

Etoonin' Incorporated - All for the Lord

2018.09.02

Be Strong and Courageous

XIX/152

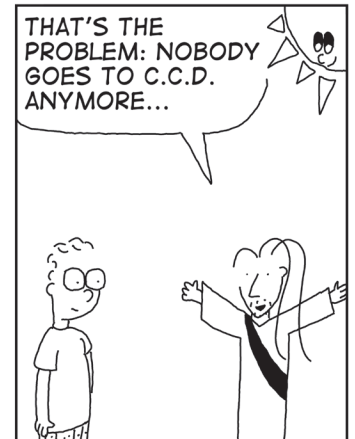
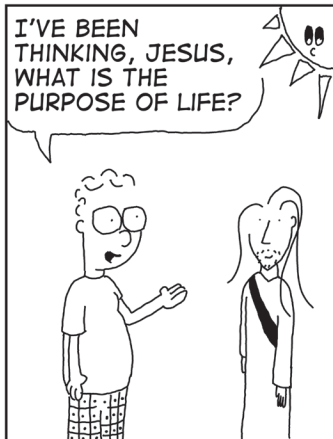
One thing I like about Christ is that if you humble yourself, you will get to know Him better. And He is better than anything, so it is worthwhile. I have been thinking about my motivation as a cartoonist and how I want fame. I've been studying the movie *Courageous* by the Kendrick

Brothers. The whole crew prayed before each day of filming. They are wildly successful, but committed to making Jesus known. I want to align myself more with that type of vision. I want to make Jesus known. Without Him, I lack inspiration and motivation. I need Him to Toon in'!

toon in'...

DEFINITION

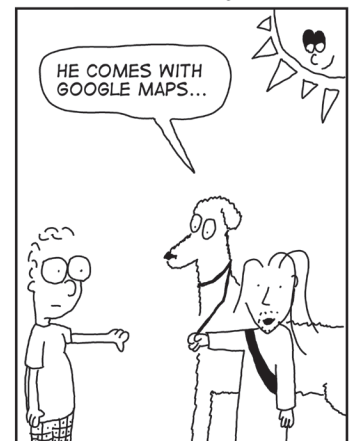
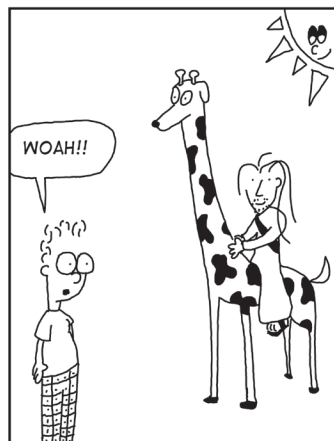
JULY 23RD, 2018



toon in'...

TOUGHEN UP

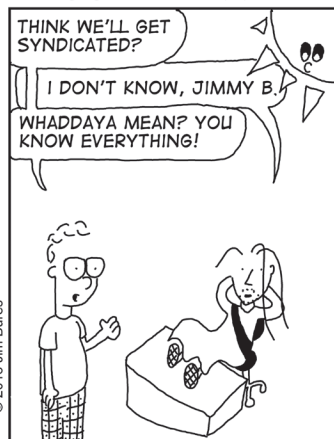
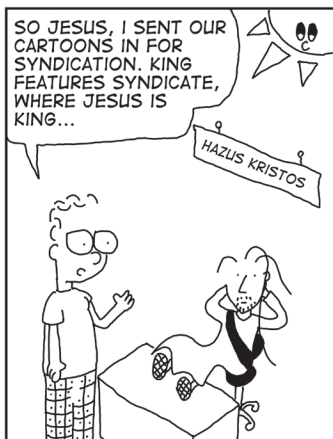
AUG 13.1, 2018



toon in'...

PASSIN' TIME...

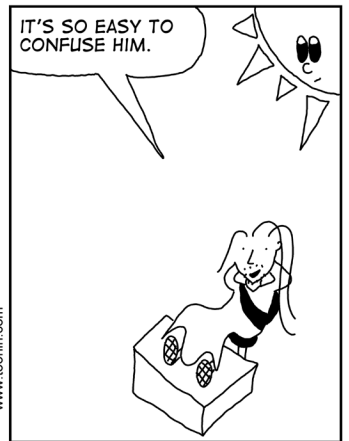
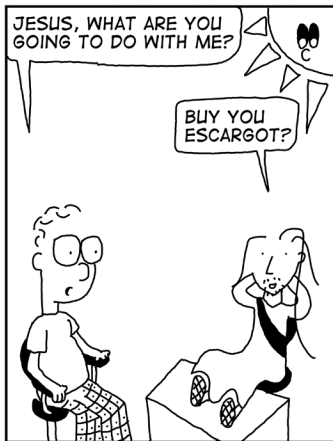
AUGUST 19, 2018



toon in'...

THE DISTRACTED MIND

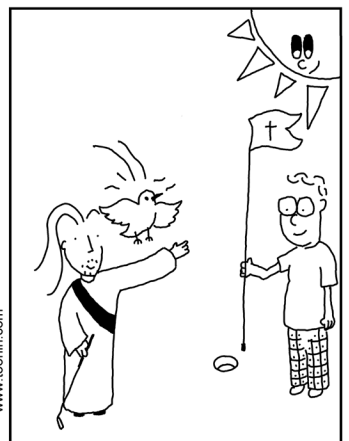
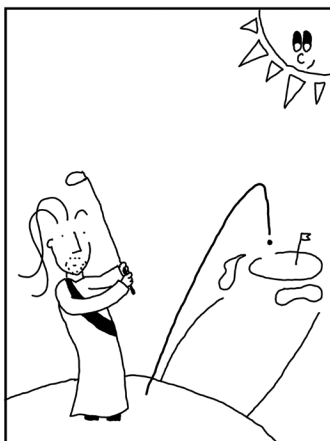
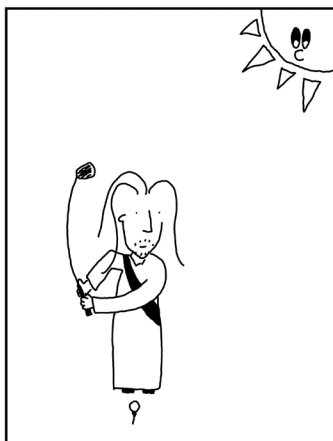
AUG. 20TH, 2018



toon in'...

SUBPAR

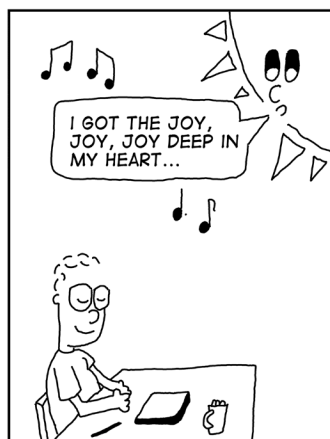
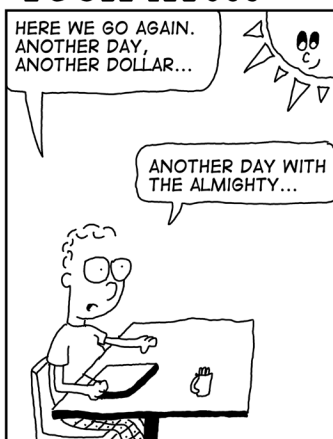
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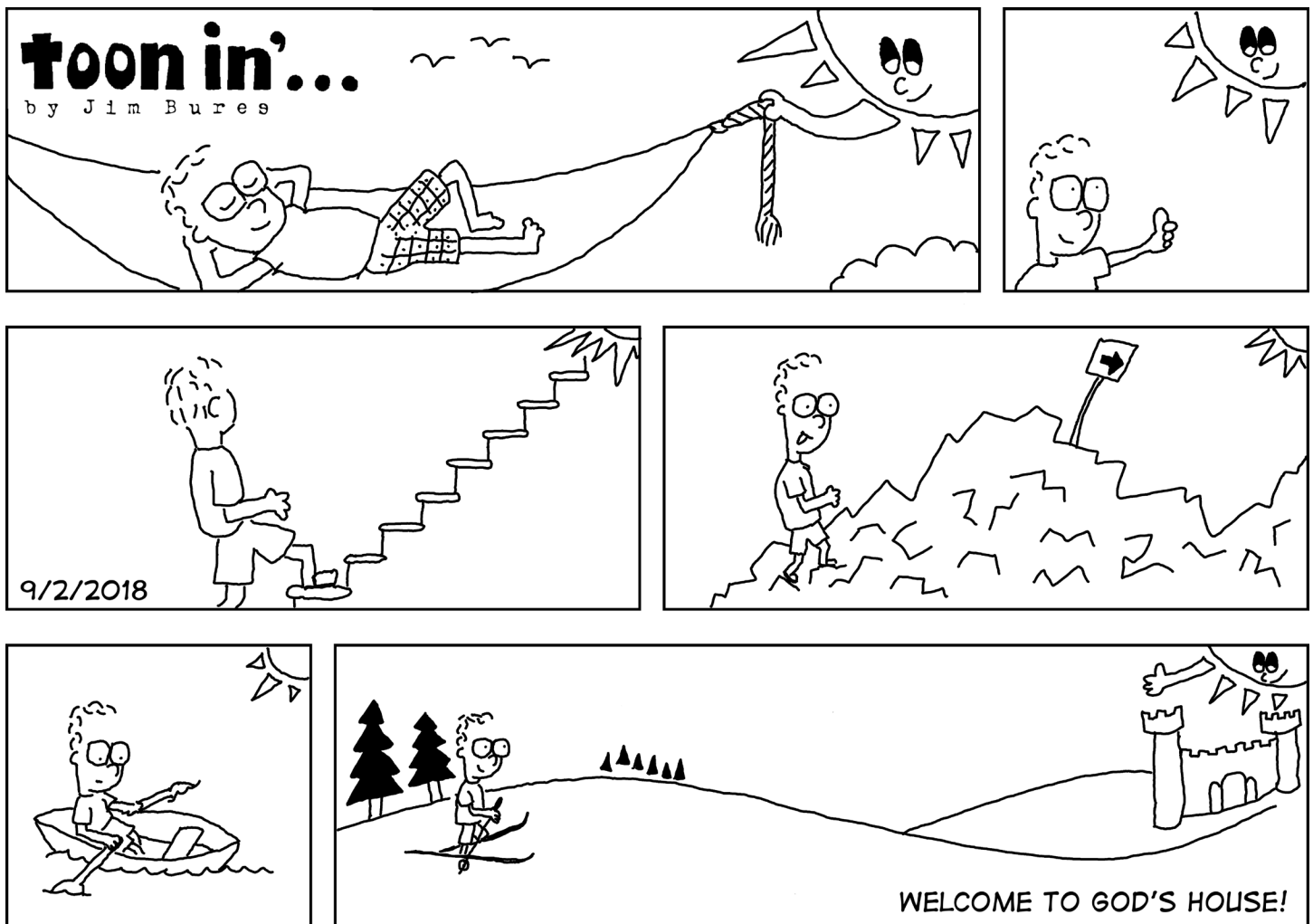


toon in'...

HOSANNA

SEPT 1, 2018





MY FIRST SUNDAY COMIC STRIP!!!

A

Sunday Comic Strip

is designed so that it can fit a variety of for-

mats. Some newspapers omit the first two frames. Because of this,

the cartoonist needs to make the first two panels a gag strip to themselves and then a

longer story in the frames that follow it. Some like to print the cartoon on two rows instead of the three shown above. In this case, the two cartoon panels in the middle would be moved one to the top and one to the bottom. Some Sunday comic strips are printed with the panels stacked vertically. Traditionally, only the Sunday comic strips were printed in color, since it was more expensive. Nowadays, even the weekday cartoons are in color. When I was growing up, cartoonists selected colors from a standard chart and marked which areas have which color, like a paint by number diagram. Traditionally, four color process (CMYK) printing was standard, in which Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black inks were each applied separately. When viewed together, they can take on almost any color to the human eye. I designed blank Sunday cartoon panels years ago, but never used them until now. With my computer, I can pan and zoom and draw anywhere, while if I only use pen and paper, it would be too unwieldy to control. One step closer to a professional!

On September 4th, I will finish one year at EndoEvolution.

This is the longest I've held a professional position since 2006. I thank God, without whom this would not be possible. I have seen God's hand so many times from leading business meetings successfully, improving our product through ISO 13485 level design change testing and qualification, to unsupervised corporate travel to ensure modifications are produced correctly at contract manufacturers. Through all this, I have enjoyed recognition from my supervisor and coworkers for the speed at which I produce quality work. My boss tells his boss that I work too fast. I have also enjoyed great generosity from my boss.

These responsibilities grew gradually, but not without anxiousness in my heart. Many morning drives I'd calm myself with Christian music and tears to let the stress out. I had to remind myself over and over that the Lord would fight for me; I need only to be still (Exodus 14:14). And this worked! Not only that, but God honored me to draw conversation about Christ from every one of my coworkers, even my supervisor. Because of this, I've been able to encourage and pray for them, and God graces me to listen and answer affirmatively. People see Jesus shine through me.

Unfortunately my illness, Bipolar Disorder I, continues. I've had more than my share of absences. Thankfully, it has always worked out. My boss has graciously given me time off to recover, encouraging me not to feel guilty and not to resign out of shame. It is hard to take these messages to heart when he also talks about the impact to the business, but I have to take him at his word. It smarts inside at times.

I continue to work through these issues very publicly, which embarrasses me, but I guess I have to trust friends. I've been able to delete my Facebook though. Ice cream also helps!

I guess the main takeaway I'd like to leave you with is to never stop trying to overcome your fear and anxiety. Everyone worries: that opportunity is provided each day. But don't let these things stop you. I am grateful to God, my Helper, that He has led me out of the thorough, mind buzzing, all encompassing anxiety that I experienced in 2012. Every day of my current life is better. It was the Lord that delivered me; He continues to deliver me. Don't let yourself get comfortable with fear and anxiety: fight it! Don't give up! Cry out to your Lord, who cares for you!

There is no way God wants you to live in fear, but I know the feeling of not knowing the way out. When I think of each speech from my supervisor, I think of how his candor about my situation hurts. I can't help missing work when I'm depressed. It feels miserable to let someone down. But to entertain anxiety is fear of a shadow. My boss has told me not to quit; not to feel guilty; not to worry. That is all fear is: a shadow. I know how it blinds the emotions, but with God at your side, you are safe! No route through life will prevent you from reaching Heaven if your faith is in Jesus Christ. You can flip the bird at anyone and still get there.

If you trust in Him, you can relax your grip. Anxiety comes and goes, and it can be strong. The enemy makes us dwell in the darkness like those long dead (Psalm 143:3). But God exposes our fear to the light so we can see it for what it is. We are like children learning: our Father shepherds us. He doesn't expect us to trust Him without demonstrating how He can be trusted! As you learn to trust Him you will see smaller problems melt away. The bigger problems that surface will become smaller problems with more time too. And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Satan wants you to look at momentary troubles to forget about eternal sanctuaries. And, most likely, you don't have to go it alone: your friends can help. There are Christian therapists too. There is hope. They [the saints] triumphed over him [the accuser] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11).

The Christian movie *Courageous* talks about the responsibilities of Fatherhood. I highly recommend it. The movie, and the stories behind it, encourage me to resolve to be a man and to prepare to be a husband and father. These are things I could not consider on all those part-time jobs. I became a man around age 39, in 2012, when God broke the fiscal cord from my family. God has delivered me and I believe He will deliver you too. Call out to Him: pray. Draw Him close to you through persistent prayer. Don't accept a bad situation: God brings peace. Trust and don't give up!

Thank you for reading. I hope you were blessed. The toons are a work in progress as I learn to use my touchscreen and pen. I'm reluctant to draw them, I admit. I now see things getting done whether I want to or not, especially at work. That also encourages me to trust my Savior.

Stay tooned, my friends...

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