

# ETROONM'S

2012.01.15

SCT 8 - A Continuation of Christmas

XIII / 122



On 1/5 I got into a car accident, other drivers fault. By 1/7 Progressive had me in a new Kia Soul rental by 12:00pm and I was off for my Eighth Southern Circuit Tour. I visited Lizzlee, J-Dog & Family, my cousin Rious, TOKGie & Family, Ladybug K & Family, West Virginia and topped it off with a visit to my Pastor and his wife to start an incarnational community. It was so blessed and wonderful. When I returned I had \$40 to my name. One of my friends emailed me this Christmas photo of the Crown Plaza hotel in Watertown, MA and it pretty much sums up how I feel. I feel so blessed to be alive and to have such a treasured time with so many close friends around the country. I visited a Jewish Synagogue and attended Torah Study. I ate at Cosmic Cantina and Chick-fil-A. I helped a family recover from a disobedient child. I played basketball, Star Wars and drew pictures with many children. I drank 250ml of Johnnie Walker Red Label Scotch and smoked a \$10 Meduro cigar. I decided I never need to be drunk again. I drove for 16.25 hours in one day to get home.

## Southern Circuit Presidential Tour 8





**Rious**



**Fun Family**



**A Sleeping Child**



**A Servant's Heart**



**A Silly Girl**

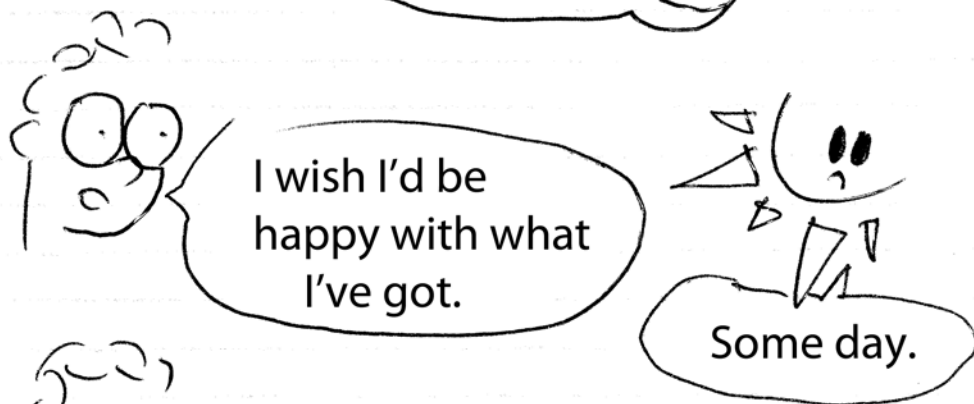
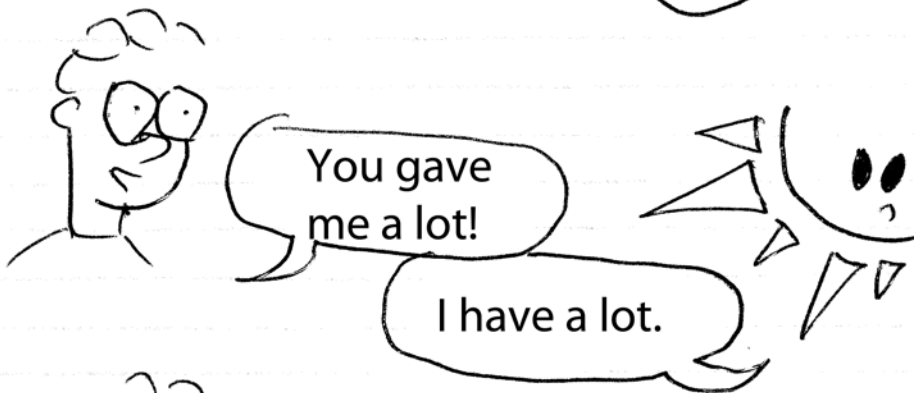
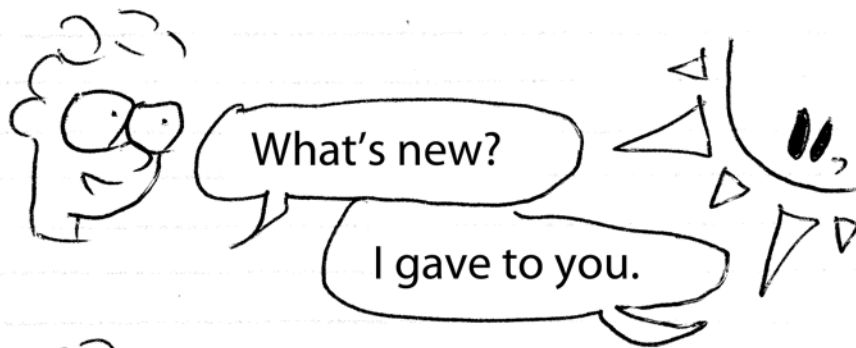
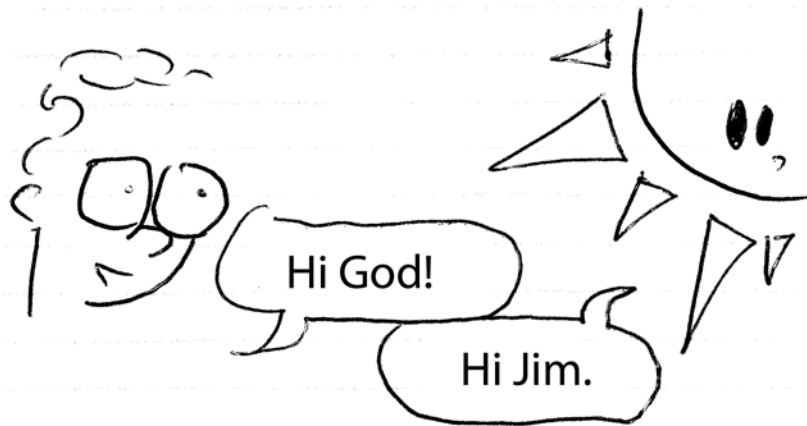


**West Virginia**

On the ride home I drove from North Carolina to West Virginia. 1/14/12 was my first time ever being in West Virginia. That makes 38 states in 38 years! I enjoyed all the Church signs I saw in Princeton, WV. I hiked one of the Blue Ridge Mountains. I talked with a friend whose Men's Group I visited. I am proud to determine that Protestants are not so much judgmental as intellectual and concerned with discovering true theology. At the Men's Group I found that some had many various notions about what was true. For example, one man believed in old world creationism, saying that Adam evolved from the Big Bang before the fall. I decided that if Protestants can accept such wacky viewpoints from each other, I'm not concerned about how they view the Mormons. It is, essentially, a moot point. I think love is most important. On my walk it was cloudy. Not believing, I did pray for sun to illuminate the mountains and it did! I caught that awesome glimpse up above. I ate at A Taste of Memphis, an awesome all you can eat BBQ joint. Fun!



**Pipestem**



1/9/12 #1

I have your Z-shirt.

I have the Bible you gave me.

My dog ate a hoagie roll.

What a nice surprise visit.

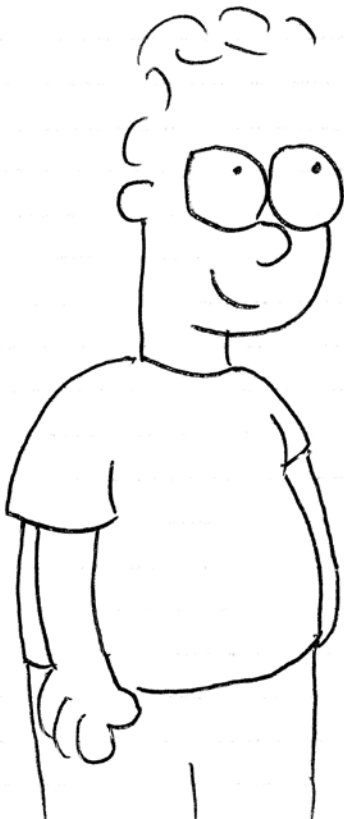
Vote for Jim.

A toast to us & God.

Hey cous...

316  
club

Tebowing  
on TV.



1/2/12 12.



Lord, I just saw the Focus on the Family ad about Tebow.



I was touched by that ad. I think You are something special.



I was compared to Tebow by a work manager and I felt special.



I feel like I am just as famous as Tim Tebow.



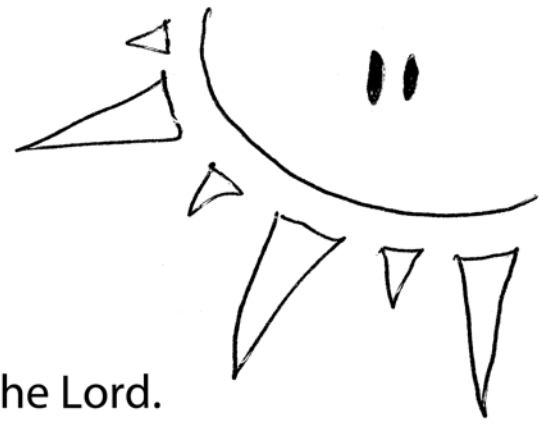
And I just feel like anyone who believes in You is just as special and just as famous.



**You are Lord!**

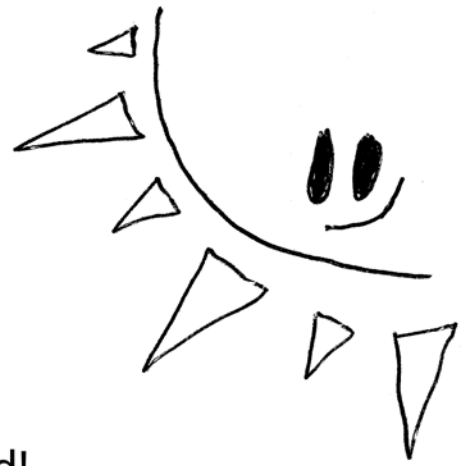
1/4/12 2/3

# MOSAIC



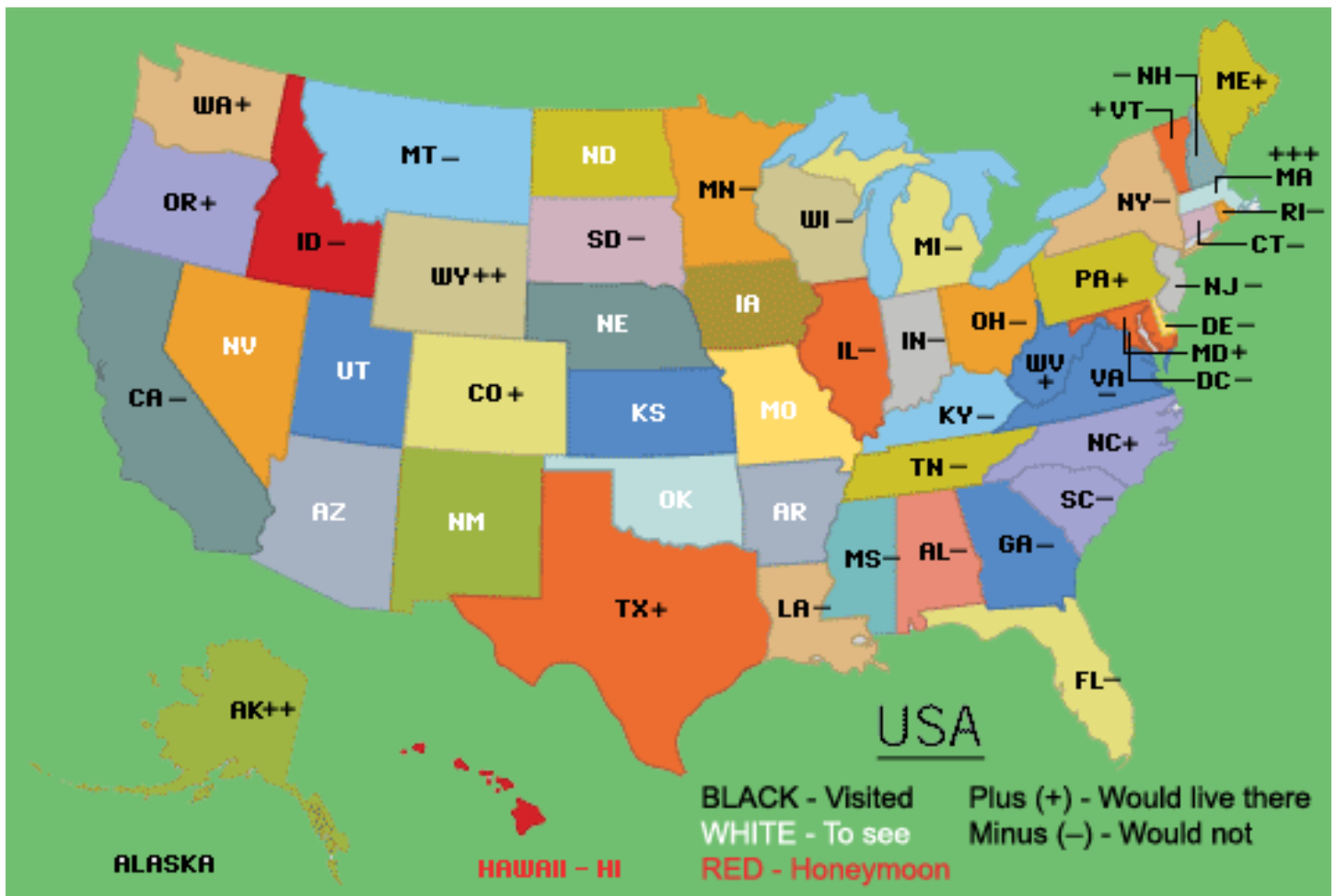
You are the Lord.  
You are the Most High.  
You are the Acclaimed One.

# MOSAIC



You are the Lord!  
You strike with Your sword!  
You give the believer  
great reward!

1/9/12 3/4



# Where I've been. Where I want to be.

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” ~ Romans 8:31

“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

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.” ~ Psalm 23:5

(All quotes New International Version ©1984)

On self-esteem issues: we all sin and have hard thoughts toward others upon how they have wronged us. We also find it so hard to forgive ourselves when we hurt others. But if God is for us, then we can not be against ourselves. And if it is true that in all things God works for the good of us who love Him, then even when we act badly toward others and find it hard to forgive ourselves, God works even those bad things to our own good. So anything that happens to us, whether bad or good, we can confidently say works for our good. Thus we can release ourselves from our guilt toward and expectations of others and focus more, when we are able, upon simply loving them.

And this is the freedom of the Gospel: that we are free to be ourselves completely, even our sinful selves, and God will use all of our actions for our own good.

Therefore, we can forgive ourselves and let go of hard thoughts toward others, knowing that they too will be for us. For if God is for us, who can be against us?

And maybe not all those alive will become alive in Christ and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but that is not our responsibility. As we can see from Psalm 23 that the Lord prepares for us a table in the presence of our enemies and nothing they can do can take that table away.

Therefore, as God loves us we ought to just love ourselves and give grace towards ourselves trusting that God will make all things work toward the good of us who love Him. And in doing so we free our minds from worry and instead find ourselves more equipped to love others more fully in a way that will make up for all our short comings and only help us to attract others to us and to the Gospel with love.

James A. Bures  
 All for the Lord  
 1/13/12