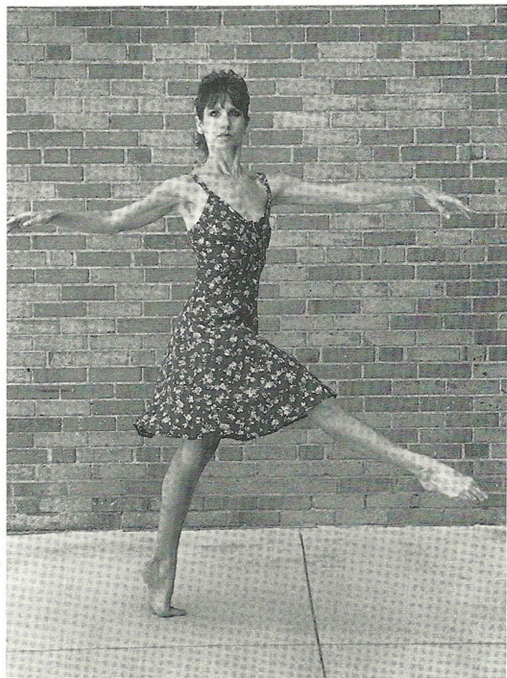


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TO HIS GLORY

LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH PRAISE THE LORD.



KEEPING
YOUR BALANCE



"Divine Servant," 1989, bronze,
116 life-size. Max Greiner, Jr.

I think God is making a sovereign call to Christian visual artists of our own generation which may be historically significant. God seems to be calling artists out of their secular fields to create art which unabashedly, glorifies God.

Not since the days when popes and kings commissioned artists, has there been such a move toward work which can clearly be considered Christian in subject matter, inspiration and purpose. I have been repeatedly contacted by artists from across the country who testify that God has personally called them to create Christian art. Each person's story is different; yet, there are striking similarities. Usually there has been a time of success in the secular world, followed by personal trials, a humbling, and then a deeper personal experience with God. Ironically, none of the artists have been drawn into this arena because of financial expectations. In fact, to create art which glorifies God and the Bible is the "kiss of death" in the eyes of today's art establishment and market which openly embraces and defends "art" which defames Jesus

THE CALL

by Max Greiner, Jr.

Max Greiner is an accomplished visual artist who works from the Greiner Art Studio in Kerrville, Texas.

Christ. Satan has controlled so much of what we see and hear, but God is raising up a new body of artists to be used as His vessels to help spread the Good News. I believe this same positive phenomenon is also taking place in music, literature, film and the performing arts. God is reclaiming the arts in our generation. He is using all kinds of art and artists. Like the prophets of old, they are pointing people back to God.

My own story is one of trials, followed by a call. At the age of seven years, I embraced Jesus as my Savior in a Southern Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas. I was already aware that for some reason, God had given me a little more artistic ability than normal. My parents encouraged me in this direction, even though they were not artists. By the age of eight I had already created my first charcoal drawings, watercolors, oil paintings and sculptures in wood and clay. I learned the basics from books, television art lessons, and through private lessons after grade school.

I grew up wanting to be a professional artist, but heard that artists starve, so I studied to be an architect instead. After receiving a valuable education at Texas A&M University, I began to practice architecture with a top firm in Dallas, Texas, during the fall of

1974. However, I soon discovered architects could starve too, especially in a recession! In any event, my four years in college, two years in architectural practice, and later two years in advertising gave me the tools I needed to pursue my own fine arts career. At the age of 27, in the spring of 1978 I moved from California with my new bride, Sherry, to start our own business in the small eastern Texas town of Woodville. The final decision to leave the security of a "real" job was left up to the Lord. The choice was between going for a masters degree in architecture and staying in that field, or jumping into the unknown as an independent, "fine arts" artist. Sherry and I prayed and then put a "fleece" out. God wanted me to be an artist.

While I created drawings, paintings, sculpture and jewelry, Sherry helped with the business. We lived on our savings those first months until the money ran out. With only \$40 in the bank, we sent out our first issue of an art newsletter, which we created in the winter of 1979 to market my art. We had a \$1500 printing bill due for this color newsletter in less than 30 days, so we asked God for a miracle. Within 48 hours after mailing 500 newsletters across the country, we sold more than \$20,000 worth of my art.

In the years that followed we enjoyed great financial success selling a variety of secular artworks, ranging from realism to abstraction. The majority of my art was representational, relating to nature, wildlife and people. In July of 1981 we moved to the Texas hill country to build our passive solar, earth-sheltered dream house and studio, which was to be surrounded by wildlife and wilderness. I was achieving every dream I had, including camping, backpacking, canoeing and bowhunting across the continent. During this time I served as a volunteer leader to two national and international wildlife conservation/education non-profit foundations. Everything was great I thought, and then my world began to fall apart — almost overnight it seemed.

Almost every area of our lives came under attack. First, we discovered Sherry had a life-threatening illness, difficult to cure. Next, the Texas economy collapsed, and ultimately over 95 percent of our original art collectors went

bankrupt. Our income dropped to almost zero, and we were suddenly faced with mounting debts and the possible loss of our home, land and art gallery. Finally, all the pressure took its toll on our marriage relationship. I felt like Job. I was losing everything I valued and could do nothing. I began crying out to God for an instant miracle to fix all the things gone wrong in my life, but God chose a slower healing process. He was allowing me to be humbled, allowing me to feel for the first time pain and helplessness. God was sculpting me, slowly chipping away everything that didn't look like Jesus. It was during this time of personal trials that God began to move powerfully in my life, as I yielded and drew closer to Him.

In the spring of 1986, I had just pulled into my driveway when I felt God speak into my mind. I can only describe the voice as a strong thought which I recognized immediately as not my own. It said, "I want you to create a sculpture of Jesus washing Peter's feet." I was so startled by the thought that before I could think about it I said, "But God, what about all the things I'm doing?" Even though this thought kept coming back over and over, I put God on hold, still not having learned to immediately obey His voice. At the time, I could see no way this sculpture could help my critical financial, medical, or marital problems.



"The Christian Butterfly"®

God showed His patience and forgiveness when in October of the same year He gave me a second idea. I was again driving home, desperately trying to conceive of a unique jewelry design to make for my wife for her birthday. After two weeks without an idea, I finally said to God, "I give up. I need a good idea quick, please!" Instantly after this prayer, the image of the ichthus fish symbol with butterfly wings appeared in my mind's eye. I responded, "Great idea, Lord!" This simple design combines two well-known Christian images into a beautiful new symbol, whereby the tail of the fish becomes the antenna

or the butterfly. I made the piece of jewelry for Sherry, and then copyrighted and trademarked the design, calling it the "Christian Butterfly"®. Today this little butterfly is produced in a variety of forms, and has been sold by the thousands across America and around the world. Each butterfly includes my personal testimony for Jesus Christ, which gives God all the credit for my artwork.

Ultimately, I yielded to God's voice about the sculpture of Jesus washing Peter's feet, after learning more about obedience. In the Spring of 1989, the 1/6 life-size "Divine Servant"® sculpture came into existence. I had no idea how this sculpture and its larger version would be used by God to affect my life, and the lives of others. Without words this unique sculpture communicates the love and humility of Jesus Christ. Sherry and I have dedicated "Divine Servant"® to God and we stand in amazement at how He is using the sculpture. Thousands of dollars have been raised for churches and ministries. The \$1,500 1/6 life-size bronze has attracted \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$30,000 donations for non-profit Christian charities, when used as an appreciation gift for donors. God has used the 1,200 pound life-size bronze to lead people to salvation and to a deeper commitment to servanthood. And there have been a number of startling events involving the sculpture, which have come as quite a surprise to this third generation Southern Baptist, even though our Lord tells us to expect wonderful things.

Our God is real, and He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8). God has throughout history used human vessels. If we pray when God says pray, and not let embarrassment or denominational theology get in the way, truly amazing things can happen. God is looking for people who will freely submit their will to His. He will even use us artists if we let Him!✠

Max Greiner's complete testimony of God's grace is available on cassette for \$5.00 from

Max Greiner, Jr.
Designs
P.O. Box 552
Kerrville, TX 78029



Max Greiner Jr., with "ISHI" art. Bronze, drawing, oil painting. ISHI was North America's last wild Indian.

Max Greiner Jr.

Max Greiner's diverse talents appeared when he created his first oil painting and ceramic wildlife sculpture at the age of eight. His work now includes drawings, paintings, sculpture, jewelry, graphic design, architecture, photography, writing, and an assortment of art/gift products.

Today Greiner's work can be found in prestigious private and corporate collections in all fifty states and more than a dozen countries. Many Greiner sculpture editions have sold out, and individual castings have resold on the secondary market for two to three times the original issue price. Both the "Divine Servant"® sculpture and the "Christian Butterfly"® have received international media attention, and selected Greiner creations have been featured in catalogs such as *Wild Wings Original Art Catalog*, *Orvis*, *David Kay*, *Abbey Press*, and the *United States Armed Services Mail Order Catalog*. Greiner designs are protected by copyright and trademark registration.

Max Greiner Jr. has been commissioned to create art for a range of organizations, such as Texas A & M University and the National Bowhunter

Education foundation, of which he has served as President as well as co-founder. More importantly, he has chosen to use his art to generate funds upwards of \$400,000 for charitable causes. Much of Greiner's work is now being used to raise money for charities, churches and Christian ministries. He offers his art to non-profit Christian organizations at a very low price for re-sale and distribution in fund-raising efforts.

The Greiner ranch and studio is located near Kerrville, Texas, where the closest neighbors are whitetail deer and wild turkey.

Max considers all of his accomplishments of little value or importance compared to his relationship with Jesus Christ.

For catalog or fund-raising information:

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