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Jesus arrives in Washington – in the back of a pickup truck

Staff report news@dailytimes.com May 16, 2025

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Pastor Robert Fitzgerald Carter, left, and his wife, Sophia, are shown with the newly installed bronze monument at their church in Washington, D.C. “Divine Servant” is by Kerrville artist Max Greiner Jr.
Courtesy

On Friday, May 2, Jesus arrived in Washington, D.C., in the back of a pickup truck.

He suddenly appeared with Simon Peter about two blocks south from the U.S. Capitol, and officials report that Jesus and Peter will remain there indefinitely, in an effort to influence the culture of the city, the nation and the world.

NEW MEMORIAL

This new public memorial — known as “Divine Servant” — was permanently installed in the “City of Monuments” specifically to honor Jesus Christ.

The life-sized monument is a 1,200-pound bronze statute that portrays Jesus washing Simon Peter’s feet on the night before the crucifixion.
The thought-provoking composition was conceived in 1986 by Kerrville resident Max Greiner, internationally collected Christian artist, architect and evangelist.

In 2022, Pastor Robert Fitzgerald Carter of the Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle — a small 100-year-old Assemblies of God congregation in Washington, D.C. — contacted Greiner and said they were building a new church on the site of the old church, which they were renaming to DC360.

Carter said the church wished to purchase one of Greiner's $100,000 bronze sculptures for the new church.

Due to the ongoing construction project, the small congregation did not have the funds to purchase the sculpture, but they believed God wanted the "Divine Servant" in front of their new building. Two years went by, and only half of the cost had been raised.

But the artist felt that installing his work in the nation's capital was vital after a visit in 2006 revealed to him that there were no monuments to Jesus in the "City of Monuments. The only artwork of Jesus at the time were icons and paintings found inside Catholic churches and a few art museums.

"I was stunned to discover that the creator of t

he universe, the Messiah of the Jews and the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, did not have a single public monument or memorial honoring his contributions to civilization in our nation's capitol," Greiner said. "I remember praying at the time that God would erect a bold public monument for Jesus Christ in Washington, D.C., so he could be honored forever."

Greiner said he and his wife, Sherry, prayed about the statue request, and decided to join with existing donors in making the gift to the church.

The sculpture was cast by one of the largest art foundries in the world, Eagle Bronze Inc. The art foundry is owned by Christian couple Monte and Beverly Paddleford.

"Eagle monuments are all over the world, including inside the U.S. Capitol Rotunda," Greiner said.

Greiner's No. 62 "Divine Servant" bronze took almost a year to cast at the foundry. The statue then traveled almost 2,000 miles in the back of the Paddleford pickup truck from Lander, Wyoming, to Washington, D.C.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1951 to Christian parents, Max Greiner Jr. said he believes God made him an artist and gave him his talent. He also believes God specifically called him to create his six major, "signed and numbered" Christian monuments over 36 years.

Today, Greiner's copyrighted and trademarked Biblical themed artwork can be found in all 50 states and about 80 countries. His large public monuments can be seen in the U.S., Canada, South Korea and Israel. Smaller versions of Greiner's bronze sculptures have been owned by Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, Pope John Paul II, Pat Robertson and many other well-known Christians, Greiner said.

Initially, Greiner carved his life-size sculpture, "Divine Servant" entirely out of wax in 1990. He said he wanted to create the first scripturally accurate rendition of the foot washing example, based on the Bible's precise description.

The artist's last monumental sculpture is called the "Lion Of Judah." The No. 1 statue was given to the nation of Israel as a gift of love and support from the Greiners and their American friends. The massive bronze sculpture is on permanent display in Bloomfield Park, Jerusalem. It is the only non-Jewish statue on public display in Israel, according to Jewish officials.

Greiner earned his Architecture Degree from Texas A&M University in 1974 but chose to pursue art as his career in 1978, after practicing architecture for several years in Dallas. His secular art included drawings, paintings, jewelry and sculpture.

The direction of his life and art changed at age 35, when the artist believes he heard the "still small voice" of God instructing him to create a small sculpture of Jesus washing Peter's feet. This came during the most humbling time in the artist's life. The Texas economy had crashed, 95% of his millionaire art collectors went bankrupt, his family suddenly was losing their Kerrville land and house. Then, his wife and father were diagnosed with life- threatening illnesses. Finally, after a season of disobedience, Greiner obeyed God and created a small bronze sculpture of Jesus washing feet. Everything changed for the artist, and he went on to found The Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden in Kerrville, which draws thousands of visitors each month.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Max Greiner Jr. and his art, visit www.maxgreinerart.com. For

details on the

DC360 Church, visit www.DC360Church.com.

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