

THE ART OF FAITH™

by *Max Greiner Jr.*



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ART NEWSLETTER #4

May 24, 2013



Studio Notes
by
Max Greiner, Jr.



Max and Sherry presented Max's wildlife bronze sculpture at a charity fundraiser event at the Beverly Hills Hilton in California in 1979. Their first color Art Newsletter was published in the fall of 1979.

35 YEARS IN THE ART BUSINESS!

Believe it or not, in May of 1978 Sherry and I started our family art business and have made a living ever since, thanks to all of you! I haven't had a real job in 35 years! Thank you! And, we have only worked half a day, any 12 hours of the day we wanted! Actually, there have been many long hours, but we are not complaining! Anyone who is self-employed knows regular hours and weekends are rare!

In the process, we learned that making art is one thing; selling enough art to eat on a regular basis is something else! So, Sherry and I want to thank God and all of you for feeding us all these years! Yes, we ate a lot of squirrel and deer meat, especially in the early years, but we never had to pick up a road kill!

There have been many difficult times over the years, but God has taken care of us. By the grace of God, I am now 61. My art is now collected in all 50 states and over 65 countries. It is in many prestigious collections. My artwork today includes drawings, paintings, sculpture, jewelry, and a fine art gift line.

ART IS A LUXURY

The last four years have been financially challenging for us because of the terrible economy. Artwork is a luxury. No one needs it to live! (Sherry and I considered adding milk, eggs and bread to our product line!) Thankfully, during the recession of the eighties, we created a high quality art gift line to supplement our fine art. This diversification has helped us survive the various economic downturns over the years. Sherry and I have also applied Biblical financial principles of giving, saving, sacrifice, living modestly and staying out of debt. This has worked.

CURRENT ART PROJECTS

Several new art projects are in the works. I started the "Lion Of Judah" Ten Commandments bronze sculpture monument, but have not finished it yet. We still need a buyer for the first life-size (105%) bronze casting. The #1 bronze casting is also still available on the 1/3 and 1/2 life-size sculptures. I must sell at least one bronze sculpture from each signed and numbered edition to cover the production costs. If you need a lion at your home, business or church please let me know!

We also entered the ETCHED TILES business. The 4", 6" and 16" ceramic tiles feature some of my favorite art images and scriptures. The beautiful sandblasted tiles make great decorative gifts, Pavers, Trivets and Coasters.

Finally, we also entered the MEMORIALS business to meet the needs of families who want to honor loved ones with meaningful Christian artwork. These memorials are a lasting remembrance that lifts up Jesus while honoring a loved one.

DESTINY PROJECT

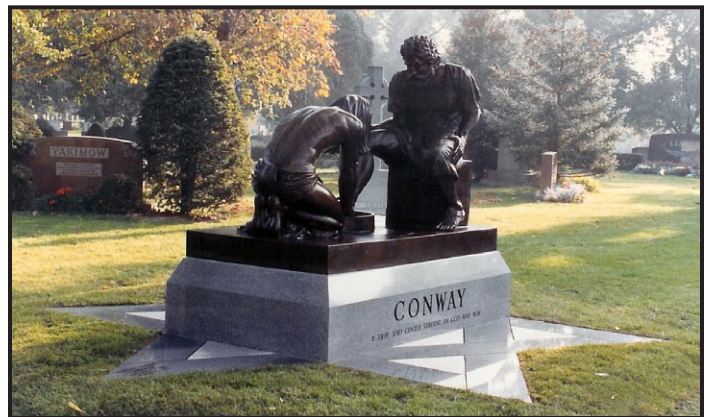
We think our destiny culminates in the creation of THE COMING KING SCULPTURE PRAYER GARDEN on IH-10 here in Kerrville, TX. Sherry and I were called by God on December 9, 2001 to create beautiful gardens across the USA and world to bring glory and souls to Jesus Christ (www.thecomingkingfoundation.org). This project has been much more difficult, and taken much longer than we expected. As soon as we announced our intent to erect a 77'7" cross over IH-10, all hell broke loose. Many of you know the epic 12 year struggle we have faced in our effort to obey God and honor Jesus Christ publically. Today, even though the 23 acre spiritual garden is not finished yet due to lack of funds, thousands of people are coming from across the USA and world to the free, non-denominational, Christ-honoring garden. Many visitors are finding Jesus, the Holy Spirit, healing, miracles, signs and wonders. \$3,000,000 worth of Christian art has been donated by three Christian artists, Beverly Paddleford, David Broussard and our family.



Max is shown here with his life-size (105%) foam carving of the "Lion Of Judah" which will be finished and cast into bronze as soon as he sells the #1 casting. The small 1/6 life-size Maquette bronze sculpture features a laser etched walnut base with the Ten Commandments and names of God.



Many of Max's copyrighted graphic art designs and scriptures are now featured on 4", 6" and 16" ceramic Etched Tiles. The handsome tiles have many uses, in addition to display on a metal easel.



In 1992, the #3 life-size "Divine Servant"® bronze sculpture was placed over the grave of Canadian statesman, Geoffrey Conway by his wife, Julia. She wanted to honor Jesus Christ at her husband's memorial, which would have pleased her late husband who was a passionate Christian. This is the most visited and photographed grave site in Toronto, Canada.

Over two million dollars in cash have been donated to the project, which is being built without debt or professional fundraisers. Sherry and I want to thank all of you who have “sowed seed” into this “good soil” for Jesus!

BOOK

After all these years, I am finally writing our first book! This beautiful, 200 page, “coffee table” gift book will be about the garden vision. Our amazing God story will be told with words and pictures. As some of you know, I have been writing my entire life. I published my first article at age 17 (to the surprise of my high school English teacher) in BOW & ARROW, an internationally circulated archery magazine. I would later go on to be the youngest Bowhunting Editor of the Texas Trophy Hunter Magazine in 1977, at age 25. Over the years I have written many articles on bowhunting and God. I hope to complete our book this summer, LORD willing. Please pray for me. Thanks!

FISHER OF MEN

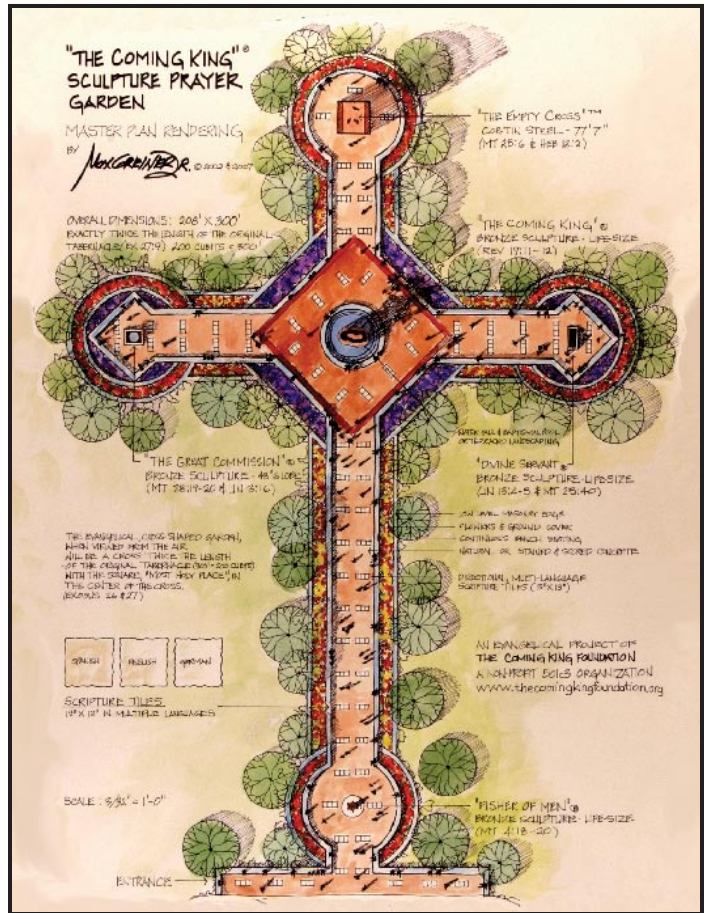
Over the years, God has taken this fisher of fish and hunter of animals, and turned him into a fisher of men! I never planned to be an evangelist, but apparently God did. Ever since I was saved at age 7 at Calder Baptist Church in Beaumont, TX, I knew God loved me (John 3:16). In 1989, at age 37, I learned He had a plan for my life (Jeremiah 29:11) when Sherry and I prayed for the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12). Then, in 2001 at age 49, God revealed His destiny for Sherry and me regarding building a “type” of last days Tabernacle (Isaiah 2:2 & Amos 9:11) to bring honor and souls to Jesus Christ. I want to thank all of you who have prayed for us over the years.

In appreciation of your prayer and financial support over the last 35 years we are offering my “Fisher Of Men”® sculptures in Bronze, Pewter and Resin at a special, one time only, 35% discount, between now and FATHER’S DAY, June 16, 2013. Thank you!

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Our journey began in a galaxy far, far away. Actually, I was born on this planet 61 years ago, though some doubt it! I am still making art and telling others about our good God. I am not chasing big game animals with my bow and arrow as much as I did in my earlier years. Sherry made a rule in 1998 when we moved out to our studio/home here on the ranch: **“If it is named and tamed it can’t be aimed!”** Sherry now hugs most of the animals that I used to shoot! I have to admit it is fun watching all her pet wild animals at point blank range! Back in 1998, Sherry asked God to bring her all His wild animals. He has given her the desires of her heart.

The life-size (105%) bronze sculpture “Fisher Of Men”® stands today in front of “The Empty Cross” Cor-ten steel sculpture at the unfinished COMING KING SCULPTURE PRAYER GARDEN in Kerrville, TX.



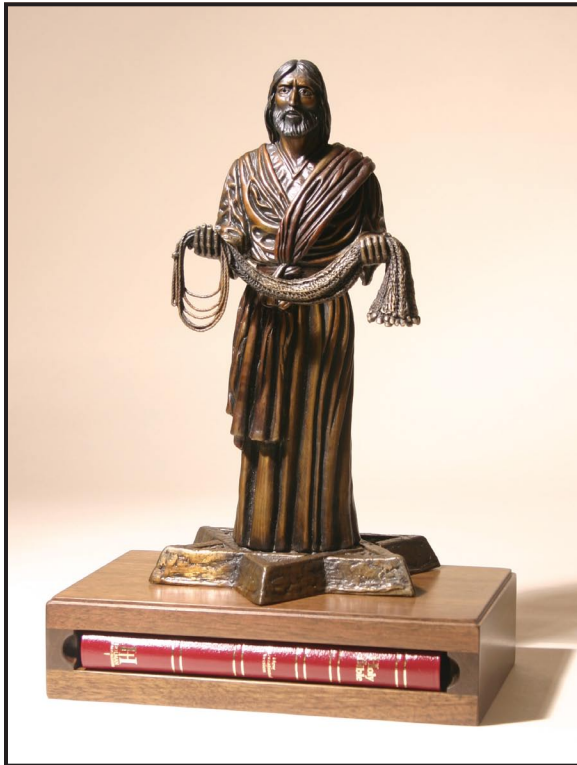
On December 9, 2001, God used stranger, Dr. Mahesh Chavda to call Max and Sherry, in a prophetic word, to create beautiful Sculpture Prayer Gardens as a type of last days Tabernacle. Eight months later the Holy Spirit gave Max a vision after receiving a prophetic word from Marlon Quibodeaux. The stranger proclaimed that God was calling Max to create a 77'7" cross over IH-10. While praying about this word, the Holy Spirit gave Max the design for “The Empty Cross” and a 300' long cross-shaped garden, with monumental Christian sculptures and the Gospel presented in multiple languages.



GALLERY

35 Year 35% Anniversary Discount
on "Fisher Of Men"® featured items!

Sale Ends Father's Day June 16th, 2013



"Fisher Of Men"®
1/12 Life-size
Bronze
(6"x 6"x7", 3 lbs.)
#00498 \$600
Sale Price \$390

"Fisher Of Men"®
1/12 Life-size
Pewter
(6"x 6"x7", 3 lbs.)
#00846 \$220
Sale Price \$143

"Fisher Of Men"®
1/6 Life-size
Bronze, Walnut & Bible
(9"x 10.5"x15", 17 lbs.)
#00560 \$2,000
Sale Price \$1,300



"Fisher Of Men"®
1/12 Life-size
Resin
(6"x 6"x7", 2 lbs.)
#00943 \$50
Sale Price \$33

"Fisher Of Men"®
1/6 Life-size
Resin
(9"x 9"x14", 4.5 lbs.)
#00870 \$120
Sale Price \$78



HOW THE STORY BEGAN

Sherry and I were blessed by God with good parents who are now in Heaven. My parents, Max and Bobbie Sue Greiner encouraged their four children (Max Jr., Carol Eddins, Mark Greiner and Michael Greiner) to live lives of significance and integrity. We were taught to love, work hard, use our natural God-given gifts and to follow our hearts. We were blessed indeed.

My Grandparents, Edwin and Eunice Greiner and Sam and Lillie Mae Cain, also trained and encouraged me to be who I am today. My grandmothers trained me to use my creative gifts while my grandfathers taught me how to hunt, fish and build things. Many great teachers also sowed into my life, both in school and in the Boy Scouts. God, art and the outdoor experience would become the hallmarks of my life.

I was greatly inspired at the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University by two professors, more than any others. They were Alan Stacell, Head of the Environmental Design Department, and design professor, Rodney Hill. They fanned the flames of my God-given imagination and greatly expanded my understanding of design and creativity. I will forever be grateful for their contributions in my life. I remember Alan Stacell challenging me a few years after graduation by saying that God had given me as much natural talent as anyone, but it was up to me what I did with it in my life. I never forgot those words.

I married my high school sweetheart, Sherry L. Sorgee on August 16, 1975. She was the only thing that drew my attention away from art and the outdoors. I asked God to give me a wife who could shoot a 45 lb. hunting bow, carry a 40 lb. backpack, and canoe white water. I also told God she needed to look like a woman! God answered that prayer with Sherry, who has faithfully followed me down the trails of our life. We actually met in 1969, forty four years ago! Because Sherry married me she had real raccoon legs on her wedding cake and spent her Honeymoon backpacking and bowhunting bull elk in the Colorado wildness! She will testify it has never been boring being married to me!

Our first full time jobs were in the Dallas, TX area. Sherry taught middle school in Irving, having earned a BA degree Liberal Arts. She graduated in three years from Lamar University Magna Cum Laude. I worked for Reagan George and the Architects Partnership, not far from downtown Dallas. I remember after about a month on the job working at the 12 man architecture firm, Reagan called me into his office and said: ***“Max, you are ricocheting off the walls!”*** I wasn't sure if that was a complement or not!

In January of 1976, we left our jobs in Dallas to take new jobs in Los Angeles, CA. I was hired as a Graphic Designer for Jennings Compound Bows, Inc., the third largest archery company in the world at the time. In a year I was promoted Advertising & Promotions Director at age 26. Sherry worked as a substitute teacher and secretary. We loved California with the mountains, beaches and Redwoods, but kept our backpacks packed in case of earthquakes!



In December of 1985, Max was photographed with his parents Max and Bobbie Sue Greiner and his siblings Michael, Carol and Mark. Max Sr., Max Jr., Mark and Michael all graduated from TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.



On August 16, 1975, Max and Sherry were married at the Greiner's vacation ranch in Woodville, TX. Their unique "kitsch art" wedding cake featured a buck and doe at the top, with four real raccoon legs and 20 arrow shaft sections! The unusual cake and outdoor wedding made newspapers across the state of Texas at the time.



Max and Sherry left their wedding in Southeast Texas for a two week Honeymoon in Colorado. The couple backpacked into the wilderness south of Steamboat Springs to bow hunt bull elk for a week. However, before the hunt they attended their first Pope & Young Club convention in Fort Collins, CO. where this photo was taken.

However, in 1977, we met one of my archery heroes, professional artist, Douglas Van Howd of Auburn, CA. God let us see that it was possible to make a living from fine art while still living! Doug and Nancy were strong Christians who operated a very successful family art business selling Doug's wildlife artwork. Doug, who later became my mentor, was the artist selected by President Ronald Reagan to create paintings and sculptures for his administration. Seeing the Van Howds inspired us. So, we put out a spiritual "fleece" (Judges 6:37), and asked God if I could spend my life making art, rather than doing architecture or advertising.

At the time, I was having a blast creating art and advertng for Jennings and was serving as a top volunteer leader of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation. I had recently applied to the University of California at Berkley to earn a Masters Degree in Architecture, thinking that was the profession I should pursue. However, in my heart I really wanted to be an artist who lived in the wilderness with his beautiful wife and his bows and arrows!

God answered my "fleece" and said I could be an artist. So, we moved from Los Angeles back to Texas in the spring of 1978 to start a fine art business in the small Texas town of Woodville, population 3,000. I was 27 and Sherry was 26 at the time. We lived on a 116 acre vacation ranch owned by my parents. Growing up I had spent many wonderful weekends and summers hunting and fishing in the Piney Woods of southeast Texas, about 50 miles north of Beaumont. Sherry and I figured it would be a good place to start our art business, since we knew we would always have a roof over our heads and could eat squirrel and catfish if necessary!

I went to work marketing my art and making drawings, paintings, wildlife sculptures and jewelry. By the fall of 1979 we sold a few paintings and drawings but had used up all of our savings from our previous jobs. With only \$40 remaining in the bank, and an obligation to pay a \$1,500 color printing bill, we prayed over a big pile of our first Art Newsletter.

"LORD, we believe You called me to be an artist. We have done all we know to do. It is now up to You. If You want me to be a professional artist, only You can make this work, because we are out of money!"

God dramatically answered our simple prayer. Within 48 hours we sold over \$15,000 worth of my art, which was a lot of money back in 1979! Sherry and I, and our families were stunned! Our art business was launched by the grace of God!

Over the next seven years God greatly blessed the work of our hands as Sherry and I worked day and night to build our family art business.

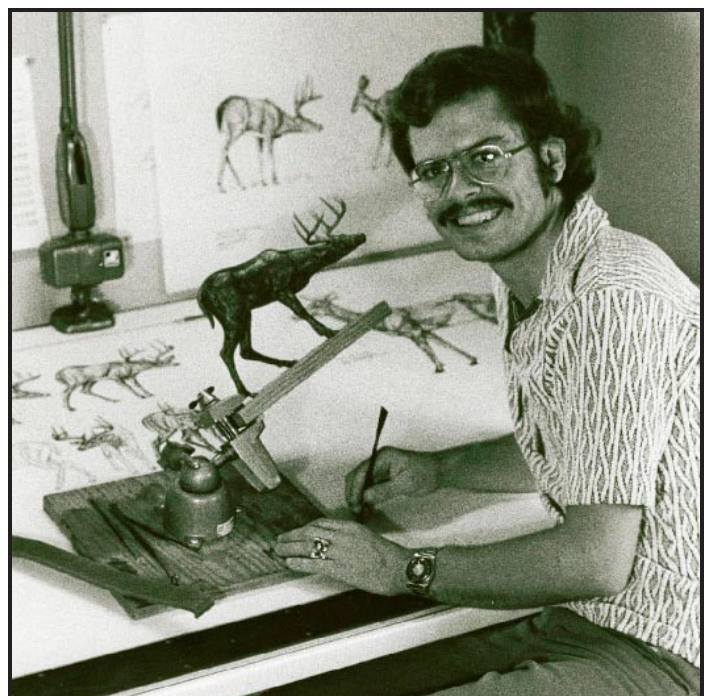
Eventually, my original drawings were selling for up to \$3,000, each while my oil paintings reached \$8,000 in price. My annual wildlife bronze sculpture editions actually began to sellout for thousands of dollars even before I created the actual sculpture! People were actually ordering my bronze sculptures from my preliminary concept drawings!



While in California in 1976, Max was recruited by William H. Wadsworth of the NATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION to help develop THE INTERNATIONAL BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM, which today operates in all 50 states and around the world.



Max and Sherry moved to a 116 acre ranch in Woodville, TX in 1978 to start their fine art business. This 24" x 36" oil painting was created by Max in 1980.



Max's first wildlife bronze sculpture, issued as a signed and numbered edition in 1978 was called "Autumn Fever". Max is shown here at the very beginning stage, as he carved the whitetail deer buck out of wax.

Because of our financial success, on July 4, 1981, Sherry and I moved to Kerrville, TX where we bought some beautiful Hill Country land with the dream of building a passive solar, earth sheltered (green) studio/home, which I would design. Our rugged property, which has several live springs of water, is about seven miles from town. We had great success selling my landscape paintings and wildlife bronze sculptures while bowhunting across the continent, all the way from Texas to the Arctic Circle. Everything was great... I thought. However, life has a way of taking turns we don't expect.

In the autumn of 1985 the Texas economy crashed. About 95% of our wealthy art collectors went bankrupt. Most had become personal friends who made their fortunes in the oil, gas, banking and real estate businesses. Suddenly, everyone stopped buying my expensive art. This threw our family art business into a tail spin. At the time, we were giving a 100% money back guarantee, because my art had been doubling and tripling in value on the resale market. Almost overnight, we found ourselves running out of money with no new art sales coming in.

Problems mounted. We found ourselves unable to pay our Kerrville property and mobile home notes. My plan had been to live in a single wide mobile home on our land while I supervised the construction of our dream house. Our situation turned into a nightmare when we learned my dad was diagnosed with life-threatening disease and Sherry became ill. Suddenly, making art and bowhunting didn't seem very important. I was losing everything important to me. I cried out to God, but it did not appear from our circumstances that He was hearing me.

It was during this very difficult, humbling time, that the Holy Spirit spoke directly to me in His "still, small voice", as I pulled into our Kerrville property. God clearly said to my spirit: ***"Max, I want you to do a sculpture of Jesus washing Peter's feet."***

Even though I heard the voice of the Lord, I chose to disobey after explaining that God needed to quickly fix everything going wrong in my life. It was the spring of 1986. I knew God was trying to teach me about humility, however I felt I had been humbled enough. Plus, I did not see any possible way making a small sculpture of Jesus washing feet could help any of our very serious problems. After all, I was losing my wife, my dad, my home, my land, my clients and my art business.

To make a long story short, God did some serious "sculpting" on me the sculptor over the next two years. He wanted me to look more like Jesus! This was a very painful process. God allowed the circumstances of my life to bring me to my knees so He could get my attention. Up until that time I was pretty much focused on me and my plan. God wanted me focused on Him and His plan for my life. Little did I know, that He wanted me to become a "fisher of men". God had a plan (Jeremiah 29:11) for my life and I wasn't cooperating.



The Greiners live on a 126 acre ranch in a unique passive solar (green)house designed by Max starting in 1980. Construction began in 1998. The Studio Home was completed in 1999. A virtual tour of the Greiner ranch and home is on the website.



Max and Sherry Greiner opened their first art gallery in Kerrville, TX in August of 1984. Pictured at the gallery opening are Max's grandmother, Lillie Mae Cain (left) and his mother, Bobbie Sue and father, Max Glen Greiner. Sherry is shown pregnant with their only child, Diana Shay, who would be born in November of that year.



On 12/30/12 the Greiner's daughter, Diana Shay Evans dedicated her daughter with husband Justin. His parents, Doug and Karen witnessed Ivery Shae's dedication to Jesus.

In fact, I was walking the wrong direction but I did not know it. However, God never gives up on His kids. The Holy Spirit is very patient and persistent! With everything crashing down around me, I finally submitted to God.

As a result, in February of 1989, I delivered the small, 1/6 life-size wax sculpture of “*Divine Servant*”® to the foundry to be cast in bronze. I had no idea that this one sculpture would take me into the next season of my life and my destiny. No one in history had ever, to my knowledge, created a realistic sculpture of Jesus washing the feet of Peter (John 13).

This one composition touched the hearts of thousands of people including Presidents, Governors, Popes, and the stars of business, ministry, sports and media. In July of 1990, Sherry, our daughter, Diana Shay, and I delivered the 105% life-size wax of “*Divine Servant*”® to Eagle Bronze in Lander, WY to be cast in bronze. This iconic composition is now recognized worldwide, and is used to visually communicate the incredible love and humility of Jesus Christ.



Ryan and Nicole Huff have worked for the Greiners since 2009. Ryan is the Office Manager. The Production Manager is Jose Mendoza who has worked for the Greiners since 1988.



Many consider Max’s “*Divine Servant*”® Bronze Sculpture to be his first masterpiece. The powerful composition, based on John 13, is recognized around the world. Bronze Castings are in the collections of Popes and Preachers, Presidents and Governors and the stars of business, sports, music, TV and movies.

Today, by the grace of God, Sherry and I operate our international art business from our 126 acre ranch with the help of Production Manager, Jose Mendoza, Office Manager, Ryan Huff, and his wife, Nicole Huff, who does all of our website and social media work. Hundreds of other craftsmen also help us produce my sculptures in bronze, pewter and resin at different foundries. For many years we had art galleries in town. Unfortunately, we no longer have a gallery and the studio is not open to the public. However, we do provide virtual tours on our website for those interested.

Now 35 years later we are still making art and trying to use our God-given talents, gifts and resources to bring glory and souls to Jesus Christ. Back in 1978 all my art focused on the creation. Today, most of my art and my life are focused on the Creator.

If you would like to know more about our story or God, please visit our websites and listen to our audio miracle testimonies online. Thanks again for all you have done and prayed over the years to make our life journey possible! The adventure continues!



Thank you for sharing this Art Newsletter with others!
Sherry & Max Greiner, Jr.