

As I was reviewing my site, and in particular my library files, it occurred to me that I wrote absolutely nothing in 2010. Not surprising since 2010 was both a busy and a bad year.

Employment: due to circumstances almost entirely out of my hands, I had to change jobs in February. I was out of work for several months but I did make some headway in gaining unemployment AND a new job. Unfortunately the new job doesn't cover as well as the old one so the wallet is almost always empty.

Finances: Everyone had financial issues in 2010, except the politicians and the wealthy. Tried to start a couple of 'work at home' jobs only to realize that pretty near every such job requires you to have a large social network. Churches, clubs and the like where you are meeting a lot of people and have friends and family to help. Most of my family is spread across the country. Quite a few want nothing to do with me and I don't attend church or any clubs. Don't get me wrong, I believe in God. I just don't believe in 'churches'. Clubs ultimately cost money I don't have and I was never a club person. Unfortunately, growing up I never fit any given peer group no matter how hard I tried so eventually I just gave up trying.

Following a struggle to pay bills after having my bank account ripped off by credit thieves in 2005, I ended up, as many did in 2010, filing bankruptcy. Two creditors who refused to work with my income filed court action to attach my wages. I had to file in 2009 to protect what little income I had and then lost my job early in 2010. All in all 2010 was a bad year for finances.

Social: As a result of greatly reduced finances, I had to seriously curtail my social life and have been mostly out of circulation. I really miss getting out with the girls but you have to pay bills before you can play so ...

Still, I have been somewhat social and occasionally have a friend or two over to the house. Costs less than going out and we can relax, play cards or other games and socialize. Every once in a while I can still get out with friends – just not so often as before.

Before I leave 2010 to history, there was one very fun thing that happened. I was able to go to work on Halloween in costume. Since my best costume is a witch, that is how I went to work. Spent two hours doing my nails the day before and a good hour or so doing my makeup. I was still getting compliments on my costume after Thanksgiving. Sis and I went to Phoenix to visit her son for Thanksgiving and we had a nice relaxing week there with family.

Sent out Christmas Cards for the first time in several years and took a chance on some family back east. Connected with an uncle and his wife who I hadn't heard from in 15 years. Surprise surprise!!!! Got a return card from them and made phone and email contact. Seems they had been trying to reconnect all that time. Ended the year on a most positive and promising note.

Well so much for 2010. The new year finds us alive and well and more or less comfortable. We have (sis and I) made numerous new friends online and even managed to meet a few of them in person over the last couple years. PLUS we have each other and that may be the best thing.

If I had to give one encouraging word it would be this: be thankful for and cherish what you have. It will be gone before you know it. Don't live to regret what you didn't do or have. Enjoy life, family and friends. They are your true wealth!