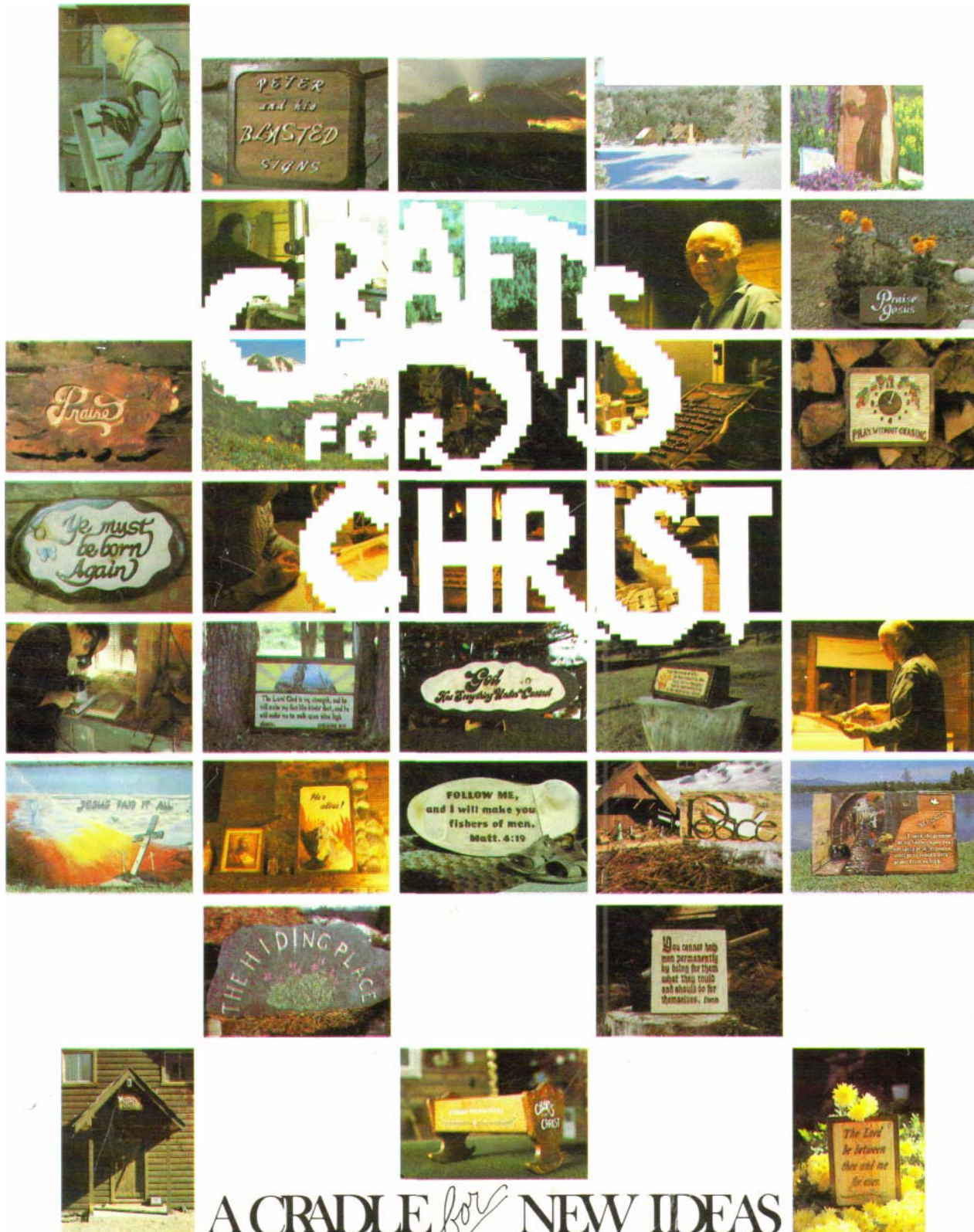
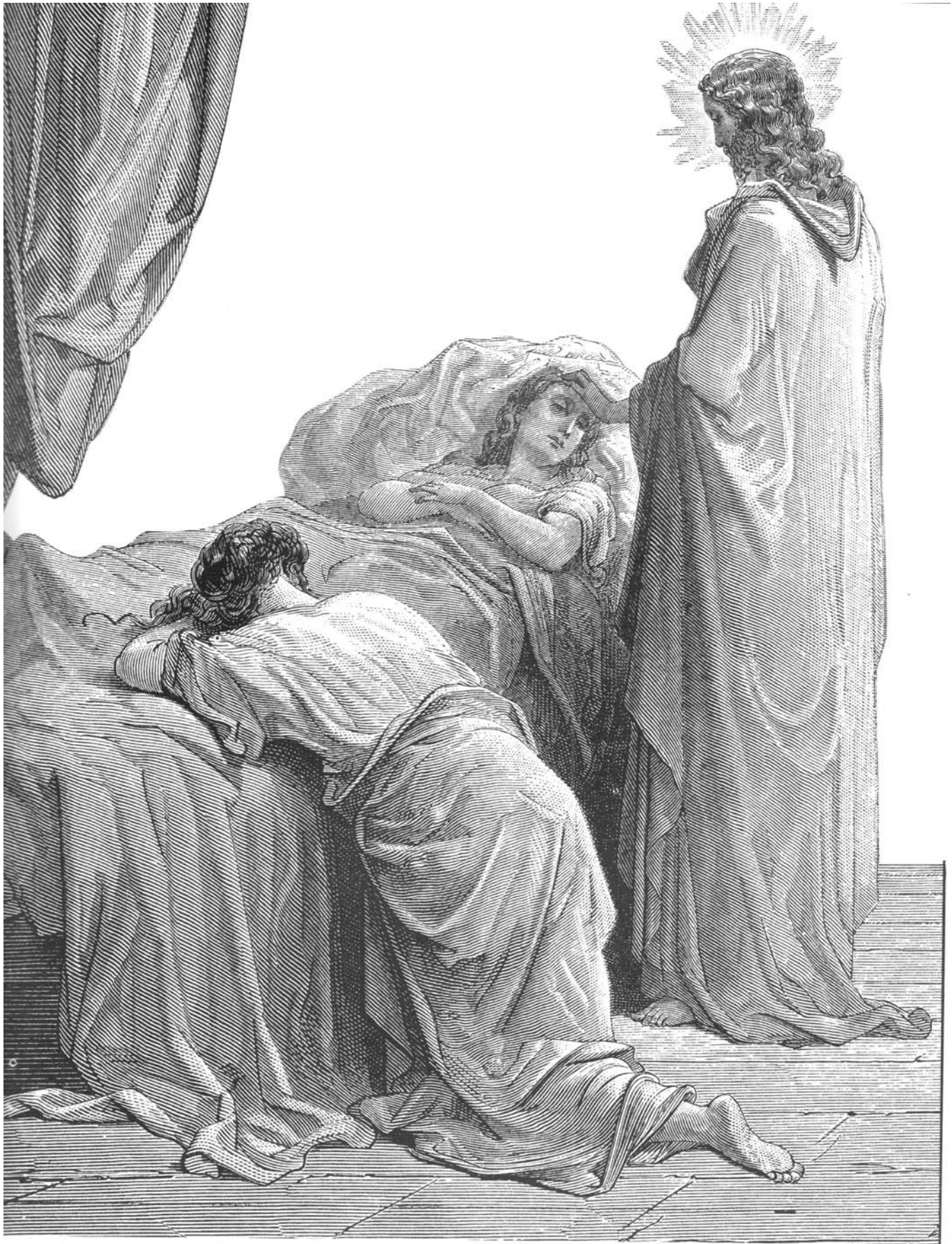


# H A N D B O O K



A CRADLE *for* NEW IDEAS



A Cradle For New Ideas Peter D. Laue

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Photography by Trip Tinder, Howard S. Gross, Lee Warfield, Brian Burnett, Col. Norman Lewis.

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Beloved Brethren,

**G**race and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord. (II Peter 1:2)

This book is dedicated to:

Those who know pain, yet have never doubted the goodness and everlasting mercies of our heavenly Father.

Those who have heard the voice of God and obeyed even when the world has called them fools.

The many who know the pain of divorce, yet have not become bitter.

The many children who are growing up without a father or mother.

Those whose hearts are filled with compassion for the mentally ill.

Those who are disabled, yet have never given up hope.

Those who are standing at the door of retirement praying for direction and fulfillment.

Those who have asked their Lord how they might serve Him better.

May Jesus touch your life as only He can, as you hold this book in your hands and look through its pages. May His anointing come upon you and break every yoke. May His Word and His purpose for your life become more alive than ever before, for it is written: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn you and have continued my faithfulness to you." (Jeremiah 31:3)

And when you have been strengthened and encouraged, touch the life of a fellow-pilgrim. Give a copy to a friend or leave one anonymously in a place where you know that someone is hurting—a doctor's waiting room, a lawyer's office, in a hospital or welfare waiting room. I have been there. There is much pain in these places.

May the Lord bless you for your faithfulness to Him.

His servant and your brother in Christ Jesus,

*Peter*

**DEDICATION**

"Though your sins are as scarlet,  
They will be as white as snow;  
Though they are red like crimson,  
They will be like wool." Isaiah 1:18



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**I**n the first edition of our book we included a short account entitled “A Chorus of Despair.” In our second edition we omitted this section for fear of being misunderstood. We soon discovered that this cannot be avoided no matter how hard one tries. We also learned that we had left out a very vital part, the part which touches the heart.

This is the story about us. Where we came from and what we went through to get where we are now. This is the ‘roots’ of Crafts for Christ. In these pages you’ll see where we live and see us in action, as well as other work from people who have touched our lives and have been touched by our craft.

We share this account with you so that our joy and tears may bring us closer together, both in this world and the world to come.

**W**e have many visitors. Some come to learn our craft, some to purchase our signs, and some just to sit and relax and enjoy the beautiful setting in which we live.



Invariably we are asked to share the story of our life; where we came from, how Crafts for Christ began, what brought us to Colorado and what our plans are for the future. We never seem to tire of answering these questions. Many have left with new hope and joy. We praise God for the miracle of every changed life. We thank the Holy Spirit for causing us to remember those things that seem to be most helpful and interesting for our visitors. We thank our Lord for making Himself so real to us and our visitors as we share our life and His life with them.

**J**anuary, 1970, was the turning point in my life and a good place to begin this account. I had been happily married for 13 years, was the father of two fine boys, and both my wife and I had been successful in our careers—both in the computer field. What happened on Wednesday morning, January 28th, 1970 was a total surprise to everyone. It was my practice to start each day with 50 laps in our patio pool. The alarm was set for 5:30 AM when I would throw back the covers, jump out of bed and head for the pool. Those first few minutes in the cold water were the hardest. After that I was numb all over and was able to swim my laps without any problem.

On Wednesday morning, January 28, 1970, something very unusual happened as I began my laps. Over me descended a gentle and pleasant feeling one might compare to small electrical waves. The waves began at the top of my head and then flooded my entire body. This experience lasted for the duration of my time in the water—about 20 minutes. When I stepped out of the water I began to sob like a baby. I cried and cried, and with each tear my whole being started to relax. It seemed as if the accumulated tension of a lifetime was being released all at one time. Some Power greater than myself had come over me. I did not understand what had happened, but it seemed all right. I felt new and clean and whole.

I had not cried for 17 years. In August of 1953 I went through a severe spiritual and emotional crisis while serving in the U.S. armed forces overseas. At that time I convinced myself that pain was like an unwelcomed intruder and to be avoided at any cost. I proceeded to seal off the feeling part of my nature and to let my mind and will direct my life. Every decision that I made between 1953 and 1970 was affected—my career, the choice of my mate, my entertainment, my friends. As I look back, I can see that for 17 years only one half of me was alive.



A few days later, on February 1, 1970, I suddenly awoke in the middle of the night. I felt compelled to go to the family room, kneel at a footstool and say "The Lord's Prayer." This was totally against my nature. I had

belittled any display of religion and carefully avoided those who attempted to convert me to their own particular kind. I made repeated attempts to say the entire prayer but was never able to get past “Thy will be done.”

Finally I asked in my spirit “Lord, what is Thy will for my life?” This was the key that unlocked a vision that lasted for three hours, as best as I can remember. It was an awesome experience. I thought that I would lose my mind, so terrifying were some of the things I saw. I have shared the details of the vision with others, but I believe that these are things that cannot be shared with everyone.

The next evening I had a fainting spell. When I regained consciousness, I was on the psychiatric ward of a hospital. I spent three weeks in the hospital. It was long enough for me to know that I could never go back to my former profession. I promised God to let Him use me to alleviate the terrible mental anguish of the mentally ill. How and when this might happen, I did not know. Psychiatrists and therapists tried for over a year to reconstruct my old personality. Apparently the word “conversion” was foreign to their training. The diagnosis of schizophrenic was given to me and many others who have had a sudden and dramatic change in their personality. I desperately tried to convince the doctors that what happened to me was an act of grace—the unmerited favor of God—but to no avail.

In May of 1971 the last link that connected me with my former life and wife was cut. Like so many others, I experienced the agonizing pain of divorce and the loss of my children. I felt like Moses might have when he was unwilling to bend to the rule of Pharaoh and was exiled from Egypt. Subconsciously I seemed to be drawing a parallel between the time of Pharaoh and our modern 20th century when I saw the movie “The Ten Commandments” by Cecille B. DeMille in the Spring of 1972. It seemed as if some of the same cruelties and excesses are being repeated today. I was deeply stirred as I saw the film and allowed the story to give direction to my life.

**I** praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to continually guide and teach me during these very difficult years of my life. It is only by the Grace of God that I am not in a small cell with many others today. For the pain of losing the love and respect of wife and children and peers can cause a man to think many dark thoughts. But I harkened to the voice of the Lord who said, “Vengeance is mine,” from Romans 12:19.

My journey through the dark corridors of life has not been in vain. Now I know that there are many who have slipped into a prison of despair and bitterness and confusion. I have walked past their cells and have heard the chorus of their despair.

But my God is true to His Word. In my darkest hour His Word became life and light to me. He let the words of the psalmist David become my inheritance also. “For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” Now I know that “All things work together for good to them who love God.” (Romans 8:28)

My life became a twisted, terrifying and fearful experience when I was cut off from my family. I nearly bled to death. I felt like the stump of a tree that had lost its crown. (Daniel, Chapter 4) It was as if the very foundation was ripped from beneath me. When I fell, I broke into many pieces. But I kept on going, driven by an unexplainable determination to live and to expose the terror that strikes by night and the arrow that flieth by day.

My God was full of grace and tender mercies when my house of cards collapsed. He caused me to see that I had built my house on shifting sands, the unpredictable whims of our human natures. He caused me to understand that I must not hold onto family or friends or position for security, but to Him and Him alone. Praise Jesus!

And only then, He led into my life a woman acquainted with sorrow and grief, yet who was unscarred by bitterness or revenge, for she knew and loved Jesus first. She became my handmaiden and her children became my children. Her need was not to shine, but to



love and obey her Lord. I praise God for the gift of her love and her obedience to the Word of God.

Many veils have been removed from my eyes since I can confess with the Apostle Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God," from Matthew 16:16. With Christ I have determined to step once more into the arena of life, "—to set at liberty them that are bruised." (Luke 4:18)

I believe that my Lord has called me to bring healing to the home, healing to the many bruised relationships within members of the same family—His family. Happy hands pledged and working to the glory of God cannot be raised in anger against one another.



**T**he question that still remains unanswered is: "How did Crafts for Christ get started?"

It had become my heart's desire to be a counselor for Christ. My desire and enthusiasm was unlimited, but my formal education was

not enough to satisfy the state requirements. Although I do not disparage the value of formal and intensive training, I believe as many others do, that the Holy Spirit in us is the real Counselor. This belief was shared by two local churches of our community who permitted me to begin counseling under their auspices in January of 1975.

Shortly after I began, the idea of having a counseling sign came to me. I shared the idea with my friend, John Allen, who was skilled and talented in making signs. We discussed several alternatives and decided to try something new—a "sandblasted sign." My friend researched the technique, designed the sign and together we went to work. My friend did the lion's share of the work while I primarily watched.



Everyone was delighted with the results. Before long I considered applying the idea to little plaques starting with "Easy Does It," "This Too Shall Pass" and "One Day at a Time." These are sayings used by Alcoholics Anonymous. They were brought to my attention by one of my counselees whose husband had joined this group. Before long I could see the therapy inherent in crafts and began to use the making of signs as therapy and as a bridge between people. I myself was able to cope with tension much more easily by expressing what I felt through making signs. Others who tried it obtained similar results. Suddenly and unexpectedly we sold a little sign which said, "Yes, Lord." I was overjoyed. I continued to counsel, but spent more and more

of my available time in making signs and dreaming up new ideas.

One day we were invited by Harald Bredesen, author of the book "Yes, Lord," to display our work at the Christian Center where we attended. The response was beyond any expectations. This was in August of 1977. We were subsequently invited to teach a class, and again, the response was beyond expectations. This gave the momentum to our first Crafts for Christ handbook and the desire to share this ministry with others.

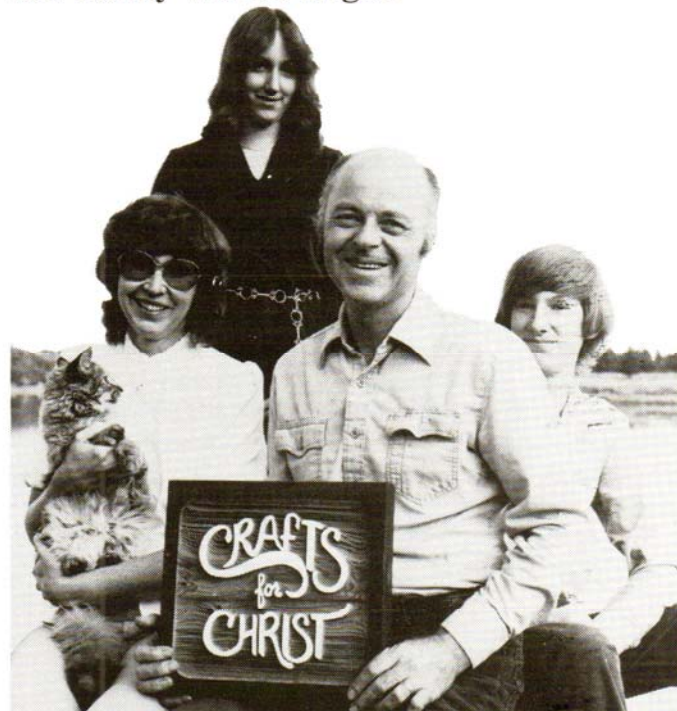
The future is full of promise. Almost daily we have an opportunity to share with someone what we have learned or receive a letter of thanksgiving from a happy sign maker. New ideas tumble forth from all directions. We can see boy's ranches, schools, hospitals and prisons incorporate this craft into their programs. We can see self-respect restored to those who have been idle and unproductive for long periods of time. We can see homes healed and new gifts under the Christmas tree.

How we came to Pagosa Springs, Colorado is a chapter all by itself. We invite you to come and visit us and let us share this story in person. The story will be framed by majestic mountains, a picturesque lake and golden sunsets.



**W**e are a joyful family in Christ. Jesus brought us together from different corners of the world. Both my wife and I had to learn many difficult lessons in different parts of the

world, before we knew that Jesus held the only valid answers for life's problems. I was born in Bensheim, Germany, my wife in Saginaw, Michigan, our daughter Heather in Sasebo, Japan, and our son Daniel in Long Beach, California. As the head of this household, I now know that I am responsible to God for my family's total well being. I consider this a privilege, a challenge, and a sacred trust. Today there are only four in my family. One day—when bruised and broken relationships are healed again, I pray that this family will be larger.



But what has happened to counseling? one might ask. Does counseling still carry a high priority amongst your other activities? The answer is a strong "Yes."

Counseling is now a part of the very fabric of life, delicately woven into each day's activity, the overriding consideration in all our plans. However, the frenetic drive, born during a time of great anguish, has been replaced by the confidence that God has everything under control. New insights have taught me that Jesus is the true Counselor, and that the Holy Spirit will bring the words of Jesus to our remembrance at just the right time. (John 14:26) He will use anyone in this capacity who makes himself available as His instrument.

**I**t's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, so herewith in the next few pages is our story—in pictures. It shows where we live, how we got started in crafts and some of our work. You'll meet our family as well as other people who have touched our lives and some of their work as well.



The man God used to open the door to the art of sign making was John Allen and his wife Colleen. The sign, 'Peter and his blasted signs' was intended to be a pun. It was made for me by my wife Rebekah. Hopefully, it will remind Peter not to clutter the house with pieces of wood and a variety of signs in different stages of completion.

**C**rafts for Christ was born in a vision in February, 1970, in Sunland, California. That vision was to have wall space for Jesus across the land. I felt like the apostle Paul might have on the "road to Damascus"—devastated and ready to obey.



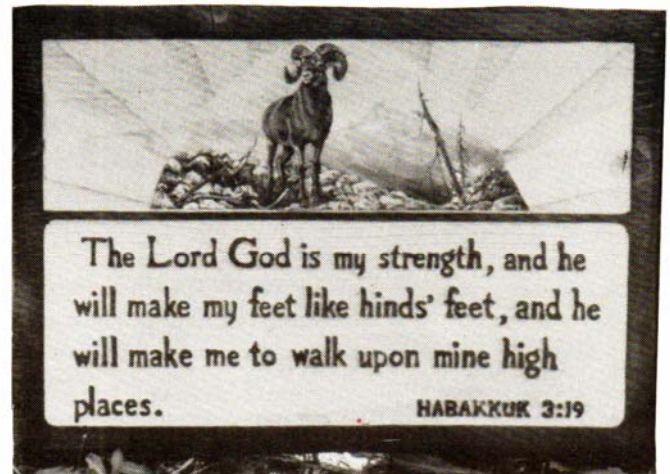
Two of the many books God chose to rebuild my shattered life were 'Reese Howells, Intercessor' and 'Yes, Lord.' Read the story about the hat in 'Reese Howells' and you will understand why I chose to wear a cross.



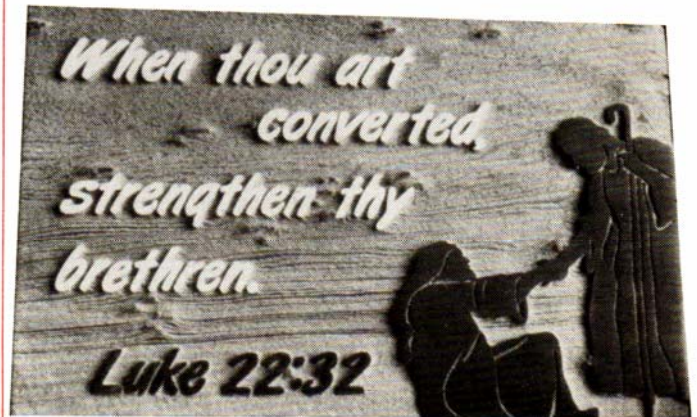
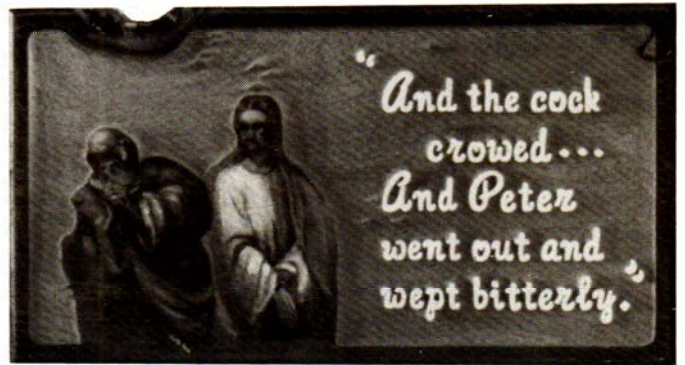
We live in an area of southwestern Colorado where the unspoiled beauty of nature abounds. We have many visitors who sometimes refer to our home as 'The Hiding Place'—a place to rest, and sometimes heal hurts.



There is a special joy when a discarded piece of wood can be made into an object of beauty. The sign Habakkuk 3:19 is a piece of pine from a larger slab of wood that had been discarded by the lumber mill. Carol Kimsey, artist, and Crafts for Christ combined their talents to create this sign for the mill owner, Jim Watkins, of Pagosa Springs.

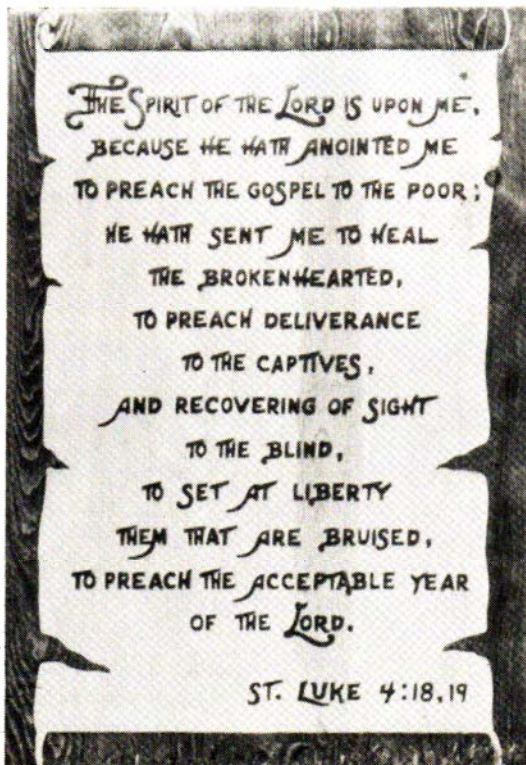


Only God can reclaim a life that is self-seeking and unruly. He is the Master Craftsman. He has spoken to my heart and said, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."





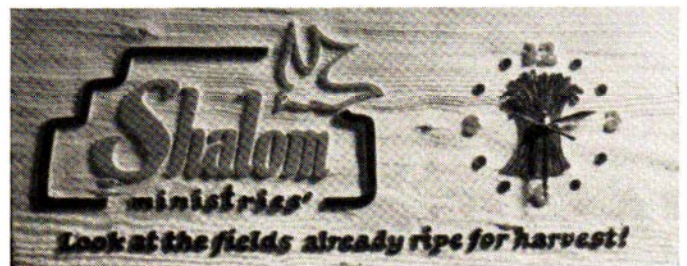
Dick and Nancy Baxter owned a restaurant in Durango, Colorado, where the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship held their monthly meeting. After Crafts for Christ shared their ministry at the fellowship, Dick asked us to make a sign with the words, "Jesus paid it all." When the sign was finished, Dick and Nancy courageously and happily displayed it at the restaurant. Their clientele changed, their lives changed, and their faith was tested over and over. If you have the privilege of meeting this fine couple, ask them to share their story. They currently make their residence in Colorado Springs.



We are grateful to each person who has inspired and challenged us to try something a little more difficult, a little bigger and a little bolder. Our thanks go to Sonny Holland and the Sonny Holland Evangelism Outreach of Irving, Texas. We met Sonny when he ministered to us in February of 1978 at the First Baptist Church in Pagosa Springs. Sonny asked us to make Luke 4:18, 19 for his organization. Thank you, Sonny Holland.

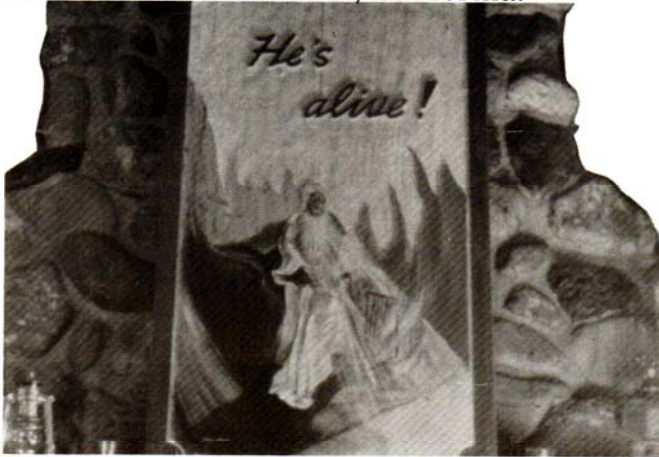


Larry and Mary Scott of Arizona City, Arizona were brought into our home and lives in June of '79 by our good friends, the Wiescamps of Del Norte, Colorado. A bond of friendship grew quickly between us. Before they left to return to Arizona City they commissioned Crafts for Christ to make this sign for their fellowship—The 91st Psalm Fellowship of Casa Grande, Arizona. God has used the talents of sign making through Crafts for Christ for other ministries as well, Shalom, for example.





This humble man of God needs no introduction. He is loved by man the world over, and is best known for his prayer, "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace . . ." The piece of wood is aromatic cedar which was rescued from the fire just in time to decorate the mantle of our friends, the Mortensons of Escondido, California.



The idea for this sign was first born in Tulsa in August of 1978. A group of us were listening to the record "Forgiven" by Don Francisco and the song "He's Alive." The words are the most powerful portrayal in song of the apostle Peter that I have ever heard. The concluding words are "He's alive and I'm forgiven." Our artist friend, Betty Slade, did the painting. Each person who hears the words 'He's Alive' will be specially ministered to by it, especially those who can identify with the apostle Peter. May it be a door for a more abundant life in Him for many.



Bread boxes are beautiful and daily reminders of the words from Luke 4:4, "Thou shalt not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."



For those who love to paint and believe that prayer moves the hand of God, clocks may provide a new opportunity and a new door.



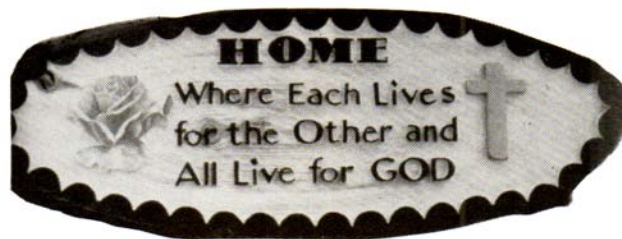
Crafts for Christ is an outreach and a 'cradle for new ideas.' Many people have learned the craft and are producing beautiful work. Since our friends and their work are so numerous, we've tried to include some pieces, as well as a few more of our own. The ministry grows everyday, and goes on and on.



Design by John Allen of Morro Bay, California.



Created by Betty Slade of Pagosa Springs, Colorado.



Signs by Geri Warfield of Pagosa Springs.

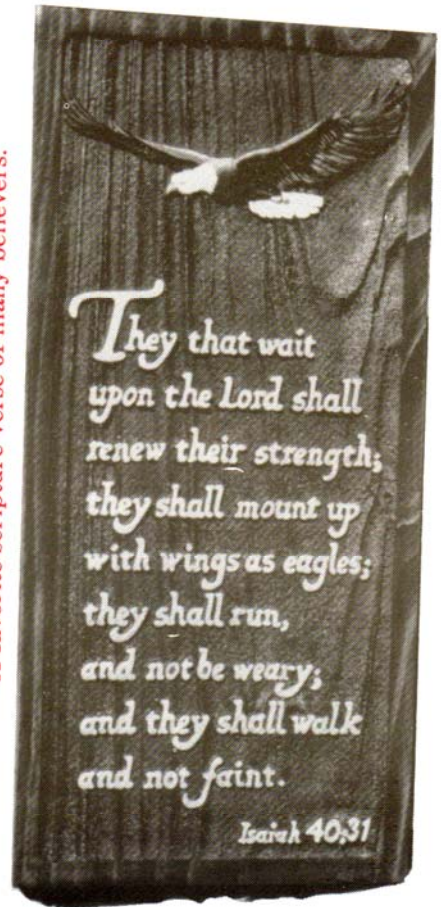
Made for our friends Mike West Plains, Missouri.



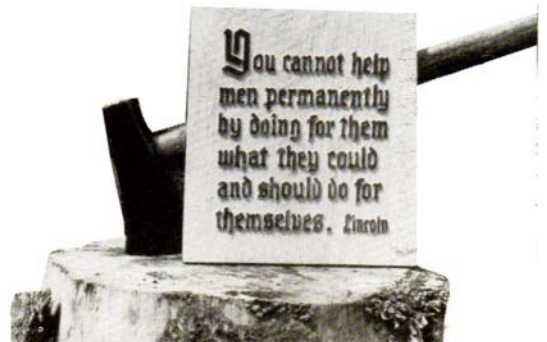




A favorite scripture verse of many believers.



and Julie Harcastle of

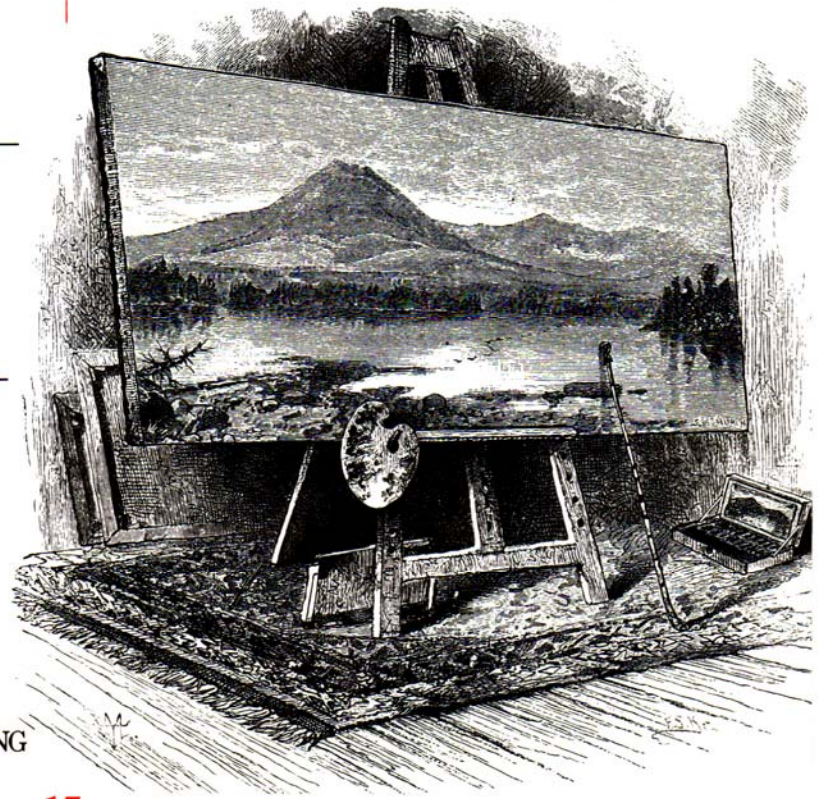


**W**hen earth's last picture is painted,  
 and the tubes are twisted and dried,  
 When the oldest colors have faded,  
 and the youngest critic has died,  
 We shall rest, and, faith, we shall need it—  
 lie down for an aeon or two.  
 Till the Master of All Good Workmen  
 shall set us to work anew!

And those who love God will be happy:  
 they shall sit in a golden chair;  
 They shall splash at a ten-league canvas  
 with brushes of comet's hair;  
 They shall find real saints to draw from—  
 Magdalene, Peter and Paul;  
 They shall work for an age at a sitting  
 and never be tired at all!

And only the Master shall praise us,  
 and only the Master shall blame;  
 And no one shall work for money,  
 and no one shall work for fame;  
 But each for the joy of the working,  
 and each, in his separate star,  
 Shall draw the Thing as he sees It  
 for the God of Things as they are!

RUDYARD KIPLING



**I**ncluded in this book are twenty-one patterns. Most of these are relatively simple to make. They are to serve as a starting point for those who would like to make signs. We urge everyone to be creative and develop their own patterns. We would appreciate receiving copies of favorite patterns. We plan to include some of these in a pattern book to be made available at some future date.

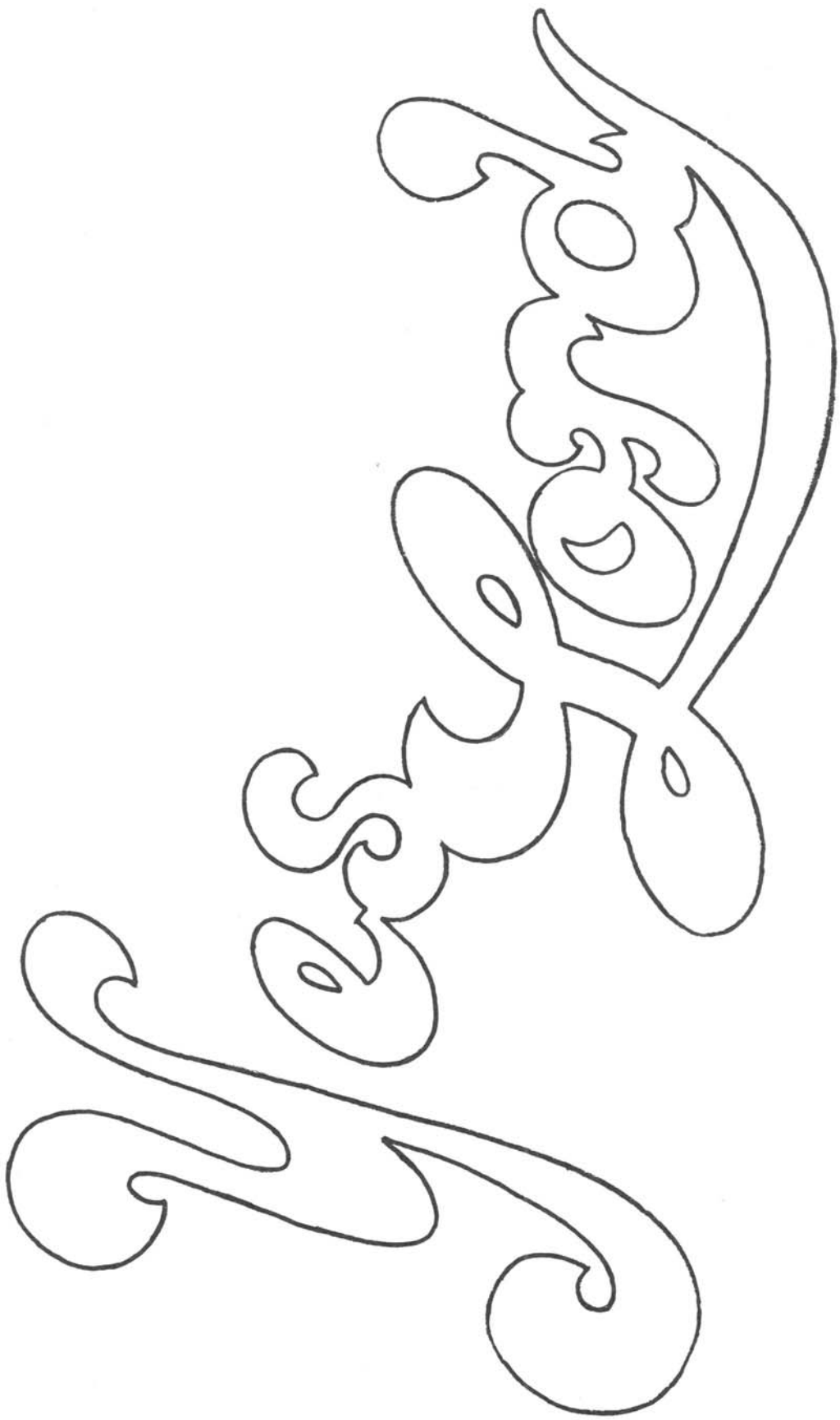
The patterns are inserted in the book with separate staples. They may be removed by removing the staples in the center of the book. This will not cause the balance of the book to come apart. The patterns have been designed so that standard sizes of wood do not have to be trimmed. Also, waste of sandblast stencil tape will be at a minimum when 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ " or 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide rolls are used.

Some of the designs seem to be more attractive with a border. This is a personal matter. Where indicated, the dimensions of the wood allow for a border. Dimensions are in inches.

<b>PATTERN DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>REF. LETTER</b>	<b>BORDER</b>	<b>WOOD SIZE</b>	<b>ACTUAL SUR DIMEN.—IN.</b>
YES, LORD	A	YES	2x6	5½x8½
HE CARETH FOR ME (I PETER 5:7)	B	YES	2x8	7½x9
DOVE	C	YES	1x10	9¼x11¾
PRAISE JESUS	D	NO	2x10	9¼x11¾
ONE DAY AT A TIME	E	YES	1x10	9¼x11¾
YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN	F	YES	1x12	11¼x14
JESUS LOVES YOU (WITH NAME)	G	YES	1x12	11¼x17
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI	H	NO	2x8	7¼x16
JESUS (FISH)	I	NO	2x6	7¼x15
LOVING IS LISTENING	J	YES	2x6	5½x20
LET MY PEOPLE GO	K	YES	2x6	5½x20
JESUS IS LORD	L	YES	2x8	7½x20
CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART	M	YES	2x6	5½x18
IN HIM WE LIVE (ACTS 17:28)	N	YES	2x6	5½x20
GOD HAS EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL	O	NO	2x6	5½x20
THE LORD BLESS YOU (NUMBERS 6:24-26)	P	NO	1x12	11¼x19
LINCOLN SAYING	Q	YES	1x12	11¼x13
THE LORD BE BETWEEN . . . (I SAM. 20:23)	R	YES	1x10	9¼x11¾
HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT (II COR. 12:9)	S	YES	1x10	9¼x11¾
WALKING & LEAPING (ACTS 3:8)	T	NO	1x10	9¼x11¾
SOMEBODY TOUCHED ME (LUKE 8:46)	U	NO	1x10	9¼x11¾

## **INDEX**

YES,  
LORD

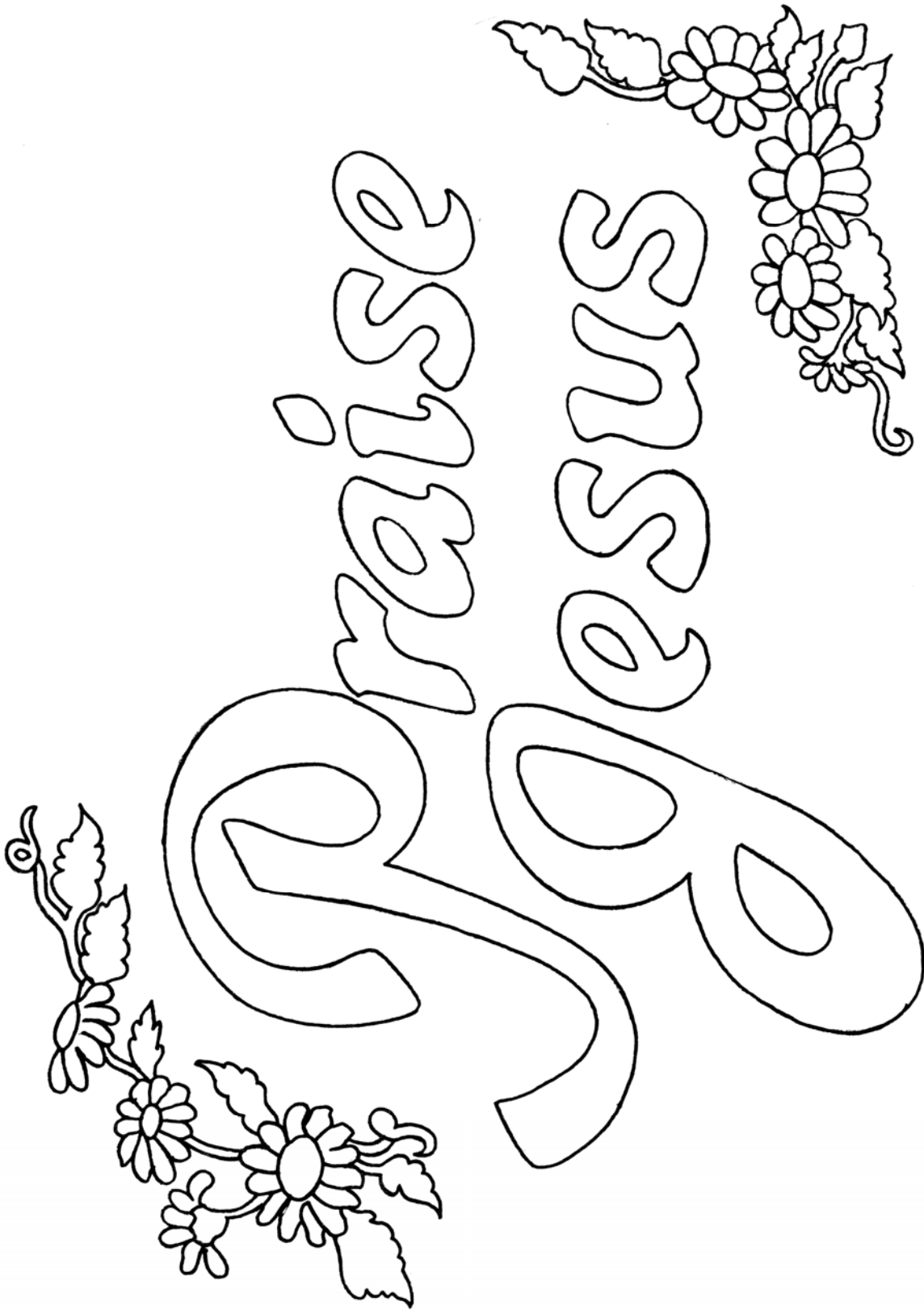


He  
Careth  
For Me

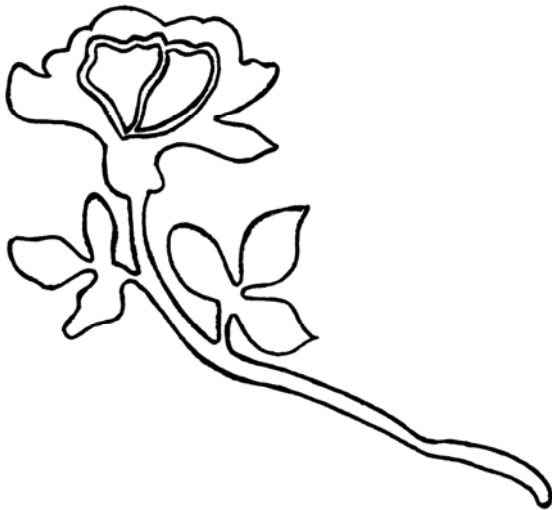


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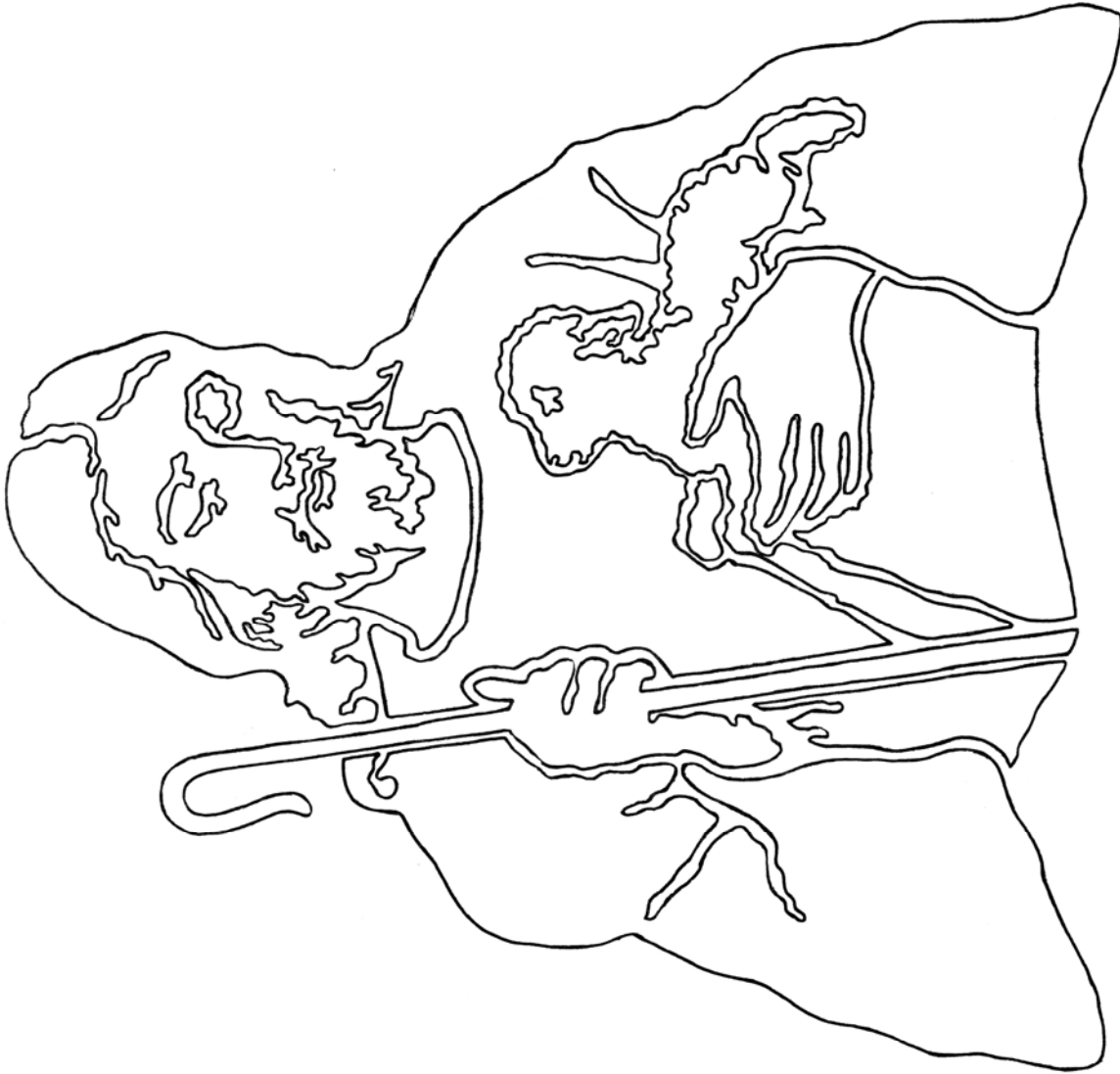
One Day



at a Time

Fooin

fo murt



G

JESUS LOVES  
YOU,

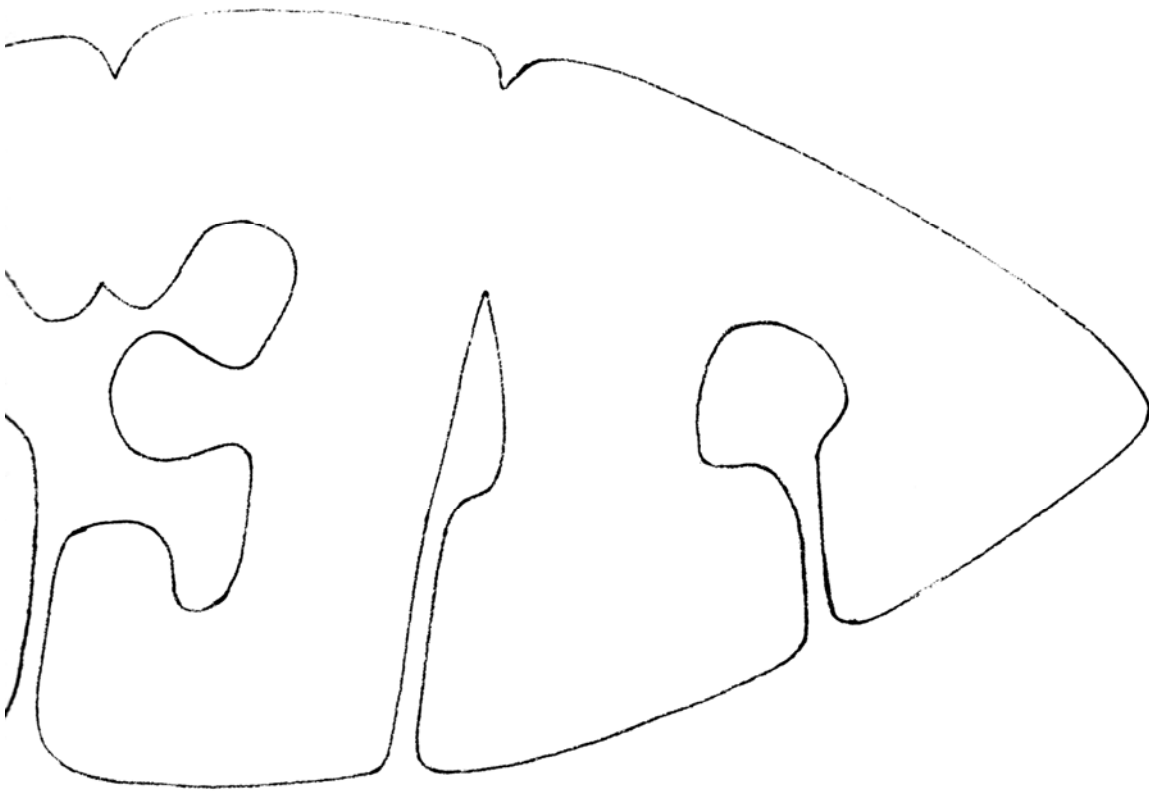
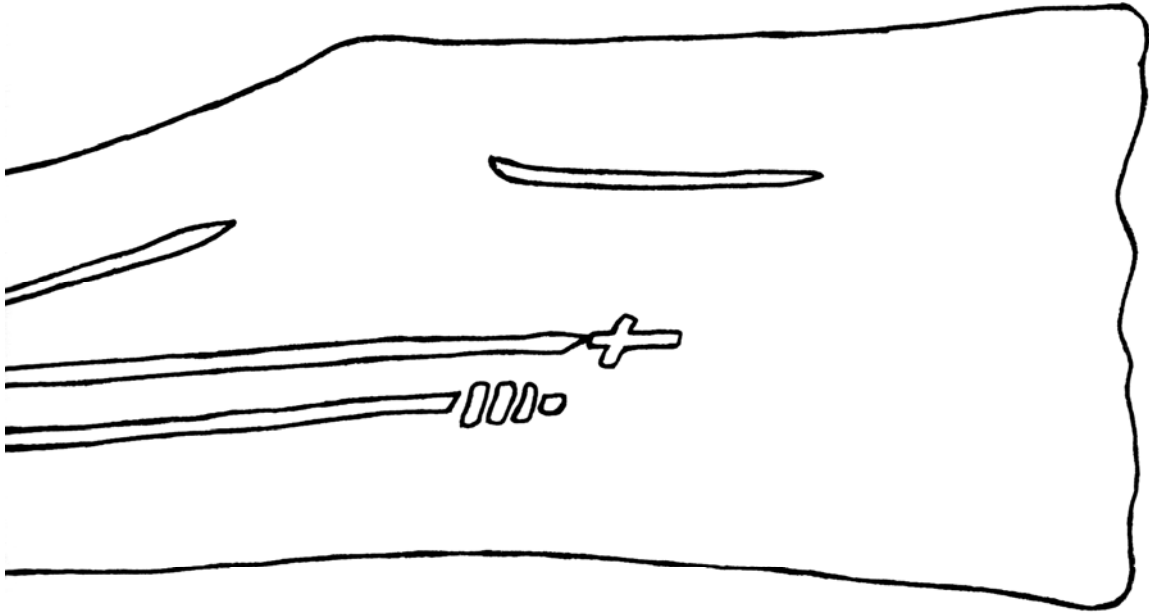
A B C D E F G H I J  
K L M N O P Q R S  
T U V W X Y Z

The complete upper case alphabet is provided so that any name can be constructed, such as PETER, JOHN, DANIEL, HEATHER, KATHRYN, ETC. The inscription below the picture may either read, "JESUS LOVES YOU, PETER" or "JESUS LOVES PETER," whichever is preferred.





H I





30 Loving is

Set my p

”

Listening

people go

Jesus

Create in  
Clean heart

's Lord

me a  
part, O God

In Him

Go

Has Everything

ye Love

of

Under Control



The Lord  
bless you, and keep you:

The Lord  
make His face shine upon  
you, and be



Yours truly,  
The Lord

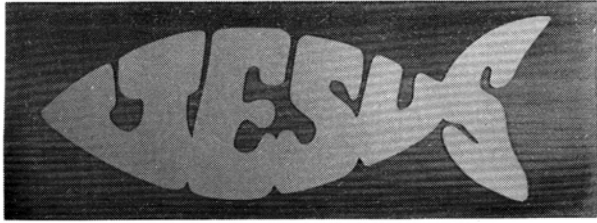
The Lord

with His countenance


upon you,

and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26




Set my people go

His Grace  
is sufficient  
for thee.  


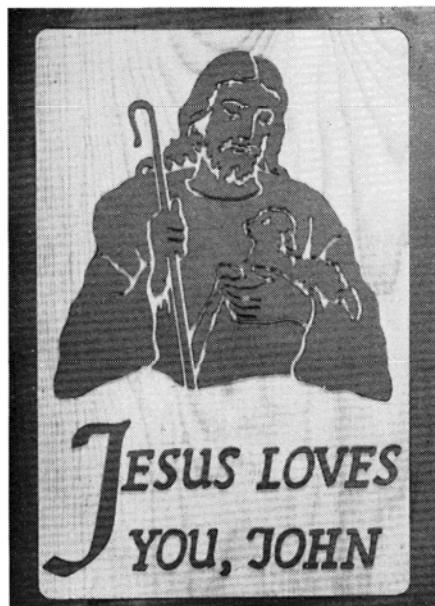
You cannot help  
men permanently  
by doing for them  
what they could  
and should do for  
themselves. Lincoln

Jesus is Lord

.... walking and  
leaping and  
Praising God!  
  
Acts 3:8



Yes Lord



The Lord  
bless you, and keep you:  
The Lord  
make His face shine upon  
you, and be  
gracious unto you:  
The Lord  
lift up His countenance  
upon you,  
and give you peace.  
Psalms 124:8

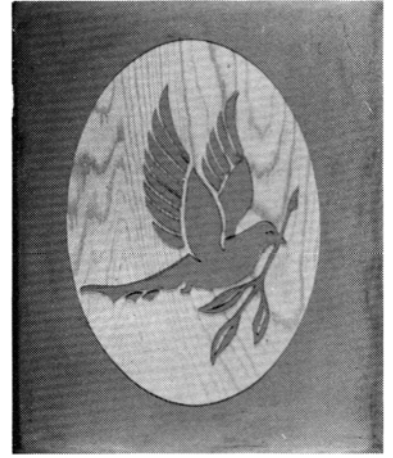
In Him we Live

Loving is Listening

Create in me a  
Clean heart, O God

*You must  
be born  
Again*

*He  
Careth  
For Me*




*Somebody  
Touched me.*  
*Luke  
8:46*

**YES, LORD**

*One Day*  
  
*at a Time*

*The Lord  
be between  
thee and me  
for ever.*  


*Praise  
Jesus*  


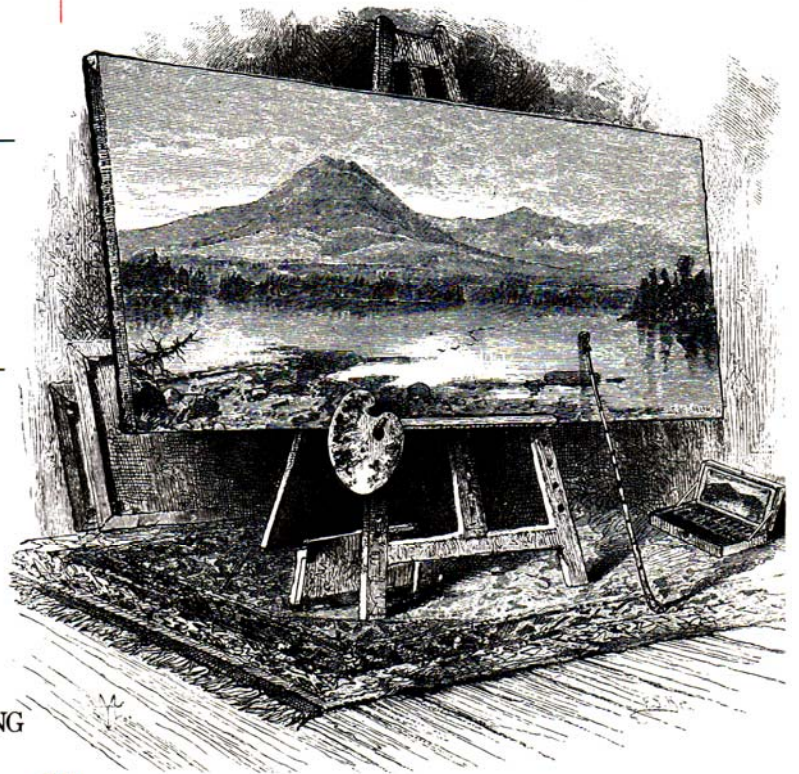
*God*  
*Has Everything Under Control*

**W**hen earth's last picture is painted,  
 and the tubes are twisted and dried,  
 When the oldest colors have faded,  
 and the youngest critic has died,  
 We shall rest, and, faith, we shall need it—  
 lie down for an aeon or two.  
 Till the Master of All Good Workmen  
 shall set us to work anew!

And those who love God will be happy:  
 they shall sit in a golden chair;  
 They shall splash at a ten-league canvas  
 with brushes of comet's hair;  
 They shall find real saints to draw from—  
 Magdalene, Peter and Paul;  
 They shall work for an age at a sitting  
 and never be tired at all!

And only the Master shall praise us,  
 and only the Master shall blame;  
 And no one shall work for money,  
 and no one shall work for fame;  
 But each for the joy of the working,  
 and each, in his separate star,  
 Shall draw the Thing as he sees It  
 for the God of Things as they are!

RUDYARD KIPLING



**T**his next section is devoted to telling you with words and pictures how to make your own sandblasted sign. From the selection of material to finishing to safety, this will instruct you step by step on the procedures and creative processes necessary for you to 'do it yourself.'

As a part of the family of Crafts for Christ, we are currently offering the following services:

We teach the technique of making sandblasted signs either in our home, your home, at your favorite family Bible camp, or some mutually convenient location.  
We will assist you in reviewing the feasibility of your new ideas.  
We will act as a depository of new ideas for future publications.  
We will try to put you in touch with those who can further encourage you in your craft.

## SELECTION OF MATERIAL

**S**andblasted signs can be made on many different surfaces such as wood, polished granite, glass, etc., but the use of wood is generally preferred by most people. Softer types of wood are preferable with redwood usually being the number one choice.

Each person should be willing to do some experimenting. We have worked with redwood, cedar, pine, mahogany, hemlock, aspen, birch and Douglas fir. The wood from each tree, even within the same family, is different. You will enjoy learning to select the most appropriate one for your particular sign. Many signs can be made from scrap wood available at little or no cost at the cut-off saw of most lumber yards. Building sites also offer excellent opportunities for wood scrap hunters.



If you are very enterprising you may even want to find and cut your own wood in the forest. Your local U.S. Forest Service will be able to direct you where and what trees may be cut. You will require a chain saw and skill in using it. We have found, for example, that aspen wood in some locations is so hard that it is nearly impossible to blast. In other locations the same wood is soft, light and easy to blast—almost similar to balsa wood. When you do cut your own wood with a chain saw, cut your wooden slab at a bias angle to the trunk of the tree. Round slabs cut with the saw held perpendicular to the trunk are hard to blast and split more easily as they

dry. The bark of any tree can be peeled more easily when the wood is cut in the Spring.

Your wood must be smooth and clean to insure maximum adhesion of the stencil tape to the wood surface. Although an electric sander is nice to have to prepare your wood surface, it is not essential. Hand sanding does work. Those who do not have a place to do sanding may need to purchase kiln-dried lumber. It is more expensive but generally smooth and clean enough to reduce this step to a minimum. Be sure not to use wet wood. If you do, you incur a greater risk of the wood cracking as it dries. Also, it does not sandblast well as the sand becomes imbedded in the wood.

## APPLYING STENCIL TAPE

**B**efore you consider this step, take your finished pattern and place it on the piece of wood you have prepared. There is often a “best” side, especially if the wood has interesting variations and knotholes. These can either add to the scenery or be in the way. Areas where knotholes are located are extremely hard and unpredictable in their response to sandblasting. Therefore, place your design such as to take this into account. Mark the edge of the wood, since you will not be able to see these variations after the stencil tape is applied.

The pressure sensitive stencil tape is one of the keys in making a sandblasted sign. The tape is commercially used to make monuments and a variety of storefront signs. At this time this product is only available through distributors, although in some cases monument makers will sell to individuals. The most suitable and dependable product is made by the 3M Company and is known as “Scotch Sandblast Stencil Tape #507,” and by Anchor Continental, Inc. The Anchor Continental product is known as Continental Sandblast Stencil #111. Information about ordering the tape is referenced under the “Sources for Materials, Supplies and Services” section.

The optimum size rolls for wall plaques is a standard 30 foot roll and a width of 12¼ or 12¾ inches. The 3M product is 12¼” wide

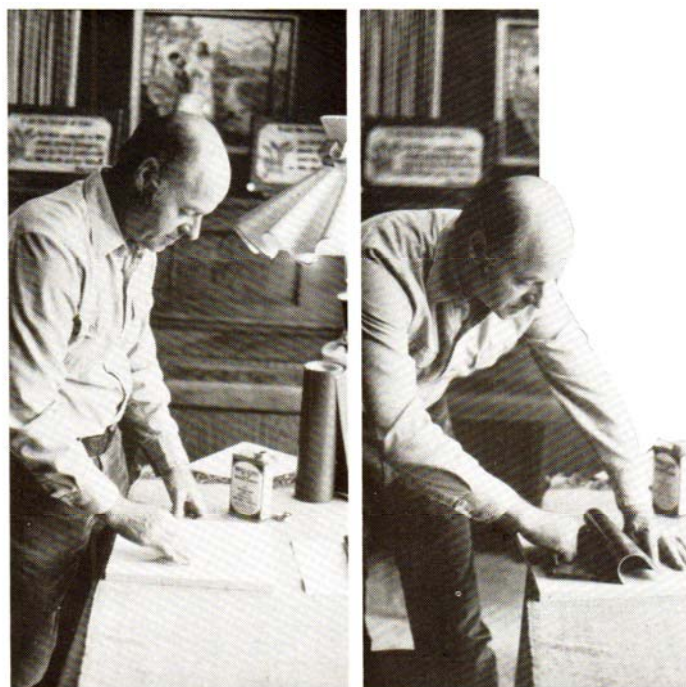
and the Anchor Continental product is 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. The prices are very competitive. Wider rolls are available from both companies up to 24" wide from 3M and 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide from Anchor Continental. The deciding factor as far as which product to use will often be the shipping costs.

Whenever you apply your tape on smooth surfaces such as polished granite or glass, it is not necessary to use any bonding agent to make the stencil tape adhere to the surface to be blasted. Generally speaking, should you decide to totally finish the wood by painting, shellacking, or applying a wood sealer to the surface, a bonding agent is not required. Some individual experimentation is suggested. On a recent plaque, the finish lifted when we peeled the tape after blasting. For this reason, we recommend experimentation with different types of finishes.

Our personal preference up to this point has been to use a bonding agent on an untreated surface. We have almost exclusively used rubber cement. Paper cement is synonymous with rubber cement. There seems to be no significant difference as far as quality between brands. The best price can therefore be the guide. Rubber cement is available in most stationery and art supply stores. Anyone who is serious about making signs should not buy in quantities less than pint cans. Many companies offer their product from 4 oz. to gallon cans. The price gets significantly less in larger quantities.

The rubber cement can most conveniently be applied with a folded paper towel. After a number of uses, the towel can be thrown away. It is suggested that the needed quantity of tape be cut from the roll before applying the rubber cement to the wood surface. Furthermore, a portion of the backing should be peeled back before the cement is applied. Everything should be in readiness, since the cement dries very quickly. The tape should be applied like contact paper to a kitchen shelf.

In most cases it is most practical to cover the entire surface with tape. However, when on a given sign a large area requires no blasting,



this area can be protected with cardboard or even heavy duty wrapping paper. On the other hand if the reverse is true, a large area needs blasting and only a few words or a small design needs to be raised, stencil tape needs to be placed only in that general location. In this way one can save on tape, one of the expense items in sign making.

It is also suggested that the tape extend approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " over the edge of the wood surface if your design calls for a raised border similar to the frame around the picture.

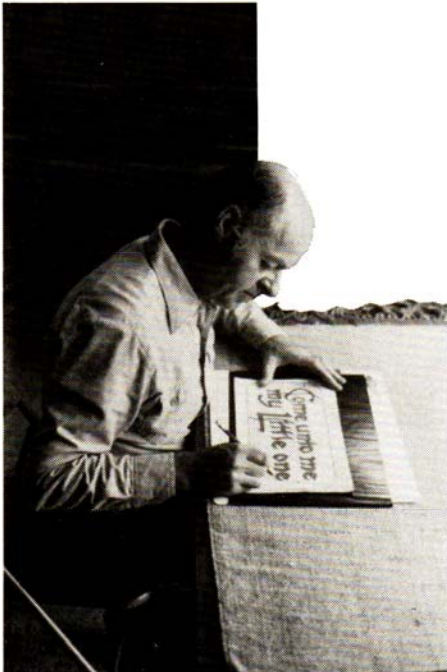
We have found that it is not practical to try to reuse the tape.

## PREPARING YOUR PATTERN

**Y**our pattern or stencil can be prepared in many different ways. You do not have to be an artist to make an attractive and neat design. For beginners it is advisable that none of your lines or letters are narrower than  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch. As your design becomes smaller and more intricate, your sign becomes more fragile. To some extent, each person has to determine his own limitations. Here are a

few ways amateurs can make their own patterns:

1. Trace letters from a lettering book.
2. Use transfer letters.
3. Use an existing design from a greeting card, coloring book, or poster. Your local printer can reduce or enlarge these items to your exact specifications.
4. Ask a friend to help you.
5. If you are a student, inquire about using your school's opaque projector to enlarge a design.
6. Don't overlook designs on paper towels for ideas.



We have found that "CLEARPRINT" fade-out type of paper is very suitable for making patterns. It is available in many sizes. The squares on the paper help you to keep your words evenly spaced. It is durable, transparent and makes excellent reproductions using the blueprint process; but almost any paper can be used, even typewriter second sheets.

If you plan to use the exact design or words of another person, acknowledge the author or source. Use quotation marks, Scripture references such as John 3:16, etc. Also make sure that you do not infringe upon another

person's copyright. Usually a publishing house will grant permission to quote an author by asking them.

We have looked at many different lettering books. Many alphabets are not suitable for sandblasting because the letters are too narrow. In other cases letters are too small to be suitable for decorative and inspirational type signs. Although any alphabet can be enlarged, there is always an additional expense and delay when this is necessary.

We recommend the following three lettering books. They offer a large variety of lettering styles without too much duplication. The "Speedball Textbook" is available through most stationery or art supply stores. The other books probably need to be ordered.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
Speedball Textbook	Originated by Ross F. George	Hunt Manufacturing Co. 1405 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19102
Calligraphy, The Art of Lettering with the Broad Pen	Byron J. MacDonald	Pentalic Corporation 132 West 22nd St. New York, NY 10011
Lettering and Alphabets	Albert Cavanagh	Dover Publications, Inc. 180 Varick St. New York, NY 10014

## TRANSFERRING YOUR PATTERN

**I**f you have an exceptional ability in art and lettering, you may directly draw your pattern onto the tape. Most people, however, will want to start with a pattern and then transfer the design to the tape. The tape must be applied to the wood before the pattern is transferred.

Place your pattern on a piece of carbon paper suitable for this purpose. Many types of carbon paper do not work well. Buy only one sheet of a given brand at a time if you are still in the experimental stage.

If you are unable to secure suitable carbon paper, you may request carbon paper from the companies listed under "Sources for Materials, Supplies and Services."

Place the carbon side against the underside of the pattern. Then trace over your pattern with a pen or pencil. When a pencil is used, it must be fairly sharp and the lead must not



## SANDBLASTING

**T**he pun, "Peter and his blasted signs" was born because of the process called sandblasting. Sand under pressure (approximately 80-100 lbs./square inch) is forced out of a ceramic nozzle and blasted at the sign. Through this process, the carving of a sign is accomplished.

Very few people will probably ever do their own sandblasting. The equipment required is expensive and the process can be messy. Do not bother to try your own air compressor that you may have for spray painting. It is not strong enough. If you should decide to venture far enough into the making of sandblasted signs to warrant your own sandblaster, do it cautiously.

Most communities have at least one company that does sandblasting. You may look in the Yellow Pages of your local phone directory under the word "Sandblasting." Companies that make "Monuments" also use a suitable sandblaster. They will probably also sandblast your signs. Some high schools and colleges have sandblast cabinets which may be suitable for your purpose. If you are a student, you may inquire at your school as to the availability of such equipment. Your



inquiry might even trigger the acquisition of a sandblast cabinet.

With a strong air compressor (100 lbs./square inch) and a coarse grit sand (#20 silica sand), a one-square-foot sign can be sandblasted in approximately 60 seconds. The hardness of the wood, the depth of penetration desired, and the size of the nozzle will further influence the amount of time required to blast a sign and therefore your cost.

## FINISHING YOUR SIGN

**W**e spend a large amount of time finishing our signs. We finish all sides, front, sides and back. Each finished sign should in an unspoken manner say, "I CARE." Everyone can tell if you have rushed, but they won't tell you! This is the portion of the work where your hands, your heart and your talents need to labor as a team.

Generally, after you pick your signs up from the sandblaster, you are ready to *peel* off the stencil tape. Everyone seems to think that this is a lot of fun. Even little boys and girls two years old like to help. This needs to be done *very carefully*, because it is possible and



likely that a small amount of the grain will lift up. When this begins to happen, peel the tape from the opposite direction. Careful sanding will normally eliminate all problems.

After the tape has been peeled off, you may wish to make a fancy decorative edge with a tool called a *router*. This generally would be the second step in the finishing process.

At this point it is a good idea to examine the sign and determine if any repair work is necessary with *wood filler*. Sometimes a letter needs to be built up or some small holes or gouges need to be filled in. There is no particular brand of wood filler we prefer or can recommend. We prefer to use a brand that dries fast and hard. Regardless of what brand we have used, the area filled in generally does not respond too well to stains.

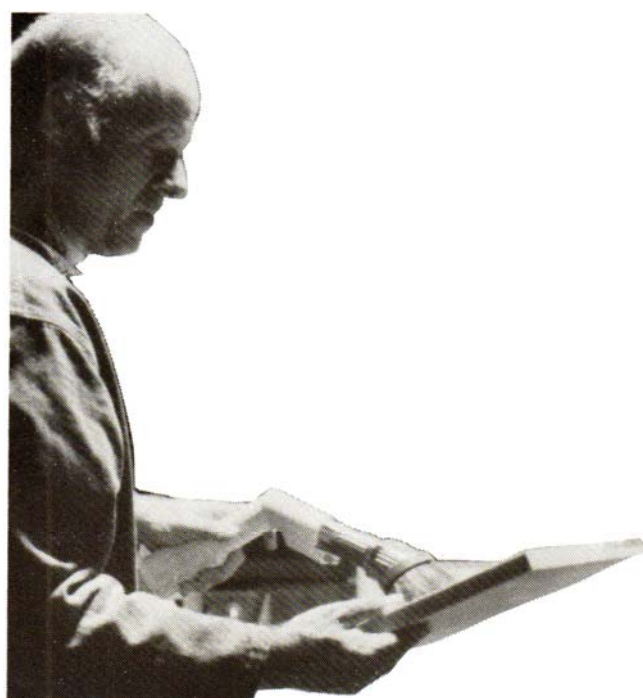
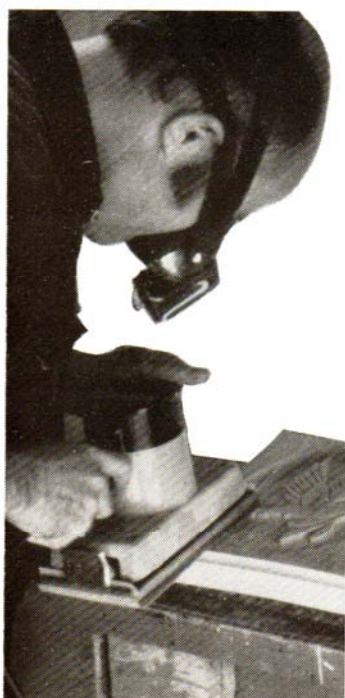
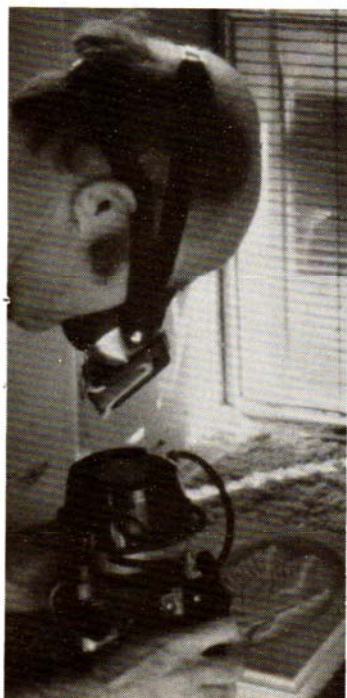
A lot of careful *sanding* is recommended next. Garnet sandpaper seems to be the best. We begin with number *80* sandpaper and do our final finish sanding with number *120*. (The higher the number, the smoother the finish.) All edges and corners need to be carefully sanded by hand. A good finishing sander that vibrates at 10,000 OPM (oscillations per minute) is the one major tool

that we recommend if someone is serious about making signs.

Should your project be a *clock*, do not remove any tape until you have routed your hole for the clock mechanism. You will probably want to make a template for your router so that the cavity you create for the mechanism will be neat and accurate. Clocks with  $\frac{5}{8}$ " stems need to be used. This should be kept in mind when you order your first clock movements. It would be wise if you find someone who has experience in the use of a router when you undertake your first clock project.

Before you bring your sanded signs into the house and deposit them on the kitchen table or some other work area, *vacuum* all sand and sawdust from the sign. If you are one of those fortunate few who has compressed air available, the sawdust and sand can be blown away with a jetstream of air.

Now you are ready to apply your creative abilities in terms of *colors* using a combination of stains, acrylic paints (water base) and oil paints. Carver Tripp Stains come in a variety of wood shades and colors. (If the stain balls up or is *sticky* and *won't dry*, you have not entirely sanded the paper



cement off your wood.) Any area painted with *oil paints* should be *sealed* with a sealer. This is suggested so that the paint is not absorbed into the wood, therefore requiring repeated coats of oil paint.

If your sign has *lettering* on it, remember that *contrast* is vital in order for it to be readable. A light background should have dark or bright colors on the letters. A dark background, white or light colored letters.

A form of painting called “*tole*” has been popular in recent years. The wooden surfaces lend themselves to this form of painting. Many instruction books, patterns and teachers are available to assist you. If you happen to be an artist in oils, you can treat the wood as though it were canvas. You will probably discover a whole new dimension for your artistic ability.

You may bring further variation to your sign by applying your *carving skills* to the wood. We have not ventured in this direction ourselves, but have seen the work of others. The results are beautiful. We have been told that it is best to apply a wood sealer to any area that will be carved. This prevents the wood from splintering.



Many people prefer a *stained* sign as it allows the natural beauty of the wood grain to show through. For a large area apply with a brush. Then take a clean, dry, lint-free rag and *wipe vigorously* (this brings the grain out), until the stain no longer streaks. Wipe the *last time* in the *direction of the grain*. To stain *letters* only, wrap a rag around your finger, dip in stain and *carefully* wipe the tops of the letters, not letting it drip over the sides. If you do drip or splatter, let it dry and then scrape off carefully with a knife.

We *seal* all our stained surfaces with one coat of a wood sealer and finally apply one or two coats of *clear acrylic* or *polyurethane* over *all* surfaces—front, back and sides. Most of the time the clear coat comes from a spray can because it is so convenient. Those surfaces that are covered with a wood sealer are *lightly sanded* with number 220 sandpaper or triple zero steel wool before we apply the final coat of *clear spray paint*. The finished surface should be *smooth* to the touch.

And don't forget to put a *hanger* on the back and either *sign* your work or acquire an attractive *label*. Finally, ask Jesus to *bless* your work and prepare someone to receive it with thanksgiving.

## SAFETY

**D**uring the first two years of our venture of making signs, we did not know that this very enjoyable craft could be a *health hazard*. We therefore did not take any precautionary measures.

The hazard may come from two sources, the *silica sand* and the *sawdust*. In both cases it is possible to be adequately protected by wearing *masks* specifically made for each purpose.

The silica sand produces a chronic disease of the *lungs* when there is a prolonged breathing in of silica dust. Some people are more susceptible to breathing difficulties. They should even avoid standing in the proximity of the sandblasting operations (within 50 feet).

The sawdust generated in most woodworking operations can be filtered out by a variety of *face masks* that can be worn. We suggest more protection than is available through the flimsy disposable masks. A lightweight, well-fitting mask is made by the Mine Safety Appliance Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The mask is called DUSTFOE 66. It is adequate for filtering out sawdust, but not silica sand while blasting. For sandblasting an airfed hood or mask is necessary.

Further protection is possible by installing a window or ceiling fan which can draw much of the sawdust out of your workshop. We have installed a *window fan* inside of a large cardboard box. We do most of the sanding just at the opening of the cardboard box. The fan creates a small vacuum which eliminates most of the sawdust floating in the air.

We suggest that *no one wait until they get sick* before taking corrective safety measures. If you wait until you get sick, generally you have done some permanent damage to your lungs.

As we learn more about safety, we will let you know in future publications or newsletters.

**T**his next section is included to serve as a directory of information for suppliers and manufacturers of various materials you'll need for sign making. It is sample selection and is given to help assist you and eliminate unnecessary 'legwork' in finding similar resources. From accessories to graphic art services, we've attempted here to give you names and addresses for where to go to find what you need.

## WOOD

Check the classified section of your telephone directory under "Building Materials" and/or "Lumber." For smaller pieces, check the scrap pile at your lumber yard.

## PRESSURE SENSITIVE SANDBLAST STENCIL TAPE

3M Sandblast Stencil Tape #507. Recommended width, 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>". Available from: S.L. Fusco, Inc., 1966 Via Arado, P.O. Box 24, Compton, CA 90224. You may order by phone—(213) 774-5360 or 637-6061; (714) 558-1911; or (800) 421-1391, a toll-free number for customers calling outside of southern California. Prices and services of this company are excellent. For names of other distributors write: Customer Service Supervisor, Industrial Tape Division, 3M Company, 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Continental Sandblast Stencil, #111, recommended width 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>", made by Anchor Continental, 2000 So. Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC 29205. Call (803) 799-8800, or toll-free (800) 845-2331 to place your order or obtain distributor's name nearest to you.

## FACE MASK

Protection from breathing sawdust for most woodworking operations. Respirator, DUSTFOE 66, MSA #461683. Filters, MSA #457486. It is suggested that one or two packages of filters are ordered concurrently with the mask. Available from Lakewood Equipment Co., Inc., P.O. Box 10685 Edgemont Branch, Golden, CO 80401. Phone—(303) 233-5520.

## CARBON PAPER

Available in rolls from S.L. Fusco, Inc. (See above for address and telephone no.)

Excellent carbon paper in sheets available from California Ribbon and Carbon Co., 5816 Pine Ave., Maywood, CA 90270. Telephone orders may be placed by calling (213) 582-6331 or (800) 421-6349, a toll-free number for those outside of the Maywood, CA area. Ask for #910 Tackless Blue Pencil Carbon.

Recommended size, 11"x17" sheets. Minimum order quantity is \$7.50 plus shipping. You may wish to ask your local stationery store to stock the carbon paper for you.

## PAPER, RUBBER CEMENT, X-ACTO KNIVES, LETTERING BOOKS, DRAWING AIDS, ACRYLIC PAINTS & STAINS

Available from your local stationery stores, blueprinting services, hobby and craft centers, art supply stores, and paint stores.

## CLOCKS & ACCESSORIES (BATTERY, ELECTRIC, PENDULUM, & CHIME)

Newport Enterprises, 2309 West Burbank Blvd., Burbank, CA 91506, phone (213) 845-0555. You may wish to write for a catalog of available parts. OR Transistor Movement, RD. 1, Mill Rd., Box 100, Emmaus, PA 18049. Phone orders (215) 967-3156.

## SANDBLASTING

Look for a sandblaster under "Sandblasting" in the classified section of your telephone book. Cost for this service may vary greatly depending upon the type of equipment used. Shop carefully.

## GRAPHIC ART SERVICE

Labels and Logos: Customized or standard printed labels for your plaques. Logos designed for your business or existing logos updated. Available by mail order: Melody Tinder, 1639 Shady Knoll Ave., Bedford, VA 24523.

Complete art and layout services and graphic design for corporate communication needs. In-house typesetting and full-service offset lithography printing available. Write or call Hosanna, 146 Quincy NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Phone (505) 266-8741.

## BUILDING NEW BRIDGES

**M**ost bridges today are built of concrete and steel. They allow cars and trains and people to go more quickly between two places. They are often very expensive and need to be maintained on a regular basis to remain serviceable.

The idea that we might also be building new bridges through Crafts for Christ did not occur to me until recently. It has been over five years since this work began. During this time we have met many new people. There

were many things that we could not do ourselves, so we had to ask for help. There were trips to the lumber yard, the paint store, the stationery store, the library, the printer, the sandblaster and others. Each place we went to we had an opportunity to show our work, explain what we did, why and for Whom. Most people were very attentive, curious, and courteous. Through these contacts many new friendships developed. Some of these relationships grew very slowly and very solidly, while others grew quickly, but often evaporated quickly. Very seldom was the witness that we presented as a normal part of our work rejected.

Each time we made a new item, we were eager to show it to others. Our eagerness to “show and tell” often caused us to come up with some funny ideas. I remember tucking one of the signs under my arm as I was waiting in line at the post office. I did this in hopes that someone might be curious, ask a question and allow me to share the sign and Crafts for Christ. At other times we would take one or two signs to a coffee shop. We would place the sign on the table so that others could see it and become curious. This usually would happen. The signs alone, however, did not build the bridges. The constant JOY we felt about our mission and commission was the secret ingredient that drew many people into our lives. People prefer to be around happy people, we soon discovered.

As I look back over the past five years, I can see that we have had many opportunities to build new relationships; and a relationship is very much like a bridge. When two lives have an opportunity to touch, life can flow between them, walls of self-imposed isolation can come down—walls built as a result of hurts, fears, guilt, anger, bitterness and prejudice. Most worthwhile relationships have to be given the time and opportunity to grow, they need to be tested and encouraged, they have to be serviced with tender loving care and a spirit of mutual helpfulness.

Making signs and teaching others is a lot of fun. There are so many new ideas that can be tried and so many types of wood, stone and glass surfaces that can be experimented

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with. The greatest joys, however, are the endless opportunities for happy and healthy new relationships, new bridges. The greatest bridge and the greatest bridge-builder of all times has been, is, and always will be, Jesus of Nazareth. He built *The Bridge* between God and man, also called the Bridge over troubled waters, allowing Himself to be The Stepping Stone between heaven and earth, between two parties totally alienated from one another at one time.

The mission and commission of every Believer alive today is to introduce friends, children, parents, relatives to the greatest Bridge Builder of all times, for it is written:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Matthew 28:19, 20

Through Crafts for Christ you may be able to approach your friend in a new way and surprise him with the Good News. It is a matter of life and death. It is the mission and commission of every Believer, of every person who knows that Jesus is the Christ, the long awaited Messiah. Jesus said, “I am the way (the bridge), the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)





'T was battered, and scarred, and the  
auctioneer,  
Thought it scarcely worth his while,  
To waste much time on the old violin  
But he held it up with a smile.  
"What am I bid, good folks?" he cried.  
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"  
A dollar, a dollar, now two, only two,  
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?

Three dollars once, three dollars twice,  
Going for three. But no!  
From the room far back, a gray-haired man  
Came forward, and picked up the bow.  
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin  
And tightening up all the strings,  
He played a melody pure and sweet,  
As sweet as an angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said, "What am I bid for the old violin?"  
And he held it up with the bow.  
A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?  
Two thousand, and who'll make it three?  
Three thousand once, three thousand twice,  
And going, and gone, said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,  
"We do not quite understand.  
What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply,  
"The touch of the master's hand."  
And many a man with life out of tune  
And battered and torn with sin,  
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd  
Much like the old violin.

A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,  
A game, and he travels on,  
He is going once, he is going twice,  
He is going, and almost gone.  
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd  
Never can quite understand,  
The worth of a soul, and the change that's wrought  
By the touch of the Master's hand.



The Lord  
bless you, and keep you:

The Lord  
make His face shine upon  
you, and be  
gracious unto you:

The Lord  
lift up His countenance  
upon you,  
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

