

Too much free time

Who complains about too much free time? Well, with no wife or kids, a dislike for many common social activities- okay let's just go with the truth here and say no friends I hang out with outside of church, and work that takes less than the normal eight hours plus lunch per standard, I just have too much free time. What do I do with it? Get movies from the library, spend time on the internet, and play games mostly- what a life, eh? In the last few days I have even purchased several games on [Steam](#)- did they have to make it so easy? I didn't even use steam until they had a \$9.99 sale on their [Orange Box](#) collection a few months ago. Now I have the complete Luxor marble game collection, Ghostbusters, GRID, and Osmos. Another service called [Direct2Drive](#) also successfully tempted me with a \$5 sale a short time back. I added no less than a half-dozen games from them including Neverwinter Nights 2 and Serious Sam Gold. A waste of time and money really. Well, I have been playing a lot of Serious Sam and the Luxor games, so just a waste of time in their case. To be fair, I didn't pay much for any of the titles, nowhere near full price, but still...

So what can I do instead? Theatre groups abound in this area, but I know very few of them anymore- I would have to look them up again. I have also looked a little into compassion ministries, serving those in need. I still have to look it up on the church website as I was directed to a few weeks ago. The obvious one in most people's minds is the friends issue. I have been to singles group, but it was very uncomfortable for me so I really don't go anymore. No friends that way. Perhaps through the other two potential outlets? I don't know. I know I have needed to schedule a quiet time with God, but I have known that for so long I wonder if I am really capable?

For now though I just sit here on the computer...

Bored

One thing about my life is that I don't easily form relational ties, as in friends. This does make it easier to live on a substitute teacher salary since I don't go to social events, but it does make for a boring life. I have strong ties with my church, particularly children's ministry, but outside of that I don't do much. I occasionally visit with friends I have made, particularly those now in Ohio, but making new friends? Really just acquaintances I only see at church and usually nowhere else. Is it any surprise then that I am still unmarried? Anyway, when I'm not teaching I am usually on the internet or watching TV. Tonight I came home, surfed the net, watched a few episodes of [Everybody Hates Chris](#), a hilarious weekly comedy loosely based on the teenage life of Chris Rock, and am using the internet again to write this. Unfortunately this is how just about every night looks. I have filled nights in the past with more schooling and musical theatre, but it has been awhile since either one so now I am just reflecting. I pray to meet someone I could eventually call my wife, but that requires social work on my part which just doesn't seem to happen. I really should make sure to get out tomorrow night to singles group at my church. It is a prayer and worship night, but it is followed by fellowship. Unfortunately I am in my mid-thirties and still socially-challenged. I often say really stupid things among people I don't know (and sometimes with people I do!). Also, after this month the singles ministry is breaking for a month to revamp the ministry somehow. I do know I filled out a questionnaire on this about a month ago so I guess this shouldn't come as a surprise. Well, enough about this.

Today I had 5th grade again, only this time it was an ELL

(English language learner) class. Mostly Hispanic, but other nationalities were represented as well. This was at a school where I have had problems before, so I wasn't expecting it to go as well as in my home district, though I tried to not act as if that were true. Expectations are important. I don't know if this is a true story or not, but in one of my classes in college we learned about a new teacher who was hired to teach a class, and one of the first things she noticed were numbers by their names. These numbers were in the lower to mid 100's, but all starting somewhat above 100 (120 maybe? I don't remember). She assumed these to be IQs of the students, so knowing that smart kids would easily get bored with a standard curriculum she prepared a challenging and engaging curriculum which over the length of the school year tremendously grew her students. She ended up with a very successful class with top grades. After it was over her principal (I think) asked her how she was so successful and she pointed out to him the IQ numbers for the students which made her try hard to keep them challenged so they would better learn. To this the principal replied that he was very happy with her teaching, but those were their locker numbers not their IQs.

Anyway, the day actually did not go as badly as I had feared. Sure, there were a few incidents involving a desk falling on the floor and a couple of boys getting hurt by slapping and punching each other, and also some strong-willed kids, but they did their work and they learned. In the end it wasn't a case where I just wanted to be done with it like some days.

Tomorrow: 7th grade language arts