ministry to the Lord. In 2009, our goals were to begin serving in any capacity possible. This included production of Etoonin', which provides intangible religious benefits to its readers, but also such other things as providing food for those in need within our community, mentoring teenage boys, fundraising for a young expectant mother, and befriending those who are receptive wherever we can.

Financially, 2009 was a tough year but Etoonin' readers softened the blow with considerable donations. Our financial accomplishments include instituting a system to track our finances, living a modest lifestyle, trying to cut costs where possible, and holding two part-time jobs.

Fiscal plans for 2010 include selling our condo, relocating to a shared living apartment to reduce expenses, finding and maintaining part-time employment, and seeking further Graphic Design education to move towards a self-sustaining career, as well as refining the spending planning process.

Yours truly, Jim Bures
V.P. & Director of Communications
Etoonin' Incorporated

Thanks so much for your support!