

# Etoonin' Inc.



2014.12.21 – XV/129

Listen to the Sound/Broken & Contrite

---



Here you see featured my nieces and nephews. I went to a family wedding and I danced with reckless abandon with my nieces (left). It is so fun to dance with wild and carefree children. I also enjoy visiting my nephews (right three). I have two new nephews since the last time I wrote (right two). It is amazing how my family is developing, and it is exciting to think how I will spend the rest of my life with such a great family, growing and learning together. I have offered my Sister babysitting and house help, and so far I have gotten to babysit her two sons a few times. My newest nephew, to the right, was born 1 month prematurely. It is exciting seeing my Step-Brother become a Father. He shines at the task.

---

## JESUS CHRIST: LORD AND SAVIOR

So I am a student of God, or so I would like to believe. However, I have one foot firmly planted in the world. As such, I tend to find pleasure in the mechanics of things, the intellectual and mathematical nature. Every time I go on vacation I count up all the money I spend and track how much I spend per day. I record each flight number. But when I am home, although I do keep records, I am nowhere near as precise and gloss over my finances in general, even though they are just as mechanical. I studied both Mechanical Engineering and Graphic Design – Print. Both deal with mathematical representations that define ideal, perfect definitions of abstract mechanics or art. My dreams tend to be in the concrete, and obtaining certain

pleasures from buying things (like plane tickets) or designing things (like cartoons and graphic projects).

We all hear, as Christians, how we must conquer the flesh and submit to God. However, in a weird way, I find God to be concerned more with the fleshy things, imprecise things in a way, more than the abstract. For example, he has blessed me with harmony in my family life. This is an unintentional side effect of how He works in my life. I never asked for this, and while it is great that it happened, I don't hold on to this the same way I hold on to a vacation, or a graphic design project. I tend to want beyond my means, beyond what I really need. I find myself unsatisfied with the way God has

blessed me, and longing for those concrete, mathematical and record keeping things such as a plane ticket here or there, perhaps a road trip.

We are designed, in our bodies, in fluid and relative natures. For example, my hands type this, or operate machinery. However, I do not know how all the ligaments and muscles function to get these tasks done. However, if I designed a robotic machine, I would put sensors in the fingers to track just how much motion occurred when performing a concrete movement. In a way, our bodies are relative. Although God knows exactly how many cells are in my fingers, I don't need to know that. There is no way to represent a human's hand with our current mathematical and physics understanding. God is concerned with our fingers and hands. He knows exactly how much force each finger must exert to move, and how the ligaments pull on the bones and in what exact direction. These are things we may never understand, because we only understand mathematical models defined by equations.

When I think of what great things I can do, I know I will never be able to do something as great as Jesus. Maybe we all desire a little bit of Heaven in our fingertips, but Jesus rules us all. I keep a little hideaway link in my portfolio website. If a viewer tries all the things that don't look like hyperlinks, he will find my cartoons, which stray into areas of religion and politics. The world seems turned off toward such things. This web page contains all the greats: all the artists and musicians I consider great. It details a short testament to how they have changed the world or made it a better place. Of course, I place myself on this list: hoping to do something anywhere near as moving and monumental in the world. I hope that what I do will become recognized. But throughout my life, much of what I have done is within the framework of human relationships, which again do not hold a precise and steadfast nature. They, too, are fluid. I find myself begging to make some achievement that will last past my mortal life, but hasn't God already made us immortal? What more could I ask for than fame in His eyes? That is a fame that lasts longer, even forever.

At the top of this hidden, hyperlinked page is the testament to which Jesus left us with, and the accomplishment He has performed. And yet, His contribution to society goes unmarked. He is, perhaps, the most famous and well known above any other person, yet I find I can not adequately describe His feat. He wasn't a famous mathematician or a graphical artist. He didn't spread a profound new physics theory, be it gravity or of relativity. He saved all souls. The people who become famous seem to have some ground shattering development in world knowledge, but there Jesus stands: greater than any man and did more any human could do. This is why He is God.

I find myself wondering what His personality was like: what type of music did He like? Did he enjoy a cup of coffee each morning and sit at the pre-reformation version of a Starbucks? What would he be like to me if I were to meet Him? How would His personality be perfectly suited for me, when He is really God and there are over seven billion unique people living on this Earth? He must interact with each one in a way that suits their unique personality. These things seem unfathomable, and so I ignore or gloss over them. Truly Jesus was the first interested in the world of relationships. Maybe He could be considered the world's first psychologist in a way... I just don't know. Jesus is clearly other than something I really want. I find myself resigned to how He works, even in the face of all the treats and bonuses He has given me in terms of travel here or there or inspiration on how to draw a comic strip or design a newsletter. Only He can make me famous for some contribution I add to society: some new musical rhythm. This I want: something that will last and be venerated by the world like Charles Schulz's contributions to cartooning or Brian Transeau's contribution to electronic music. Meanwhile, Jesus remains interested in the imperfect. Jesus is interested in my heart, which remains interested in fame, fortune or power. Somehow I just don't want the things that Jesus wants. In that weird way, Jesus is concerned with that fleshly me: the imperfect mechanics of my fingers, mind and soul. What Jesus writes on my heart lasts longer than any possible worldly fame and dream.

As I get older I notice my memory is not what it used to be. And because of incessant marijuana use as a young adult, it has never been that great. I have watched Granny suffer from dementia in the last 4 years of her life: she can not form new memories. In a way, I notice this trend in myself. The human spirit is indomitable, and finds ways to adapt with the circumstances it is given. I find myself trying to recreate things that my memory has forgotten. For instance, on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, I gave up graphic design in such a pronounced and definitive way. I have not done any project near as complex as in my degree days. I regret this, but I find myself trying to pick up the pieces again as I try to make a career out of this.

In a way, Jesus changes what is important to us. At least I find this in myself. I am trying to recreate a disciplined way of doing things which require recreating what I learned from where I am at. I pick up projects and review old ones one from a point of where they are at, since I can not remember the details of what I have done. File and organizational structure are created a new instead of using the old pattern of such detail. Living with depression certainly affects the way my mind works. Depression is not good for memory, as memory is dependent upon mood. However, my memory suffers challenges each time I am hospitalized. This past July I was hospitalized for my second psychotic break in my life. It interrupted everything: my work, my social life, my family life. Every time I get hospitalized my memory and mind are affected just the same as they were as my pot use in my post college career. I find I have to reinvent myself and the way I think from scratch: almost not knowing where I come from. I see this in Granny as she continues to suffer from dementia. In a way, reinventing the mind to overcome these problems is similar to turning the Titanic. It takes a long time.

I find the same is true in Jesus' actions upon my soul. Truly God wants me to worship in spirit and in truth, not just with meaningless words, prayers and mentions. He wants my soul to turn toward Him and worship Him. This is, in fact, only something He can teach our souls because we are born unaccustomed to the ways of the Lord, being fallen and broken beings. I liken this process also to turning the Titanic. What Jesus wants from me seems to be my heart and soul.

He wants to be first. When I constantly cartoon, write and blog online, I find myself touting my own accomplishments and putting Jesus in the passenger seat. This He tries to change. He wants me to put Him first: to feel wonderful about Him and His salvation. When I spread the news of how He is and how I perceive Him, I believe He wants me to know Him and believe in Him fully as He has made Himself known. As mentioned, I put fame and music and new discoveries first. Jesus wants to be first, and not just a few Bible quotes on the top of a hidden, hyperlinked page. This change in world view is something akin to turning the Titanic, and yet I believe it is how God is acting in all our lives to those who willingly follow.

I have no idea how to put Him first. I talk about myself all the time on social media. I seek my own glory through the skills I have learned and those I want to. My attempts are meager at best. Putting God first in a fallen soul requires a completely life changing and soul altering experience. This is why we submit to God and work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. I am not even interested in Jesus as was the case with my improved family dynamics. These changes just seem to happen, where I just want to travel here or there or do this or that. Loving Jesus seems to be an unintended and not even desired effect of the Light shining on my soul. To truly be God's may take my whole life. It may never happen in this world, I just do not know. But I wait and see, because God puts the safety chocks on you and me. In the middle of fulfilling all my silly little dreams God seems to sate these bigger dreams I had no idea about and never would have thought to ask. This is something I can appreciate on an intellectual level, but not necessarily in an everyday, soul affirming level. I truly appreciate the promises of the Bible that ring true: that I need not worry about anything and if I trust in the Lord with all my heart He will make my paths straight. He changes the soul regardless of what I focus on from moment to moment. It can only be my hope that when I see what He does, I will appreciate it someday when His work is complete. I am truly grateful for not needing to worry about this or that little fear that plagues my heart with employment, labor and disability.

I can only say God is awesome from some fractured way of understanding Him. Somehow He tells His

story to society in these different ways He wants to: in a way that really captures the story and makes it compelling. Jesus is our Majesty. I can only talk about Him in a way that would deny Him with my very next action. This is all changing at the pace that the Titanic can turn. I can't see where I am going, but I know it is better than I can imagine even if it is different from what I want. One day I will truly be thankful.

Some have faith that is stronger than mine when it comes to certain areas, like provision or miraculous works. Some can understand these things in partiality while I need the whole kit and caboodle. I know when God teaches me what He wants me to learn, it will be in a way that I understand and will free me from the ways that I doubt.

Over the past three years since that fateful day in February of 2012, I have noticed a shift in my interests and what becomes important to me. I still continue to take the trips and travel here or there: I have been blessed with the ability to travel, though it doesn't seem to mean the same thing. Instead I have found patterns emerging that I hadn't noticed: not only with family, but also in my social life. One thing that rings clearest to me is my Christmas Carol Parties. I have always enjoyed hospitality and throwing parties, but these seem to be improving. I held the first of the

Christmas Carol Parties at the home of my housemate's back in 2011. We gathered around the kitchen table, ate dinner and sang afterwards. And every year the party gets bigger. I held two in my single bedroom apartment in Worcester. It drew crowds even though I lived far from my friends. Now, in Framingham, I have held my fourth. I love this tradition! This time, 20 people came at different parts and made the party what it was. We had a storyteller tell two stories and capped off the night with the movie, It's a Wonderful Life. I enjoy picking out a new movie to share each year. When the caroling came, I let the group lead the pack. I noticed even more than in the past, I focused on serving and not my own social needs. And these were met as well. Old friends drop their guard from past hurts, habits and hang-ups I left on their soul. It truly is a wonderful life, and each year that we grow closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, it is a good one. Jesus Christ encompasses everything. One day we shall all see Him as He is, and come to appreciate Him in that new perspective and light. It will be like nothing ever seen before, nothing imagined nor perceived. And I know I will love Him and not shrink back. I will truly appreciate Him, and not just for what He does for me, but because I know Him and love Him as who He is, gentle and kind, powerful and merciful at the same time, unique in the way He shows Himself to me.

.....◇◇◇.....

And now, what would Etoonin' be without a little blurb from me ...



On 11/8/14, I spontaneously resigned my job at Staples after 2 yrs, 2 mo. (the longest I'd held a job since 2004-2006). I immediately found work with UPS (11/12 to 11/24). After a week, I resigned and went to FedEx, which pays more and everyone is friendlier (11/25/14 on, my 35<sup>th</sup> job). Thus I held 3 different jobs in one calendar month. I am currently looking for job #36. I am hoping to break into Graphic Design full-time. I started a new medication which keeps me remarkably stable. Whereas I used to be depressed as a baseline, now I am slightly elevated as the norm. Yay!

---



ELECTRONIC OPUS – BRIAN TRANSEAU – SUNDAY, 3/29/15 – 8 PM

From Saturday, 3/28, through Monday, 3/30, I will travel to Miami, FL to see my favorite musician introduce a never heard before concert of Electronic Dance Music (EDM) with an accompanying live orchestra. I have a second ticket for a friend. If you are interested, let me know. I've invited a friend who'll decide in February, but I am looking for backup.



I would also like to go to Texas to visit friends in Flowermound, Plano, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin around Labor Day 2015. I have a flight credit on JetBlue.

---

IF YOU WOULD BE SO INCLINED, PLEASE DONATE TO A MUSIC CLASS:



**Framingham** MUSC 111 – Introduction to Electroacoustic Music Composition (*Class I'd like to take*)

State University

An introduction to the hardware, software and techniques involved with composing, editing and producing original electroacoustic music. The primary goal is to gain facility in using a modern recording/production studio for creative purposes. Such skills include a working knowledge of how to use a mixing console, proper microphone usage, and file management in a digital studio. The student also gains software experience in sound editing, composition, sequencing, mixing, synthesis and virtual instrument design. Most importantly, the student utilizes these tools to **create original compositions**. (*2015 Spring or Fall Semester, Tuition ~ \$1,300*)

JIM BURES – 3 ANTRIM ROAD – FRAMINGHAM, MA 01701 – PAYPAL: JIM.BURES@HOTMAIL.COM

---

## CARTOONS ON HOLD FOR THE MOMENT

Thank you for your understanding. I just felt some creative writing wanting to come out.

<http://www.AllfortheLord.com/Jesus/is/Love.php>

©2014 Jim Bures