

Etoonin' Incorporated - All for the Lord

2023.10.08

The Music Motif Man

XXIV/171

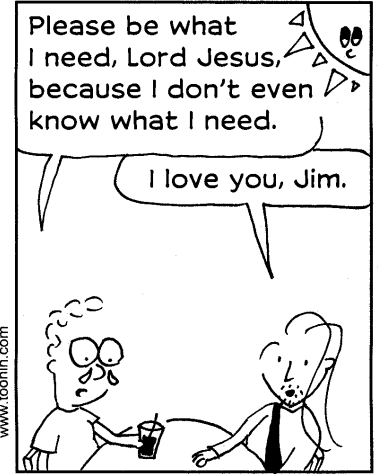
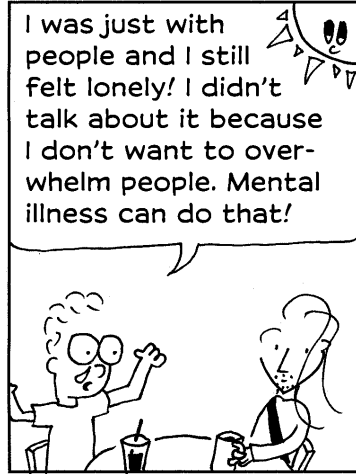
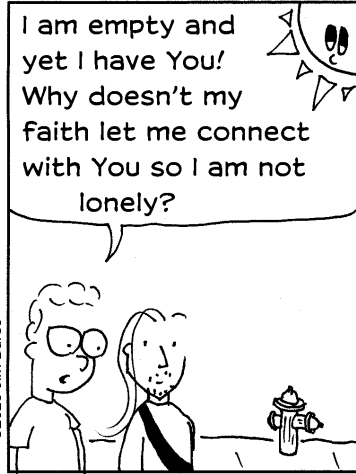
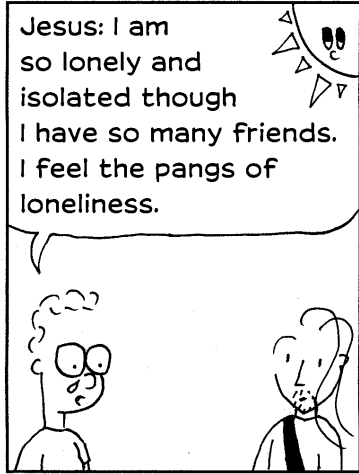
There are some victories in this Etoonin', and one is that God enabled me to break free from dialog and draw more creatively. Not in every cartoon, but some of them. Another victory is the

A (95%) I earned in my ICON Collective music class. And, through friends like Roger and Paul, I learned a new trick to implement in my relationships: offer people grace. Enjoy!

toon in'...

The Sole Moment

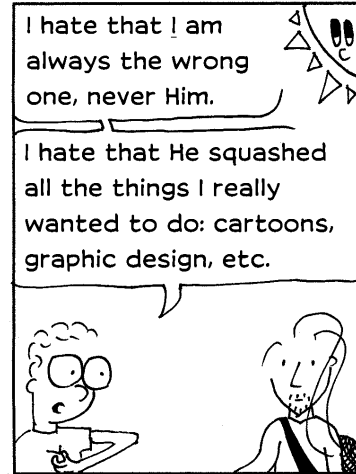
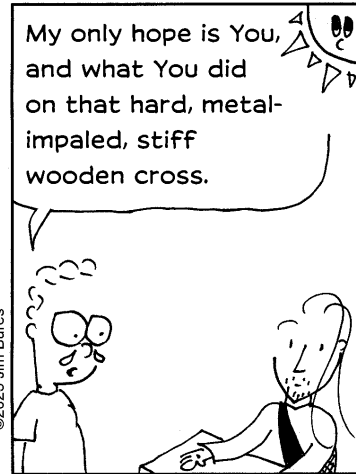
July 30th, 2023



toon in'...

The Truth Deep Down in the Soul...

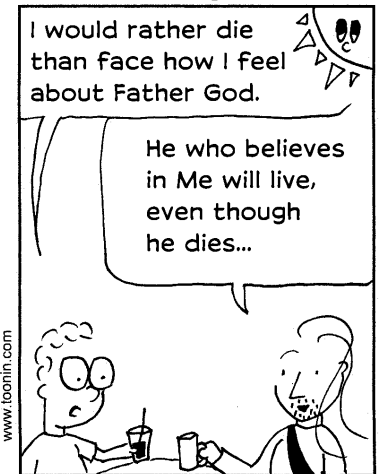
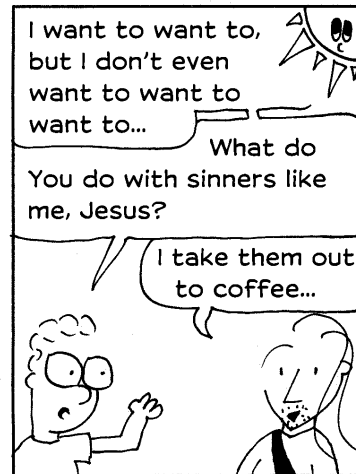
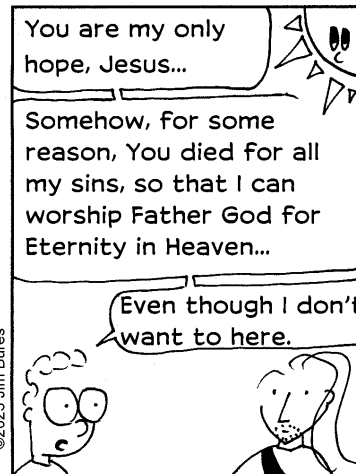
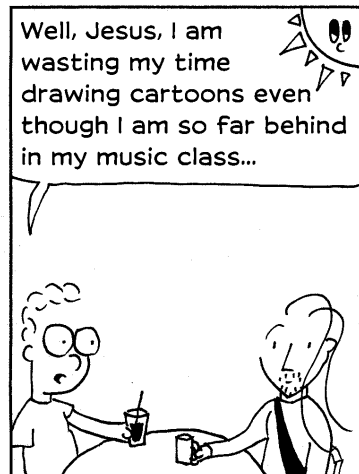
July 31st, 2023



toon in'...

I just don't get it.

Aug. 1st. 2023



toon in'...

To not worship You

Aug. 4th, 2023

Jesus! Jesus!
I have a good report...

I finished 3.5 music lessons in the past two days!

That's great, Jim.

And I have been hearing Father God talk to me...

He says very loving and encouraging things.

That's my Dad!

I just can't believe He would love me when I curse Him out so often...

You are saved from God's wrath by what I did on the cross.

Thank You!!!

toon in'...

The Grand Motif

Aug. 4^{1/2}, 2023

It is like a breath of fresh air that Father God is talking to me and not satan...

Lord Jesus, I just wish I could love like You...

You love so well. Love is all that matters.

Why thank you, Jim. The check is in the mail for that.

I learned about motifs yesterday and how a simple, repeated musical pattern draws people in.

Oh, and at Home Group we sang so loud!!!

I loved it!

One motif I like to use is: you sin; I forgive you; I restore you. You sin; I forgive you; I restore you...

toon in'...

God is on the Throne...

Aug. 12th, 2023

God: I want to do something meaningful...

Nothing is meaningful apart from You!

I have this chance to share You with others in the stroke of my pen, but so often, I waste my life; I waste my time.

Jesus, help me!

Friends, family, foe... God loves you and wants you to come to repentance.

Heaven awaits if you believe in Jesus!

God is the rightful Owner of our hearts; not our money; not our TVs...

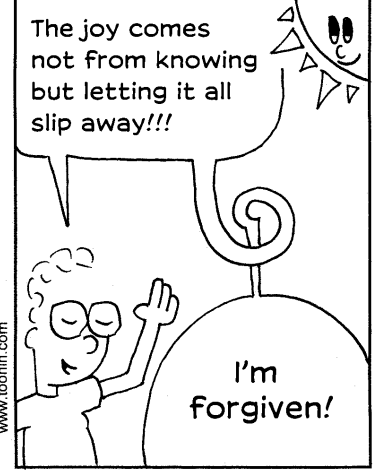
We were made for Him...

John 3:16

toon in'...

East from West...

Aug. 19th, 2023



toon in'...

Turning defeat into opportunity...

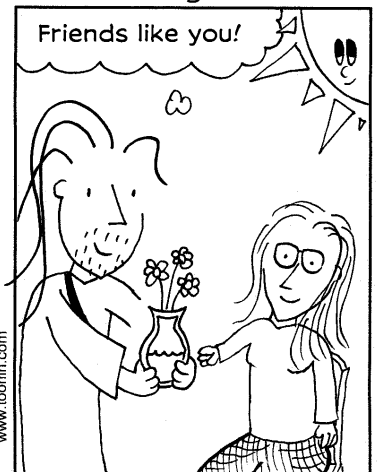
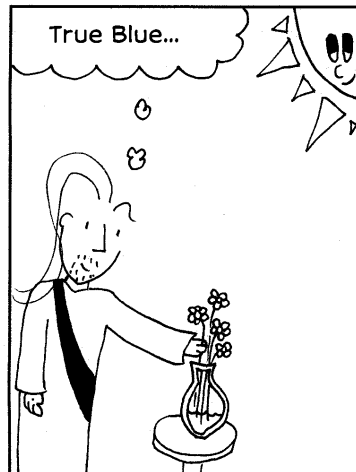
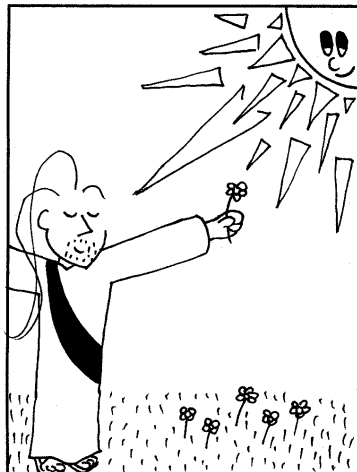
Aug. 19^{1/2}, 2023



toon in'...

Another way to say...

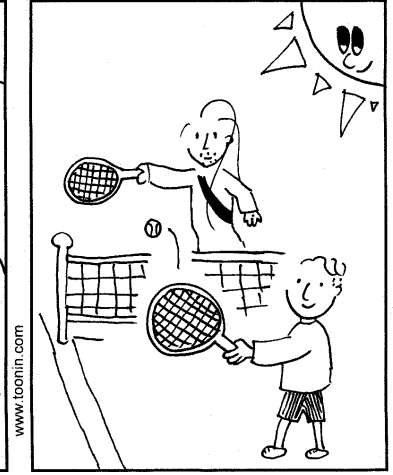
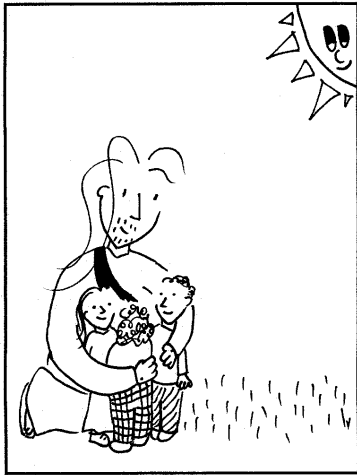
Aug. 30th, 2023



toon in'...

Suffer not...

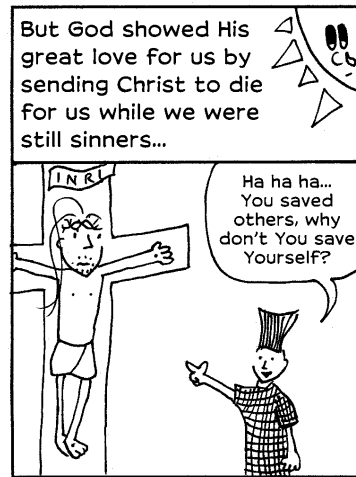
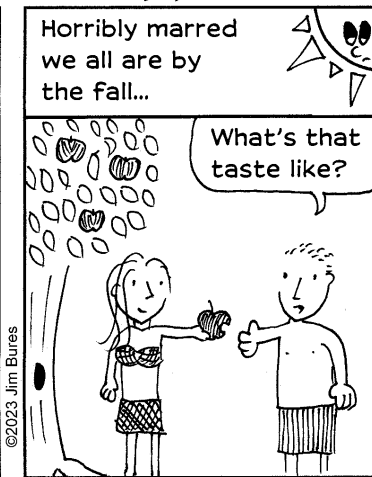
Aug. 30^{1/2}, 2023



toon in'...

For the joy set before Him...

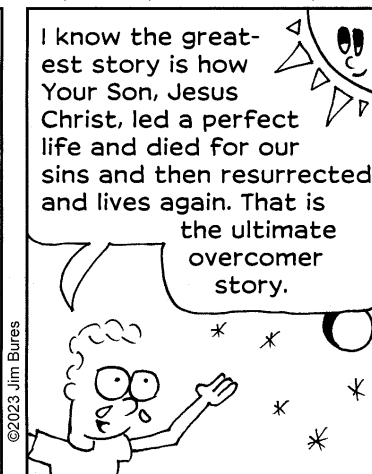
Sept. 2nd, 2023

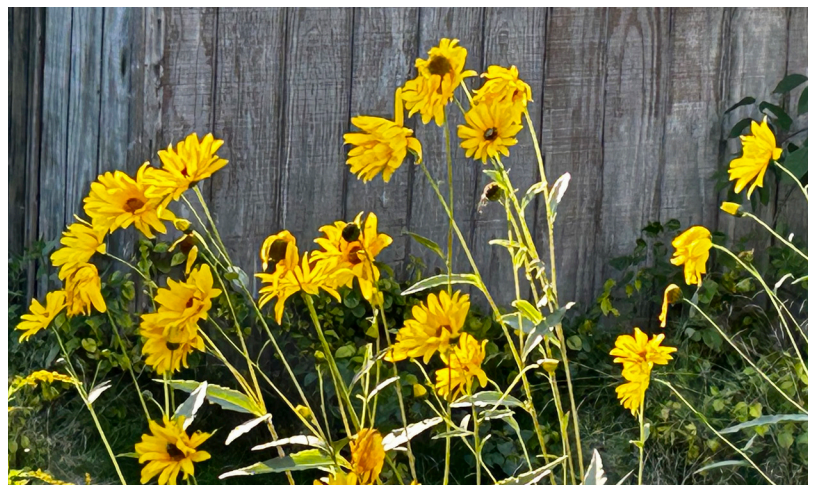
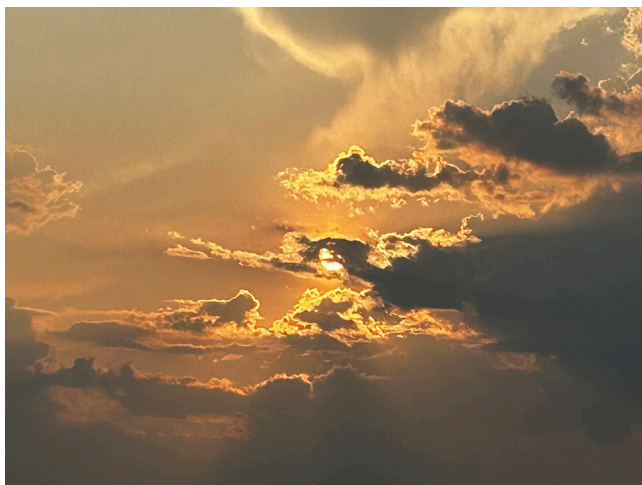
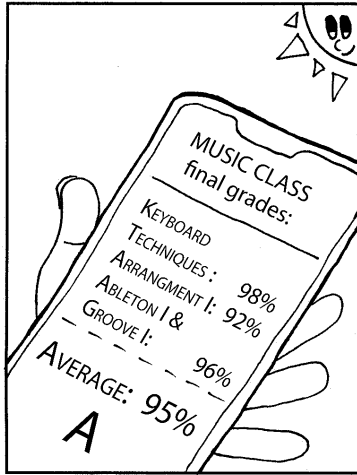


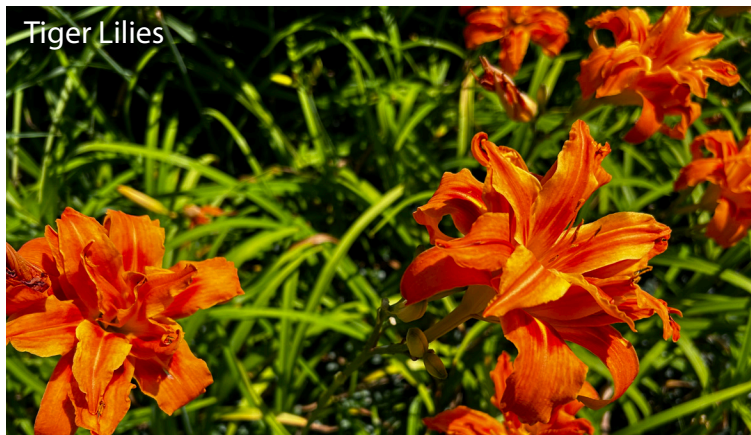
toon in'...

My Story Your Glory

Sept. 26th, 2023







I took the Online Music Production Intro Course with ICON Collective, an electronic music school in Burbank, CA, from 7/3 - 9/16/2023. I earned an A (95%)! Praise God! There were three parts to this course: Keyboard Techniques (98%), Arrangement (92%) and Ableton I & Groove I (96%). I learned a lot about the fundamentals of music production and music theory, especially as it relates to electronic music, and how to use the DAW (Digital Audio Workstation), Ableton. I struggled with anxiety through the course, but, as always, God poured on the waterworks and I completed eight lessons in the final 14 days of class (there were 24 lessons total). This took precision, because each lesson had to be graded in a certain order before I could move to the next lesson in each of the classes. My only regret is that I did not compose any songs. I feel I owe you more.

I am so grateful to you, my donors. Donations continued to flow in as the class progressed. You all gave me \$3,405: thank you! That was more than enough to cover the class and the application fee. I have \$278.99 left toward my next music adventure. I would like to extend a special thank you to Ken Kwa, who separately donated all the equipment needed for the course: the laptop, keyboard, headphones and Ableton Live 11 DAW. I would also thank André Elijah, who donated \$500. I don't even know him! Thank you all so much: may God bless you!

I did most of my coursework at Panera (man was it embarrassing to work on a keyboard in there). One day, as I drove in, God told me someone else would pay for my sandwich. I get all kinds of crazy thoughts inside my head, so I didn't really believe Him. But sure enough, when I ordered my sandwich, I got it for free! As I thanked Him, He said, "This kind of stuff is going to happen more often." I sent out an email about this story, in which I stated that I didn't believe that either. A family member pointed out how I doubted God right after He blessed me. Apparently he thought it created a backhanded compliment. That disappointed me, because it detracted from a great story.

Around that time, I was coming to grips that I hate God. I do love God, but I think, because of the fall, my natural instinct is to hate Him too. I know that uncouth to mention, but it's truth.



After a series of emails with this family member, I realized that my faith seems less than desirable to those closest to me. I never realized there was a problem. I don't exactly know what the problem is, but I have a feeling I appear a hypocrite. Maybe because I tell people to believe in Jesus, but don't trust Him myself. My up and down faith in God connects to my up and down bipolar. I have suffered so much since becoming a Christian, and I blame that on God. He is sovereign. I know my life is so blessed, much more than so many on this planet. Anyway, it was hard to realize I am a hypocrite. I guess I am only human. I have trouble trying to draw others to Christ, because I suffer such a hard illness after meeting Him myself. I know my suffering is temporary, limited to the duration of my lifespan, and that Heaven will more than make up for it. But I find it hard to earnestly coax others to faith when it meant suffering to me.

Anyway, I don't have the solution. I will have to wait for God the answer. I know the Bible is clear that we are all sinners. But the Bible is also clear that God loves to show mercy to sinners, even those reserved for wrath. He forgives sin and rebellion.

It was so scary when I almost died in 1997. It had an affect on me. I felt, at points, that if I stopped walking, I would die. As I reflect on those times, I realize that I was escaping God's wrath. God's wrath is upon unbelievers: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." (John 3:36) God had great mercy on me, but I was an object of destruction before I came to believe in the Lord Jesus about six months later.'

Anyway, I have made a number of changes to my diet that will add up to big effects (I hope): 1) I gave up eating candy bars; 2) I gave up eating chocolate chip muffins; 3) I gave up drinking soda (I still struggle with this one) and 4) I gave up butter on my bread at Panera (I eat there a lot and they give bread as a free side). I have trouble with moderation, but sweeping changes are easier. I won't forget them: they are black or white. They become habit. The point is that I also made a change to my interpersonal life: I am giving people grace. This is a tougher change, as I really have to check myself in communication, but so much worth it.



Grace is defined as unmerited favor. Normally, I try to correct a person that does things I don't like, but from now on, I am going to give them grace. I notice two close friends excel at this: Roger and Paul. They don't call me to task on stupid things I say or do, they offer me grace. They never really say a bad thing to me. They inspired me to make this change. If someone emails or texts something I don't like, I am going to just gloss over it instead of offering a rebuke. I am going to hold a reserve. I am just going to watch and listen instead of reacting in frustration or anger. I think this new habit will have far reaching effects, as I think it will make me more likeable. I think this will also work great with family members. So often, I want family to treat me a certain way, to be to me like my friends are: very empathetic and supportive. I am learning they may never get to that point. So, instead, I am going to offer them grace. I am going to stop trying to change them, but wait a while: give them space. I am going to hold a reserve with them. I feel this will more likely get me what I want anyway.

A friend in behavioral health quoted a practice common in therapy: assume positive intentions. I like that too.

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Some of the cartoons in this Etoonin' are more creative than usual. Just before I drew those, I looked at my old, pre-Christian cartoons. They are just so much more complex and creative than what I draw nowadays. I am praying for more creativity in my art. I have long believed that the world makes the best art. It is important to study art, music, graphic design, etc with unbelievers, because it will make my craft better. I drew two of my cartoons listening to Nine Inch Nails, which

I think is the best example of God-hating ever! Trent Reznor really captures how to vehemently despise God. His music is so complex and rich in detail, unlike CCM (Contemporary Christian Music). CCM has its place in my heart too, but sometimes I enjoy hearing a man just letting God have it. To the pure, all things are pure (Titus 1:15).

In the last two weeks of my music class, I crammed in 8 lessons:

- Sunday 9/3 - Arrangement - Lesson 3
- Monday 9/4 - Labor Day - Drove to Florida
- Tuesday 9/5 - Ableton I & Groove I - Lesson 7
- Wednesday 9/6 - Ableton I & Groove I - Lesson 8
- Thursday 9/7 - Arrangement - Lesson 4, Lesson 5 - 1/2 done
- Friday 9/8 - Arrangement - Lesson 5 - done
- Saturday 9/9 - Nothing

- Sunday 9/10 - Arrangement - Lesson 6 - 1/2 done
- Monday 9/11 - Arrangement - Lesson 6 - done
- Tuesday 9/12 - 5:30 PM - QCC Film Appreciation Class
- Wednesday 9/13 - Ableton I & Groove I - Lesson 9
- Thursday 9/14 - Nothing
- Friday 9/15 - Ableton I & Groove I - Lesson 10
- Saturday 9/16 - Final Grading: 95% (A)!!!

Despite this busy schedule, you'll notice I incorporated rest. On Labor Day, I drove to Florida. Florida, Massachusetts, that is! Very picturesque. The music class was very stressful, but I started a Film Appreciation Class at Quinsigamond Community College, a nice stress reliever for me. The class only cost \$25 for seven sessions - it is entirely for fun. No homework; no tests; no grade. I've enjoyed learning about they make films (everything in a film is a choice; every choice costs money).

Well, that's all, folks. I am very grateful to God for all His blessings to me. He rescued me once again, though I struggled. Thank you all for your donations, your prayers, and for listening to me. I am rich with you.

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