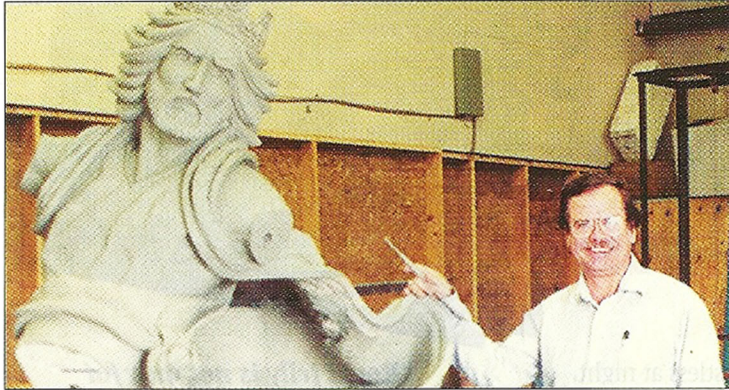


Charis Matters



Supernatural art? Max Greiner in his Texas studio

Sculptor Says He Saw 'Glory Dust' While Making Statue of Christ

■ A charismatic sculptor who created an acclaimed statue of Christ washing Peter's feet is putting the finishing touches on what he calls the masterpiece of his career.

Max Greiner Jr.'s *The Coming King* illustrates Jesus on a

white horse, eyes blazing as described in the 19th chapter of Revelation.

"I think it's a prophetic message to the body of Christ," said Greiner, who turned down a \$400,000 commission in July of 1998 to

concentrate on this creation.

"God is using this piece of art to bring attention to the word from Revelation 19 that He's coming back on that white horse."

The Kerrville, Texas-based artist has sold a trio of 3-foot castings

of the statue. But lately he has been finishing the composition of the first life-size, 18-foot-tall bronze statue.

It was commissioned by Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) founder Paul Crouch. TBN has tentatively scheduled its unveiling for late March. It will sit outside the network's headquarters in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Profiled by *Charisma* in 1994, the former Southern Baptist first attracted attention for his *Divine Servant* foot-washing image. Lately, he has been embroiled in controversy over the appearance of gold-colored dust during the early phase of his latest project.

Greiner first created a one-sixth life-size version as a model for the larger work. While sculpting the horse's hoof in wax in October of 1999, he said it turned to gold in his hands.

Golden particles also covered his skin and clothing. He stored the shirt, shoes and socks he was

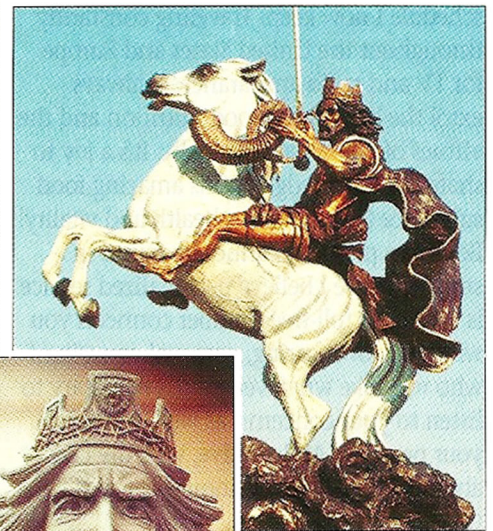
wearing to prove the incident occurred.

He also sent some of the substance to Texas A&M University's main campus in College Station, Texas, for tests that showed it wasn't gold, but still an unusual occurrence.

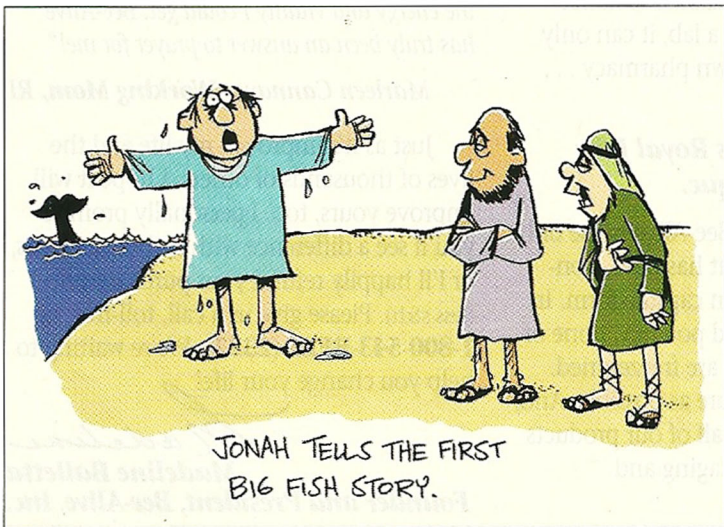
Professor Andrew Hajash Jr. said chemical and other analyses showed that two samples appeared to be plastic with a thin metal coating similar to glitter. A third was coated with a nickel metal flake; another with a weathered flake of the mineral mica.

Still, Greiner's claim led some to denounce him as a "fraud." His charismatic church had already asked him to leave after he spoke about gold dust appearing in his studio earlier that year.

But he remains unruffled by the critics. "We're leading hundreds of people to Christ with it," Greiner said of the statue's colorful epic. "God has anointed it and is using it to lead people to [salvation] is pretty unique. I think this is the message He wants me to share right now." —Ken Walker



ABOVE: A 9-foot statue of *The Coming King*
INSET: Attention to detail marks Greiner's unfinished "masterpiece."



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