

# Etoonin' Incorporated - All for the Lord

2024.06.16

The "He Eclipsed Us" Issue

XXV/173

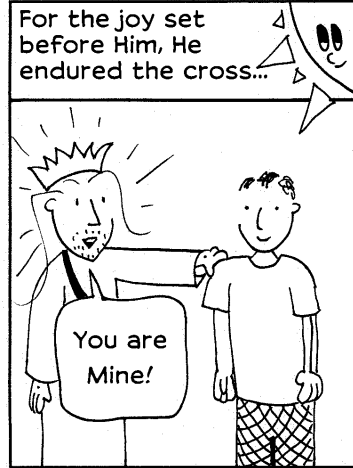
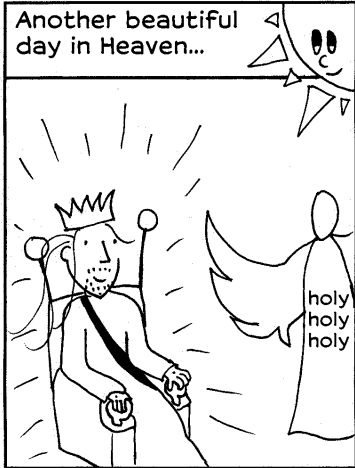
You are in for a treat this issue: lots of cartoons. It is funny, because I don't really enjoy drawing cartoons anymore, but God had me draw five in two days recently. I really appreciate His

help. With the written portion, I hope to capture an amazing Texas vacation that my Dad treated me to. Isn't it great the late light in the afternoon? It is still cold here, but I enjoy all the sun!

## toon in'...

He reigns!

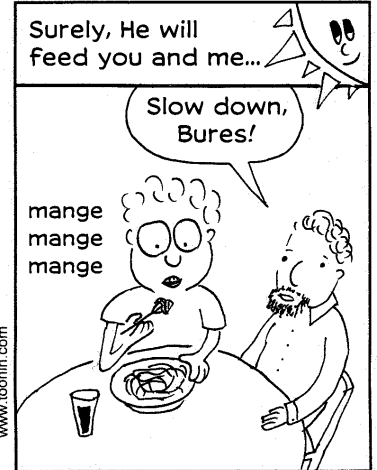
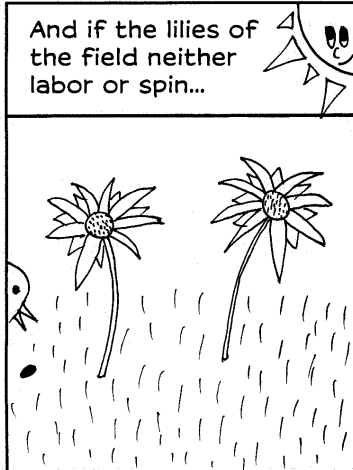
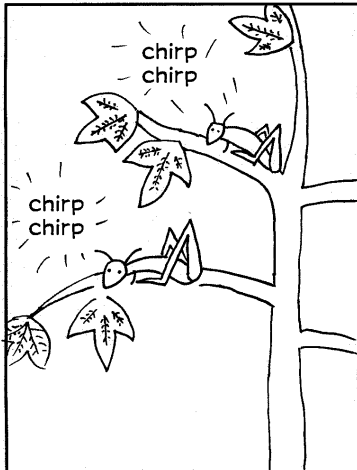
April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024



## toon in'...

If God feeds the crickets, so will He you and me...

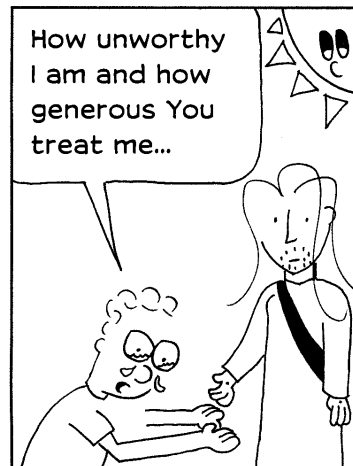
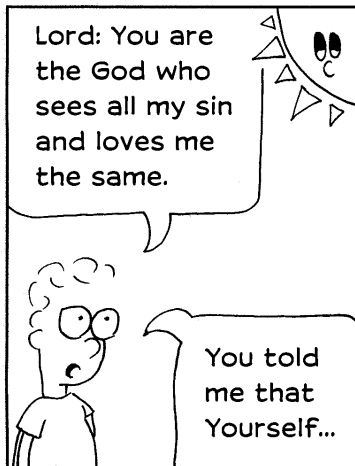
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024



## toon in'...

All the days of my life...

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024



# The Attuning Testimony of Jim Bures

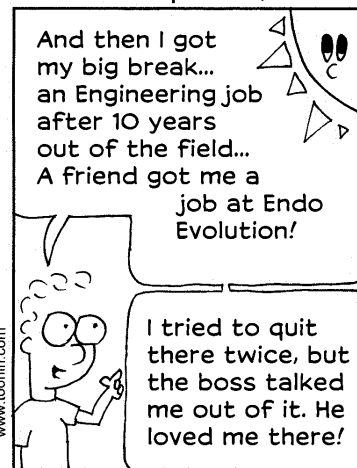
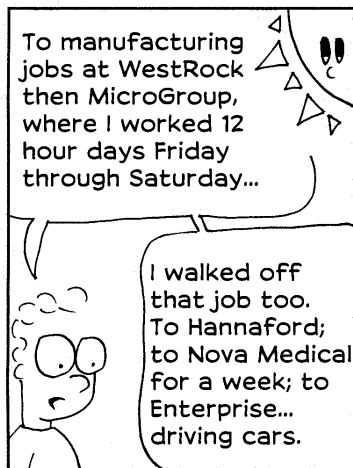
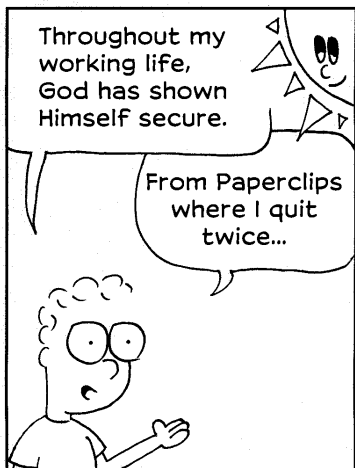
These next six cartoons are not my best. They're heavy on text. As Charles Schulz, creator of the comic strip Peanuts said, cartoons should have action. Show it; don't tell it. However, I include them in this Etoonin' because they tell a great story of God's action in my life. And this covers, only briefly, 2012

and on. People may look at me and think, "What a fool." And rightly so! Thankfully, I am God's fool. He blesses me. I thank you, my family and friends, for your generosity. Without you, I'd be sunk. "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us it is the power of God." 1 Cor 1:18.

## toon in'...

### The faithfulness of God to Jim Bures...

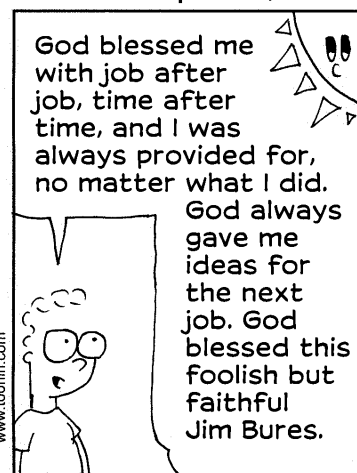
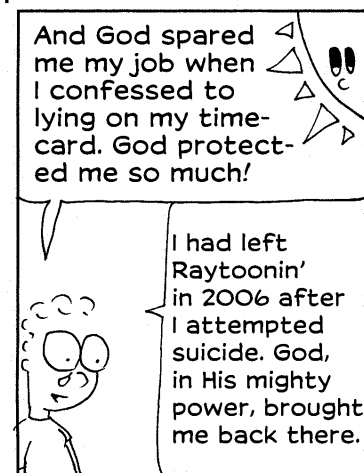
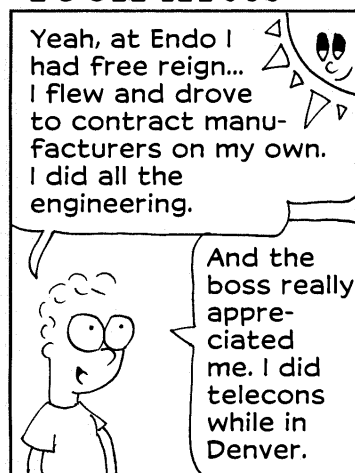
April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## toon in'...

### The faithfulness of God, part 2...

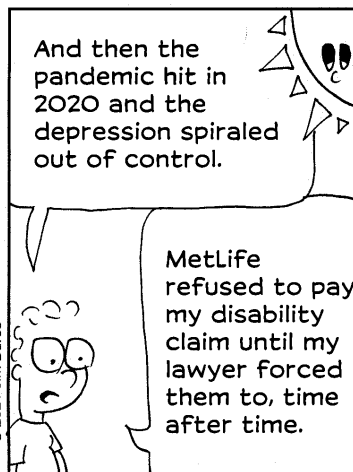
April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## toon in'...

### The faithfulness of God, part 3...

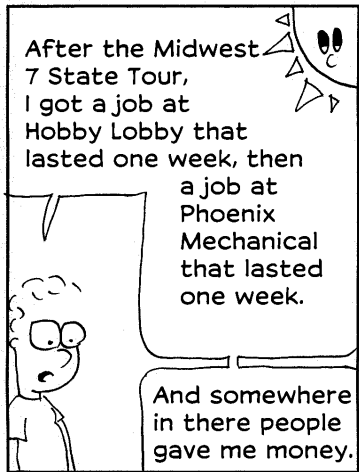
April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024



# toon in'...

The faithfulness of God, part 4...

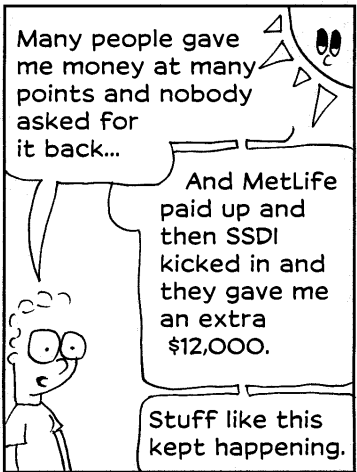
April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024



After the Midwest 7 State Tour, I got a job at Hobby Lobby that lasted one week, then a job at Phoenix Mechanical that lasted one week.

And somewhere in there people gave me money.


© 2021 Jim Bures



Many people gave me money at many points and nobody asked for it back...

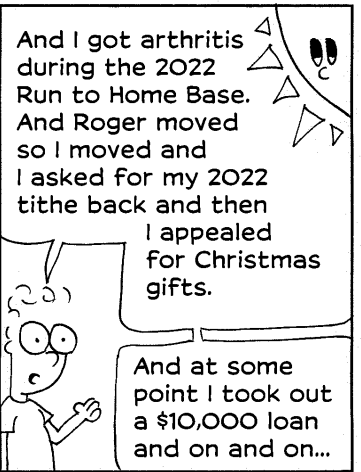
And MetLife paid up and then SSDI kicked in and they gave me an extra \$12,000.

Stuff like this kept happening.



Oh, and I forgot, I worked at Door Dash during Christmas of 2021 while listening to Matthew West's Christmas album.

And in 2022, BT followed me offstage just so he could give me a hug! (this in NYC.)



And I got arthritis during the 2022 Run to Home Base. And Roger moved so I moved and I asked for my 2022 tithe back and then I appealed for Christmas gifts.

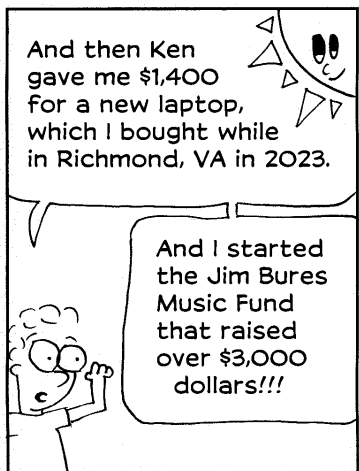
And at some point I took out a \$10,000 loan and on and on...

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# toon in'...

The faithfulness of God, part 5...

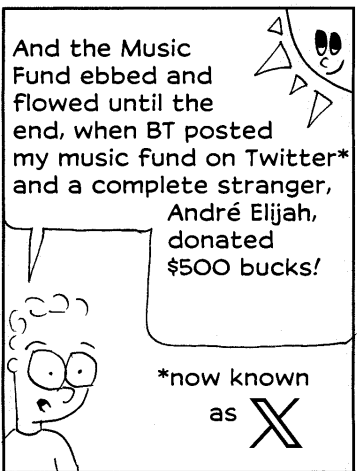
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024



And then Ken gave me \$1,400 for a new laptop, which I bought while in Richmond, VA in 2023.

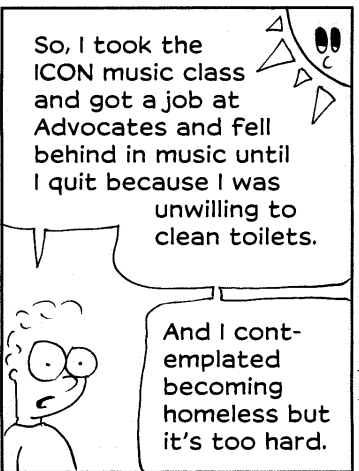
And I started the Jim Bures Music Fund that raised over \$3,000 dollars!!!

© 2021 Jim Bures



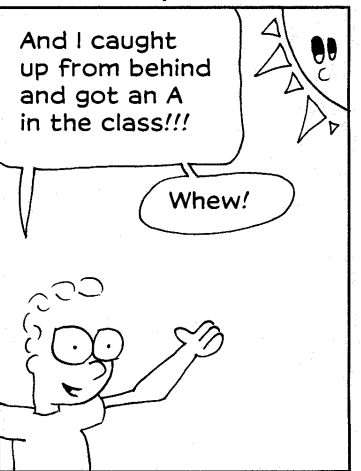
And the Music Fund ebbed and flowed until the end, when BT posted my music fund on Twitter\* and a complete stranger, André Elijah, donated \$500 bucks!

\*now known as X



So, I took the ICON music class and got a job at Advocates and fell behind in music until I quit because I was unwilling to clean toilets.

And I contemplated becoming homeless but it's too hard.



And I caught up from behind and got an A in the class!!!

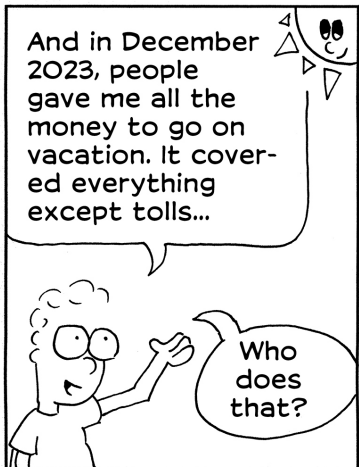
Whew!

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# toon in'...

The faithfulness of God, part 6...

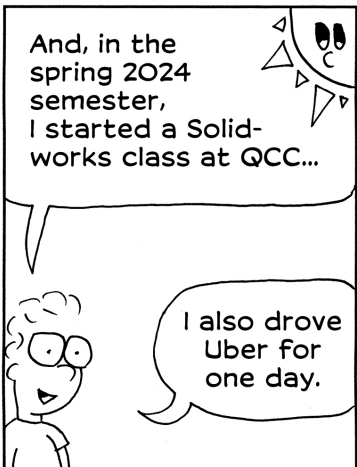
April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024



And in December 2023, people gave me all the money to go on vacation. It covered everything except tolls...

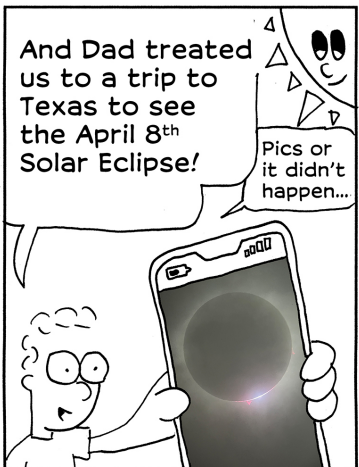
Who does that?

© 2023 Jim Bures




And, in the spring 2024 semester, I started a Solid-works class at QCC...

I also drove Uber for one day.



And Dad treated us to a trip to Texas to see the April 8<sup>th</sup> Solar Eclipse!

Pics or it didn't happen...



What'll God do next???

toon in'...

www.toonin.com



# God, the Being that made this universe, desires to be your God.

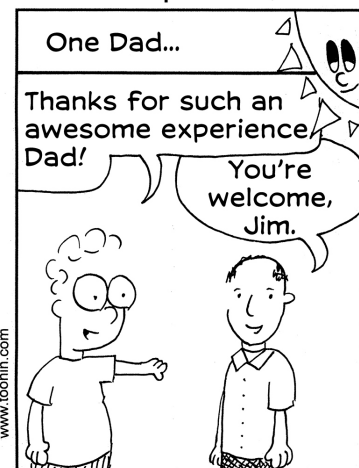
If you read the first chapter of the Gospel of John, you will find that God gives the right to become children of God to those who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. And if we are His children, we are His heirs. Together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory (Romans 8:17). And since you are His child, God has made you His heir (Galatians 4:7). Now, I don't want

you to be ignorant of my life. I struggle with sin. We all do. But Jesus came to pay for that sin. What is sin? We may think of it as doing evil. But really, sin is doing what God doesn't want us to do. It is defined by Him, by not honoring Him; by going against Him. Putting your faith in Jesus saves you from hell. Even though you'll still sin, God counts faith as righteousness.

## toon in'...

Your goodness and Your mercy will follow me...

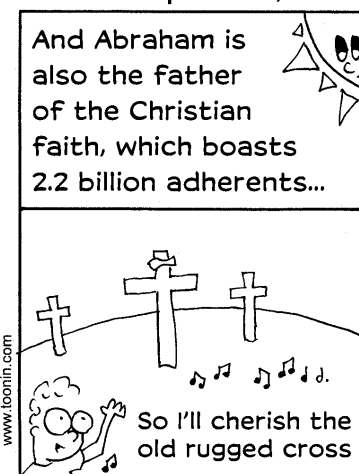
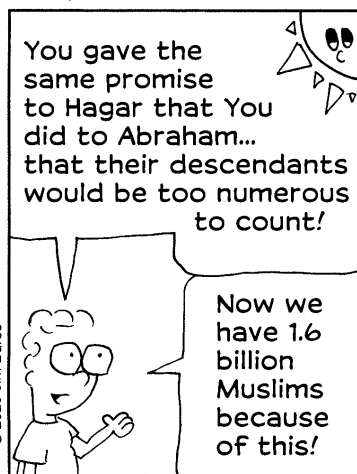
April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## toon in'...

Al (Abraham & Ishmael)

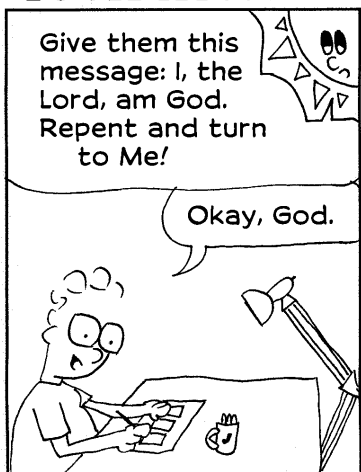
April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## toon in'...

An Ode for God...

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024





# The God Page

My Father, Charles Bures, treated his children and his children's children to a trip to San Antonio, Texas to see the Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8th, 2024. Though I prayed, there were thick clouds at the viewing party. The sun, marred by the moon, would poke its head out for a moment, then retreat behind the thick clouds. Oscar, my brother-in-law, gave up photographing and took his camera off his telescope. But just as the moon completely covered the sun, the clouds broke apart! We saw all four minutes of Totality! Oscar quickly reattached his iPhone to the telescope and took many great photos. It was amazing. The sky went dark; the air cooled down; lights turned on; birds stopped chirping. Four minutes. As long as a good pop song. My family and I stood there amazed, proclaiming what we were seeing.

God is good. God is good to me. He answered many prayer requests: 1) that we'd see the Eclipse, 2) that our family would interact well, and 3) that Oscar would capture a great photo of the Eclipse. All those prayers came true. It was so amazing. Dad and I praised God in front of our family for what He had done. God blessed us big time.

I want to thank Dad and God for treating us to such a nice vacation and good time.

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I read four chapters of my Bible each night. I started in the new year. I am grateful for my Kindle. It revolutionized my Bible reading. The Kindle is light and easy to hold as I relax in bed. This would be difficult with a paper Bible. Reading the Bible really changes me. First, it helps me understand God more. For reasons I don't understand, God has chosen to reveal Himself predominantly through a Book. The Bible shows me what He is like and how He interacts with people. It is amazing that the God of the universe has such specific thoughts and emotions toward us. Reading the Bible also helps me understand the world more. I see how God controls everything, even if it doesn't seem like it. He raised up nations to conquer Israel and accomplish His purposes. If God can control pagan nations, surely He can control the unbelievers of our time. That encourages me, because it means He can bless me through them, no matter what they believe. Reading the Bible makes me realize God's plans are more global in nature than just my life. It is not all about me. God is not scared of death, like I am. Death doesn't bother Him and He achieves His purposes even if it means the death of people through war or calamity. If death doesn't bother God, it frees me from worry about my own death. The Bible says that nothing can separate us from God's love, not even death. Reading the Bible gives me a sense of peace in my life. It helps me understand and love people more: I understand better what we all face. The Bible reveals how forgiving and gracious God is, particularly in the New Testament. The Bible tells how believers will become coheirs with His Son, Jesus Christ. That is an amazing promise! I encourage you to read the Bible if you don't already. It is a discipline, for sure, but I know you will find, like me, that it makes you feel better.

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God has blessed me this year with travel to Texas; seeing BT in concert in NYC; and seeing The Rolling Stones perform. I thought about how I always crave the next trip, experience or material possession. And God gives and those things are fun, but then they recede into the past, and I crave the next thing. I am starting to ask God for something that will last: something that will be with me every day. I don't know what that is, whether God's peace or something else. I long to feel content each day instead of constantly chasing experiences. Perhaps it is somehow having our Risen Savior with me. I want what really matters. I rarely desire nonelectronic things. I am thinking of how Jesus has a body made up of molecules. Maybe I should want Him instead.







## APRIL 8, 2024 - TOTAL ECLIPSE - COMFORT, TEXAS





TOTAL ECLIPSE - APRIL 8, 2024 - COMFORT, TX  
THANK YOU GOD + GRANDPA CHARLIE BURES



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: OSCAR BENITEZ





## DALLAS FRIENDS

I wish I could capture, with all my heart, how this trip made me feel. I wish I could capture how I felt in the hotel that Dad rented: the air conditioning, the music I listened to, what went through my mind. It was a great vacation, and seeing the Total Eclipse in person was like the fifth best thing that's ever happened to me.

It started in Dallas. I flew there the day after Easter (April 1st). The plane ride was delightful. I stayed with college friend, Laurie, and her family. I love her guest room! So cool and cozy. She welcomes me every time. In Dallas, I saw her, Hani, and another college friend, Eric (nicknamed "X"). We had lunches, dinners and Laurie and I saw a movie: we always do. We saw One Life, about Nicky Winton, who saved 669 Jewish children from Nazis. The final night, everyone enjoyed a meal at Blue Sushi: yum!

On Friday (April 5th), I drove to San Antonio. It takes about five hours. I love driving! I picked up a bunch of chairs from Ken and then proceeded to the hotel my Dad had rented. The hotel was very nice! It was modern, new, and cool. My left knee really hurt: I was even using a cane. It took a while to get settled in the hotel. The next day, I slept in very late. Saturday, my sister arrived. We ate at a burger joint downtown. The next day, I went to Messiah Lutheran Church in Boerne, Texas, to scope out the property. We wanted to watch the Eclipse there, with the Church's permission. It was nice, but God had other plans. In the afternoon, I saw all my family at the pool. They went to a San Antonio Spurs game at night, while I enjoyed the hotel. My knee hurt too much to walk around a large arena. The game proved a nail-biter and I tuned in at the end to see the Spurs lose in second overtime. Bummer.

I am a plan ahead type of guy. When my family returned from the game, I wanted to plan the next day. But everyone just went to bed. My siblings wanted to get subs the next day from Jersey Mike's, but it didn't open until 11:00 AM. I thought this would delay their arrival in Boerne to see the eclipse, due to traffic. My Dad consoled me about this in my hotel room. Knowing how



## CHURCH FRIENDS

important the next day was, I tried to sleep at midnight. But, after 1.5 hours lying in bed, I was still awake. I let myself get up to use my laptop, but I knew I'd pay for it the next day. Thankfully, God blessed me to get six hours sleep! I'd have really struggled with no sleep. I woke up to my alarm at 8:30 AM on Eclipse Day.

Upon awakening, I immediately checked the weather in Boerne: 25% chance of rain! So I texted my family and suggested we switch the Eclipse Party to Comfort, Texas, a place Dad had scoped out. It was 30 minutes further northwest. My family all agreed! And, they went to Subway, which opened earlier than Jersey Mike's! I am so grateful. Dad and I arrived in Comfort first. I figured it would be overcrowded. But the Treue der Union monument area Dad chose was deserted. I was amazed.

The family arrived and it was a nice party. Kids played around and adults mingled. The only problem was the sky: thick with clouds! We'd see the sun poke out a little, but just for a moment. The moon started to cover the sun around 12:15 PM. It was fascinating to see. I had prayed about the clouds, but my faith was weak. Oscar took many photos with his telescope, but had given up on the Total Eclipse. However, just as the moon completely covered the sun, the clouds broke up! For the full four minutes and eleven seconds, we all got a full view of the Eclipse!

It. Was. Amazing! The area grew dark. The air grew cooler. The birds stopped chirping. Lights to the monument turned on. We were transfixed. We all just exclaimed everything we were seeing to each other. The level of light seemed what it might be on the night of a full moon. We heard applause from a large group of people somewhere nearby. Someone lit off fireworks.

Four minutes.

That's as long as a good pop song. In fact, I have even composed a song over four minutes. My mind pondered four full minutes.





One of my favorite observations was seeing my brother, Tom, circling around looking at the area drenched in darkness. He was just amazed. And Oscar quickly hooked up his iPhone to his telescope again and caught many great photos. I had prayed he would capture one. God blessed us. We saw the moment of Totality of the Solar Eclipse. God parted the clouds for us!

It was just so amazing those four full minutes. Time stood still.

After the Total Eclipse ended, everyone started packing up. Dad and I openly talked about how God blessed us. As brother, sister and their children got in their van, Dad turned to me with tears. He said, "I just wanted to show this to the people I love." I told him, "You did good Dad." And I gave him a hug and kissed him on the cheek. It was a tender moment that I will always treasure.

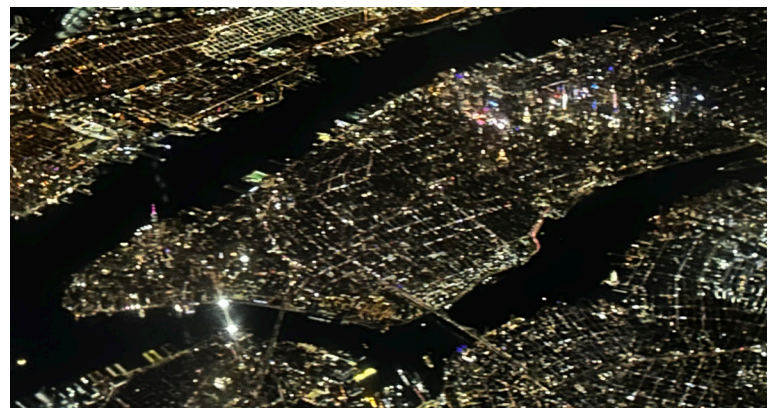
The drive back took over an hour, but the traffic was not nearly as bad as some places in the country. The day was not over though. Dad treated us all to the Chart House, a very expensive restaurant atop the Tower of the Americas in downtown San Antonio. I ate a delicious meal of Spiced Ahi. It was a warmed but almost raw piece of fish served with rice and a delicious wasabi sauce. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I enjoyed the conversation among our family. Oscar sat next to me and I talked to him a lot: I loved that. Also, as my brother talked to Oscar, I learned that Oscar studied with the CIA before becoming a chef. I never realized that law enforcement interested my brother-in-law until I asked about it. Only then did I learn CIA stood for "Culinary Institute of America!" LOL. It was so funny. The time at the restaurant was the perfect end to an exciting and joy filled day. Thank you, Dad.

The weekend retreated into history after that. I enjoyed my last night in the hotel. I had Phil Wickham's album, *I Believe*, on repeat the whole weekend: the sound track to the Eclipse.

Amazingly, I woke up the next day after only four hours, so I was able to say goodbye to my family in person. Dutch Bros Coffee, right outside the hotel, provided delicious coffee those few days.

After I said goodbye, I drove to Ken's house and crashed. Ken treated me to Men's Roundup, a Church dinner featuring a Christian football player's speech. The next night, we had dinner with Constance's Mom's, Heidi. Heidi made a great meal: I remember the warm roast beef and delicious gravy most. I spend much of my days praying at a nearby Panera. Ken cooked me steak dinner Thursday. Friday night, Ken and Constance attended the memorial for a veteran friend, while I drove up to Austin to see Lauren Daigle in concert. That was fun. She puts on a great show. Saturday, I treated Ken to dinner. Sunday, Ken took me to his oldest brother Tom's house and we had a meal with many family members. I really enjoyed Tom: he is a solid guy. Monday I drove back up to Dallas; spent the night at Laurie's and flew home the next day. The flight was awesome: I had a whole row to myself, both sides! I watched the *The Breakfast Club* and caught a view of New York City at night. What a colossal trip!

Both flights were awesome, as a matter of fact. I just really enjoy travel. The flight down I watched the movie *Good Will Hunting*.



**Congratulations, you passed! You scored 210 out of 240**



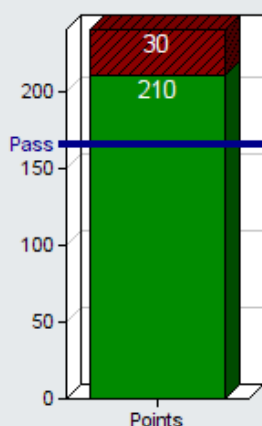
**Associate - CSWA FULL exam**

CSWA\_R4v0

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Exam duration 301 minutes

**James Bures**



- You scored 210 points
- 165 points or more to pass
- Max score 240
- 14 questions in total

**+ Strong Topics**

- Assembly Problems
- Drafting Competencies
- Basic Part Problem Set

**Wrong Answers**  
(1 question)

**Correct Answers**  
(13 questions)

Exit

8.3.4.2136

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# Solidworks Class Results: A-

God really blessed me yesterday, 5/23/2024, when I took my final exam. I passed with 210 points out of 240, or 87.5%.

I took a Solidworks class this semester. The class was paid for by the Mass Rehab Commission, which helps the disabled. I brushed up on CAD to find Mechanical Design work (if God so wills). I fell behind due to a trip to Texas but the professor gave me ample time after the semester to catch up. I completed our class project on time with Josiah and then took to the backlog.

The part I want to write about is the final exam. Solidworks leads the industry in CAD software and offers professional certifications. The CSWA Exam (Certification of Solidworks Associate) was both our final and an industry exam. I had until Friday, but woke up at 3:00 AM Thursday and went for it. I drank a coffee driving around, then started the exam at 5:00 AM. The good part of my illness is accommodations. My professor gave me double time: six hours instead of three. And I needed it!

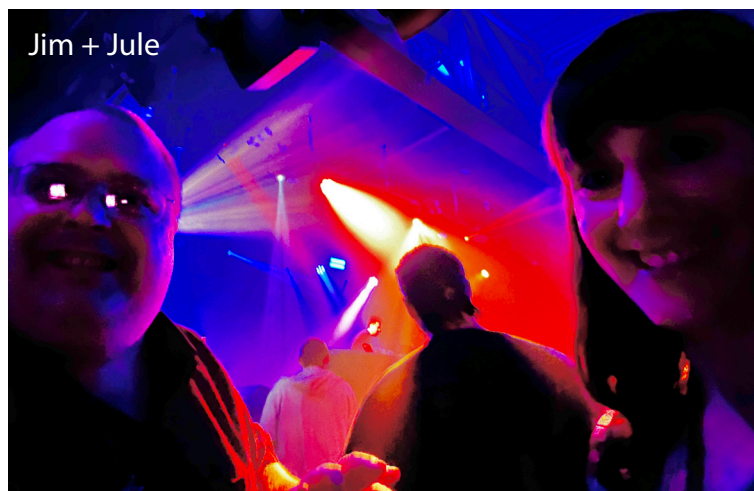
I felt the stress immediately upon opening the exam. The first part was complex. After 45 minutes, I could not model it. At this point, I stepped away and talked to my housemate, Alfreda, who

prayed for me. I moved on to other parts. I was so stressed. I remember, doing the first assembly, I got so discouraged: I stood up and cried out to God. I almost gave up. The text was so small and hard to comprehend. But God calmed me and I continued. I couldn't have succeeded without printing out the details of each question. You were supposed to work just from the screen.

After four hours, I finished almost everything. I felt better. So I turned back to the first part. God gave me the idea to model the first feature as three instead of one. This cured the problem! Some answers were multiple choice while others you entered the answer. This stressed me because my answers didn't always match the multiple choices. Subsequent answers depended on the first one. After five hours, I submitted the test. I thought I had a lot wrong. I watched the scroll bar calculating my results with tense excitement. Then I scored 210 points! Only one question wrong! I was so excited and beyond grateful. I did better than I expected. God blessed me! A wonderful feeling. God is so good!

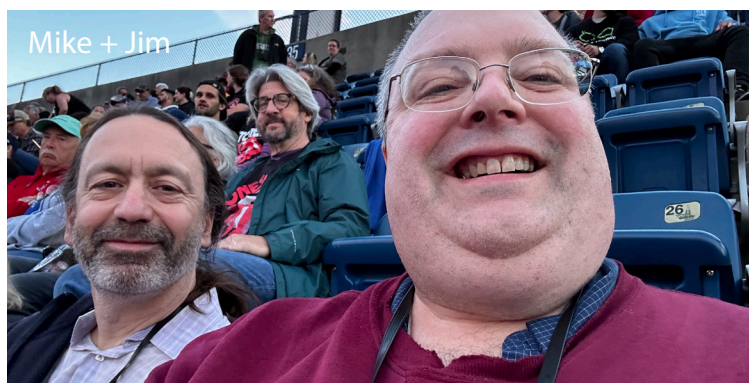
Three things really helped: Roger fixed my printer before the test; the professor and the test agency gave me six hours instead of three, and the extra time after the semester. God helped too!





On Sunday, May 26, 2024, my sister and I flew to New York City and saw my favorite musician, BT, in concert at Racket NYC. Jule treated me to a delicious Italian dinner at Zero Notto Nove. Drinks at the club cost more than the tickets! Jule enjoyed dancing. We got ADA seats because of my bad knee. That got us up close to the stage. BT was awesome. Jeff Moon treated to my hotel room. Our flight home was canceled due to weather, so we rented a car and drove home. A quick fun trip. I love my sister.

On Thursday, May 30, 2024, I saw The Rolling Stones with Mike Coakley, my friend from Raytoonin'. Mike + God answered my first big prayer request in 2005, when I prayed to see The Rolling Stones before they died. At that time, Mick Jagger was 62. Mike had a cancer scare this year and that got me thinking about how he had blessed me that one time. So, I looked up The Rolling Stones to see if they were still alive. I found out that not only were they alive, but they were touring! Mike Jagger is now 80! I just had to get tickets to show Mike how much I care for him. They played at open air Gillette Stadium. It was supposed to rain all day, but I prayed and God blessed us with dry weather in the



mid 50's. The Rolling Stones were awesome: Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Ronnie Woods together. It was simply awesome.

I am so thankful to God for all these blessings. Love, Jim Bures.

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