

Ministry Site: <http://toonspirit.net>

Ministry Blog:
<http://toonspirit.wordpress.com>

Acknowledgement:

This Interview was conducted by my good friend Steven Stone: He helped me to give some information to the public about this ministry. Thanks Steven!!

Interview with Richie

1) How do you feel the general public views the cartoons you use to illustrate the biblical lessons?

It really depends on the audience's personality, age, and knowledge of the cartoon in question. At least in my recent experience, it may even depend on the series in question. Overall though, most people are not aware of the biblical parallels in these cartoons. Many are used to them being entertainment. I have frequently heard this in response to a lesson: **I will never watch a cartoon in the same way again.** This happened in some way, shape or form especially when this ministry started. Now, a lot of people are genuinely amazed and like this way of teaching. I like it that way.

I have gotten a lot of curious people who have been blessed too. It seems like, unfortunately, that a lot of people are not prepared to make a time commitment to a bible study like this one at this time. This is true no matter how much or little that they liked it. Most of the time now, I get an excited **"That's awesome"** response.

2) How and when did you first become aware of the connection between the particular cartoons and bible scripture? How did the Toonspirit ministry start?

Part A—Becoming aware: This is a very interesting story. God opened my eyes to this in the television season of 1999-2000. I have always been a cartoon fan, but this was different.

When Mom and I are together we like to watch tapes that I recorded together. In this particular season we were watching a series called Digimon. In the middle part of this season of the series, mom and I were both amazed at the Bible parallel(s) especially in this particular set of cartoons. My heart melted with awe because I knew that there was some spiritual meat in this cartoon when so often I haven't seen this as much.

Part B—The Toonspirit ministry's birth: First, I want everyone to know that I have been archiving these cartoons for about nine years now (mostly because I wanted something to watch when these shows were taken off the air in exchange for "bigger, better, and newer things". So, I know that God was prepping my ministry without me knowing it.

This is how the Toonspirit ministry actually started. I was baptized in 2002, and in short order; I began to have dreams when I was sleeping about God's protection, faith needed as a Christian, and faith already attained. This was awesome. These dreams also included in their content: God's plans for me, what I was doing correctly, and what needed to change.

Two or two and a half years later God revealed to me that I needed to remember the Bible parallel(s) that mom and me have seen and the dreams he had given and to look for those parallels down so that other people can learn the Christian walk in a different way. This also consequently, also appeared to me in a dream. Concisely, the dream was this: My friends and I were at an amusement park and I was riding rides with them. But no matter what I was riding in, I was always about to die because of it ending in a bottomless pit (log flume ride), a ride going nuts as it wasn't designed. This ride was what is called a hand chain ride (doesn't exist in amusement parks with good reason—Basically you hold on for dear life on a roller coaster chain without a chute.) My friends made it easily because it went straight up and clean for them. Mine? No! It goes sideways, upside down and every way but correctly. I held on, but after all that, it stalled out and crumbled and my character went into utter darkness with my friends trying to hold their hands out to save me out of the trouble I was in and the dream was over. God told me the interpretation to this dream was this: If I want His best for His will, then don't follow my friends because my life would mean very little if I did. I would even eventually lose my zeal for Him. God told me then (stated above) to start writing on Biblical parallels in the cartoons so that people will know how to live a life

worthy of God's signet ring.

So, God wanted me to create the Toonspirit ministry—Taking secular works and making Bible Study materials out of them. The most prominent study sets are from my cartoon ministry entitled “A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language”. I also make Bible Study materials out of the Yu-Gi-Oh! card game (I make spiritually themed decks and analyze them Biblically).

3) Can you explain to the readers what your cartoon lessons are about?

This depends on the topic involved. However, generally when one looks at these lessons, that person will find that they are evangelical in nature concerning witnessing for our Lord Jesus Christ, holy Christian living, and general moral concepts as well. They promote discussion on sometimes issues that may be more personal in nature. Sometimes there is controversy. An example of this with my experience would be the lesson entitled [The Azraels Of Life II—We Are Not Amused](#). This is Part II of a “love your enemies” lesson. What would you feel like if your worst enemy died and you could have helped to save his/her life? Would you be happy or sad? This lesson brought out a conversation about Adolph Hitler. It was in that group a controversial lesson and in general may be. However the Bible is clear about God's attitude toward even his worst enemies.

4) How many lessons do you have?

This depends if you're going by the session or lesson topic. A lot of my lessons are a multi-part format that, at this time, contains lesson sessions up to seven parts (possibly more in the near future). I have 76 sessions that can be done at this time. These are contained within 46 lesson topics. The 44th and 45th sections are being worked and another lesson was made ahead of their completion.

5) About how many people have you shown these to already?

I would say at this date more than I honestly can count. A forced estimate might be close to 100+. This may be generous or conservative (I have lost count—a good sign)

6) Do you see a big change in the outlook and lives of the people that have seen these lessons, if so, what kinds of changes have you seen?

I don't truly know how much impact directly that these lessons have had in people's lives. However, I can say that these have a history of exposing strengths and weaknesses in myself and other people. However, I think that these lessons have caused people to think about their lives and pray harder for the Lord Jesus to strengthen them on the weaknesses and confirm and solidify what is right and good. This is from most of the feedback that I have received.

7) When can people watch them?

Anyone who wishes to watch a lesson can usually find most of the cartoons in question on Youtube Or Hulu. Anyone who is interested as well, please make an appointment with me. I am not partial to the time to have a lesson session because I believe it necessary for people to get fed spiritually by these lessons. So, I would say anytime by appointment or request—usually even if it were short notice. I have the time.

8) Are you planning on showing them in big group presentation settings?

Yes, I would like to do this. I have done this once with a decent sized group before at First Baptist on the Eastern By-pass near Wendy's (Richmond KY of course). I have done these with a 4th and 5th grade Bible school in Irvine. I have gotten the taste for this kind of thing and I plan to continue especially after the legalities are taken care of as far as copyright issues are concerned.

9) What is your contact information and web address?

I have a website called www.toonspirit.net

I have two e-mail addresses. The first is digicollector@msn.com

The second is professorparody@toonspirit.net

My phone # if you want to make an appointment that way is (859)
248-9830

I look forward to hearing from the readers with their feedback and any
appointments wanted.

Note: On this date of revision July 20, 2011, this interview is app. 4 years
old, but still holds strong validity and most original language is intact (my
phone # changed and is now updated , I added to some answers for
accuracy, etc.)