

The Artwork of the 2nd Annual Upper Arlington Lutheran Church



7 Day Bible Art Challenge Exhibit

Comments by Jeanie Auseon, Juror

When asked to be a juror for these unique art exhibits, I felt privileged and quite curious, knowing the artworks were to be created within a 7-day time frame. When accepting the responsibility of jurying an art exhibit with a given prompt for inspiration, a juror considers not only the ways in which the art is rendered, but attempts to engage with each piece, taking into account the ways the artist has interpreted the prompt. In this case, the prompts were Bible passages, Psalm 121: 1-8 for the Adult exhibit, and Mark 16:1-8 for the Youth exhibit. I was grateful for my juror partner, who brought to the task years of Bible study, as well as a life-long appreciation for the visual and performing arts. We faced the job before us, honoring the efforts of all participants for choosing to accept the personal challenge of sharing their heart and thoughts about the Bible verses.

Jurying the exhibits was challenging for us as well. The range of media, styles, presentation, and personal interpretations of the verses are quite powerful. Meanings in artworks are created by artists, yet meanings in artworks are also created by viewers; as a viewer, I was honored to engage with each of these works.

Rules on the official [ualc.org/7dayart] web page called for recognition of some of the entries in the exhibit. My juror partner and I feel comfortable with our final decisions in this regard, though our decisions were not easily made. There is a wide range of media, style, and subject matter in the entries selected for recognition. I personally thank and congratulate all entrants for their participation, and hope that the effort provided spiritual growth and a true sense of accomplishment.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanie Auseon

Comments by Pastor Buff Delcamp, Juror

It was a rare privilege to be a part of this wonderful event. I was asked to choose the Scripture for the artists to render. I immediately felt God leading me to Psalms, one of the great books of art in the Bible. As I prayed and meditated, I was drawn to Psalm 121, a psalm for help. Like all of us, the writer had pressures that beat down and drained him of strength. He expressed a desire for the grace to know God more as his shade and help.

Then I wanted a concrete story for our youth to meditate on. What better passage than one of the accounts of the resurrection of Jesus. It is the heart and foundation of the Christian faith. Many of us are very familiar with it. It is a rich reflection to enter into the first time it was discovered. What a mind-altering, life-changing paradigm shift that must have been!

I was so pleased to be in this with my artistic colleague, Jeanie Auseon. We had a great time standing alone before each piece, reflecting together and then taking a few days to further ruminate before we came together again to pray and make the final decision.

As a musician I've always enjoyed the part of that art where notes on a page are recreated into music each time it's performed. I used to think art was rather static as it hung on a wall. What I recaptured was that I, the observer, had a unique experience as I stood and interacted with my mind and heart to what was before me. And truly, the artists in this show did a worthy job. I was lifted up, provoked to think hard, smile, furrow my brow, cock my head, and picture it in my mind later. It was a living experience. Thank you. I personally congratulate all of the artists and hope you had a good spiritual and artistic experience through this. I believe God was truly glorified and I long for you to continue to grow, prosper and bless others through your talent.

In Christ, Buff Delcamp



A-18 | Joyce Fisher | **FIRST PLACE**

“The Sun Shall Not Smite Thee by Day, Nor the Moon by Night”

Acrylic

wetthebrush@gmail.com

Psalm 121

INSPIRATION:

I learned the 121st Psalm from the King James Bible. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." A statement. Not the question "where does my help come from?" of later versions. There IS NO question. "My help cometh from the Lord" Every line is inspirational, but "the sun shall not smite thee ... " seems to encompass all the protections afforded in the psalm. We are created to look up, to focus our feelings, hopes, plans upon God. As a song of ascents, it informs us that It is our responsibility to ascend to the hills to accomplish our dreams, and to serve God.



A-11 | Maura McCormick | **SECOND PLACE**

“The Psalmist”

Acrylic with Collage

Maurarts@yahoo.com

Psalm 21

INSPIRATION:

As soon as I had read and prayed over Psalm 121, my first response was "Who is Speaking?" The answer, of course, is 'The Psalmist', which is the title and focus of my work. In, my mind's eye, I clearly saw him sitting, contemplating the 'Maker of heaven and earth' (vs.2b) as he gazes at the distant mountains overlooking Israel. Then, I broke down the passage into visual details. I took five words: eyes ("I lift up my eyes ... "); mountains (" ... to the mountains-") vs.1a; foot ("He will not let your foot slip") vs. 3a; Israel (" ... he who watches over Israel") vs. 4a; moon (" ... the moon by night."), and arranged these five words in my composition around "The Psalmist."

EXPERIENCE:

I thoroughly enjoyed working on this project. I have been drawing since I was a four-year-old. When I became a Christian at age eleven, I believed that my love for art was God's gift. So, my faith and my art have always been linked, and it is always wonderful to have the opportunity to express my faith in God and His Word with the gift He gave me.



A-10 | Pam Mann | **THIRD PLACE**

“Ps 121 Ascent”

Mixed Media Fabric

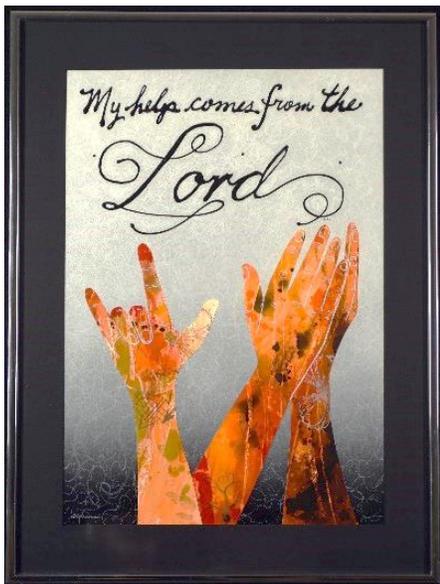
Ps 121

INSPIRATION:

Psalm 121 tells God's help and protection. I used discarded crib rails (protective elements) to frame my art. The composition ascends because this is a song of ascent. When first sketching out my composition, I penciled in the text just to remind me what action to draw for each figure. Quickly I realized the text should stay in the final art because meditating on God's Word is the goal! I struggled with how to illustrate God's presence, finally settling on a flowing swirl encircling the figures. This composition's unusual shape fits in the stairwell of my home where my family and guests will be able to ponder Psalm 121 as they ascend the stairs.

When we ask God to help us to obey Him, we can be confident that He will supply all we need. So, it was a joy to experience that provision this week. I had this week off from usual family commitments and work to spend ample time in spiritual retreat making this project. I can't wait to see what everyone has made. It is sweet to join others making bible. We experience creative

God's presence as the artists working on the tabernacle in Exodus 36 did. Like them, we receive from God "skillful minds" and "stirred hearts."



A-01 | Diana Andrews

“My Lord”

Mixed Media

614-395-1869 mla7962@aol.com

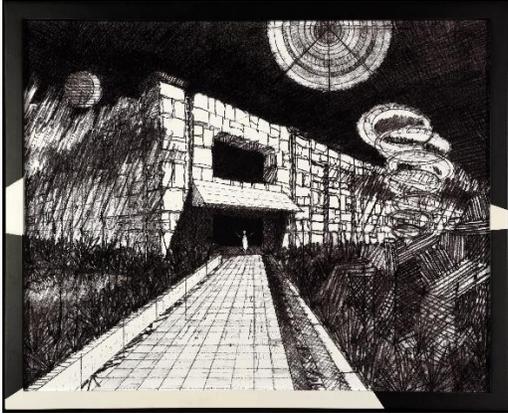
Psalm 121

INSPIRATION:

Psalm 121 is a beautiful passage in the Bible. My heart kept coming back to verse 2. My help comes from the LORD. He not only is The LORD but He is My LORD! My Help! My Always! Not conditioned on anything other than me asking HIM to be my Savior. The white transitioning to black in the background represents the pureness of heaven and the sinfulness of this world. The many colors of skin tone He created were used to paint the hands and arms that are outstretched, giving praise to God. Various stamps were used to represent the maker in verse 2 and coming and going both now and forevermore in verse 8. As I meditate on this chapter, I feel God's great love for me and that causes my heart and soul to praise Him. My help, because of HIM being My LORD.

EXPERIENCE:

As I was reading and praying through Psalms 121, I kept coming back to verse 2. I was jotting down words, phrases, and images that came to mind. It seemed to me that verse 2 was what all the other verses relied on. If Jesus Christ is not your Lord (not born again) you cannot expect His blessings on your life like the rest of the chapter beautifully expresses. As I meditate on this chapter, I feel God's great love for me and that causes my heart and soul to praise Him. My help, because of Him being MY LORD.



A-17 | Bob Apel

“The Trinity Protects”

Pencil on Mylar, enlarged, reduced and printed

Rapel@directedlifestyle.com

Ps 121: 1b-2 (ESV)

INSPIRATION:

Help comes from the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth. In accepting help, it is important to understand the role of each person in the Trinity. God the Father, the I AM, is a fortress built of stones that are His Word. Jesus is the narrow, straight path to the Father, which is protected by the guardrail of Truth. The Spirit is the Cyclone energy that brings Love, Joy, Peace, Patience... Shade comes from the canopy of Trust. Together They protect from the scorching heat of doubt, the rains of sin, and

sustain through the rocky trials of life. Just as the pencil can only define white by delineating dark, we as humans show God's Glory only by delineating our own darkness. Ultimately, a person ends up clothed in the white grace of God, not of their own doing. This work has embedded in it, I AM, Jesus, Spirit, Trust, Truth, Word, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, doubt, sin, lies, pride, worry, stress, death, sickness, brokenness, grief, deceit, self-centered.

This piece is dedicated to those who go into the weeds and rocks to claim those needing a little shade, **A framed print is available for a \$100 donation to God's Hygiene Help Center (501c3). Contact rapel@directedlifestyle.com**

EXPERIENCE:

As life has moved on, I have come to understand I have purpose in connecting dots for people. Connecting needs and help. This work has been God's work and I have gotten to join Him. These images and words are His not mine. I determined early in the process, if just one dot was connected for one person, the entire process would be of value, His value not ours. In the process something unexpected and amazing happened. While printing the final copy at my old office, I had at least six people stop to ask about the drawing. They each wanted to know about it. This work then became a tool to explain the whole Gospel in five minutes. Each left amazed. God has a plan. This has been beyond rewarding. You see, there is no reward in this world that becomes close to the feeling you receive when you are in His will becoming the person He always intended you to be.



A-02 | Barbara Chuko

“From whence Cometh my Help”

Acrylic

bchuko@gmail.com; 614-599-3261

Ps 121: 1,4,5,6,8

INSPIRATION:

I visualized myself at the time in my life when I most needed and appreciated the help from the Lord, in prayers, and from the church and others. At that time, I felt like I was standing on the edge of a cliff, not knowing what would happen or how I would cope and knowing it would change my life forever (v.8) in ways I did not yet know. After reading Psalm 121, which is a “song of ascents”, I began to sketch, and the drawing appeared...a person looking out over a cliff, and then others appeared. I included the moon and the sun, a scene that recalls Israel, high on a mountain (v.1), and other travelers sending in their pilgrimage. (“coming and going” v. 8). The seated person seems to find peace of the Lord, and enjoys the shade of the Olive tree, (v.5).and is protected from the hot

sun or the dangers of night under the moon (v. 6). The rowers in the lake are also needing protection “coming and going”. I considered the importance of water throughout the Bible and New Testament story about Jesus meeting Peter and Andrew, fishermen, on the Sea Galilee, and His teachings about walking on water.

EXPERIENCE:

I was surprised how easily the subject came to me once I started sketching. I mention my idea and showed my sketch and rough underpainting to several people in my art classes, and church. There was one friend, I thought I should call to consult with, but didn't, deciding it would be better to start the painting on my own (art done by committee wouldn't work well). When I saw this friend, before I told her about the contest, she said she had dreamed I had won an art contest. We both felt God was present in that experience. I was also surprised how much interest and excitement there was among people I told about it, and how each person had a different suggestion or comment. I felt God was present when people showed eagerness to help...a teacher suggested the larger foreground needed to be connected to the smaller objects in the distance...which lead to the winding path. Concerned about perspective I tried drawing a wall along the paths, which seemed to designate space areas/field, or finally a lake. Do paths become walls, which indicate barriers but also new opportunities? When God is present even barriers can bring blessings, which is the effect of the crisis and lifelong challenge I mentioned in the “Inspiration” paragraph. The challenge brought meaning and purpose to my life and the opportunity to help others.



A-23 | Alex Ferree

Where Does My Help Come From?

Watercolor

Mstudioartworks@gmail.com

Ps. 121:1-3

INSPIRATION:

Based on the first part of Ps. 121, I was inspired to show a pilgrim searching for God in the highest heights of the world. He is older and well-travelled. He has faith in God and is always seeking God for more. In this journey, God has sent a helper. When the pilgrim asks where his help comes from, it is rhetorical. He knows he will always need help and God will always send someone.

Researching the Psalm online exposed me to a lot of songs and some preaching. I was inspired to create a character to be the first-person voice of the Psalmist. I used a local quarry park and my roommates to model for the pose. The brilliant light inspired the mountain scene.



A-03 | Jon Gerckens

“Maker, Made, Keeper, Kept”

Generative/Algorithmic Javascript Collage (computer)

gerckens.3@osu.edu

Ps 121:2

INSPIRATION:

My thoughts about the verse were all over the place at times, however I kept coming back to a couple core ideas: The God who made us, faithfully protects and sustains us. And, as ones who are made and kept, it is absurd that we look for help from anywhere other than the one who made us and keeps us. The collage is set on a background showing 16th century etching of Greek gods in battle against each other, representing to me

the idolatry of looking to our little “g” gods, as well as the violence and sin of this world. On top of that are forty overlapping images. These contains mountains (telling of God’s creative power and provision as well as standing out as the ‘made’ objects they are, from where help will not ultimately come.), lighthouses (God watches over us, and provides protection. Jesus is ‘The Light’ after all.), various shelters, watchmen, as well as some 15th century woodcut illustrations of God and the creation. A mesh of lines binds this all together. In the center is a ‘swoosh’ of God’s spirit, his protecting arm – his supporting and sheltering hand, and a reminder of the blood shed for us. Where will my eyes turn for help? All borrowed images are public domain and sourced from The New York Public Library’s Digital Collection. A detailed listing of citations as well as an interactive dynamic version of the collage are available on-line at www.soulpants7.com/psalm121.

EXPERIENCE:

I got a late start with this and was still a long way from finishing two nights prior to the deadline. After a long day at work and grocery shopping, I sat down at my laptop to get it booted up and ready for me while I made dinner. Of course, the computer decided that it had to pick this time to install Windows updates and run system scans. It sat with a blue screen and spinning icon telling me that it was updating and to not shut off my computer. When I looked on-line (via my phone) to see how long it might take, people were saying it could take as long as 26 hours. In my exasperation, rather than first pray for help from God, I instead took to stomping around, hitting the table, and mumbling a long string of creative adjectives and imaginary actions directed at Microsoft, Dell, and McAfee. When the system came back up one hour later, I realized the irony of my faithlessness. Sigh... There by the grace of God go I. :)



A-24 | Bev Goldie

“God Has Our Back”

Encaustic Mixed Media

bevgoldie@columbus.rr.com

614-793-0836

INSPIRATION:

The whole Psalm 121 tells me of encouragement, assurance and faith. The phrases, “He will not let your foot slip/ The Lord watches over you/ will keep you from all harm/ will watch over your life/ will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore assures me that He is there at all times- much like a loving parent. My artwork relates a present-day interpretation, where a Mom is giving her son a reassuring hug as he leaves for college. The assigned Bible verse applies not only to her son for his new life, but to the Mom too. When we allow God into our lives, we worry less

because we know he “has our back”.

EXPERIENCE:

I pondered quite a while on this verse before deciding how to interpret it. As I meditated about it, the song, “I’ll Stand by You” popped into my head. That song helped me to discern different ways that God will not let our feet slip and how he watches over us. If we truly turn our will over to Him, our milestones and life changes become less stressful because we know he will be there with us.

Since the God of my understanding is a loving God, I believe he wants what’s best for us and has our back in times of uncertainty. It reminded me of the role a parent plays in helping their children grow and mature. One of the most difficult, but necessary milestones in life is when those kids leave the nest to build a life of their own. As I reread the Psalm, the words fit beautifully as a message to both the child and the parent. The Lord watches over you- the Lord is your shade at your right hand. He will keep you from all harm- he will watch over you. With faith, both can be less anxious about the uncertain future.



A21 | Deb Haller | **HONORABLE MENTION**

“Reaching Out”

Acrylic

dhallerdesigns@aol.com

Ps 121:7

INSPIRATION:

From childhood, the Lord, as a parent does, takes our hand throughout life. He steers us from danger, and guides us toward success and happiness, helping us to live in the sunshine. I wanted to portray that not only in subject matter, but also by using bright, fresh colors to signify light and optimism in our world.



A-04 | Susie Jordan
“Ascent” | Acrylic
susie.jordan@me.com
(614)-496-0703

INSPIRATION:

The 7 Day Bible Art Challenge provided an opportunity for the artist, Susie Jordan, to unplug from the outside world, create her own silent retreat, and connect with the Holy Spirit throughout the creative process. The initial sketch for the painting “Ascent” was geometrical with rigid lines and squares. Yet, after putting the Holy Spirit in charge the painting took an organic turn. As Heaven is our natural state, simply out of our awareness, it made sense to the artist.

“Ascent” is an abstract painting with Heaven represented by light. One could say the three main light points exemplify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The light dispels the darkness and illuminates a path. The veil of darkness signifies the fear in our mind. The pathway is one the Holy Spirit has laid before us as our guide Home. This passage consists of 10 stones. The foundation and largest, which all others depend on, is Trust. Honesty, tolerance, gentleness, joy, defenselessness, generosity, patience, faithfulness, and open-mindedness follow.

Psalm 121 (NIV) asks where “does our help come from” and answers the Lord. The way is laid before us; we are safe. We simply must do our part and trust, put the Holy Spirit in charge, and follow his guidance. And when we forget, be gentle with ourselves. Forgiveness is essential. The Holy Spirit will wait in patience and gently guide us back on our journey when we forget.

EXPERIENCE:

With voluntary silence during the duration of the art challenge, I was able to disconnect from the outside world and really focus on the task at hand. Not just painting but connecting with the Holy Spirit in the process. I cried, I laughed, and forgave my seeming mistakes. Once silent, I observed a loud voice, in my mind, that I named “the narrator”. It’s quite arrogant with its constant play-by-play, concerns, and judgments. Yet when I closed my eyes and chose to connect with Spirit, really sit with it, the loud voice disappeared while peace and stillness replace it. I would compare it to living in a hazy heavily smoky environment and stepping outside for the first time on a cool spring morning, in a forest, and inhaling crisp fresh air. It confirmed, for me, that Heaven is a state of mind, not a place. And we can experience Heaven on earth. It reminded me that I have a choice, to live in fear or love. Do I want to listen to the narrator or the Holy Spirit? The experience reinvigorated me to invite the Holy Spirit in more often, in my work, in my daily doings, in my life, and listen. I choose the peace of God



A-08 | William Kern | **HONORABLE MENTION**
“The Rewards of Persistence in Bible”

Study Photography

Ps 121:2

INSPIRATION:

This Psalm promises great strength to the pilgrims who were ascending the steep road to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. When they saw it, they rejoiced and thanked God for His great help. God was pleased by their faith and trust and promised to be the: **HELPER** (121:1,2), **KEEPER** (121:3-4), **PROTECTOR** (121,5-6), and **PRESERVER** (121-7,8). Although these promises seemed to be just for the pilgrims, I believe it was meant for all believers. **WHAT GREAT POWERS ARE LOVINGLY BESTOWED ON US WHEN WE SEEK GOD WITH TRUST AND PRAISE!!**

I felt led to use photography to create a “still life” that would present items necessary to capture the effort required to better understand God’s word while obeying the photographic principles of composition, color, etc. I PRAY GOD WOULD BE HONORED.

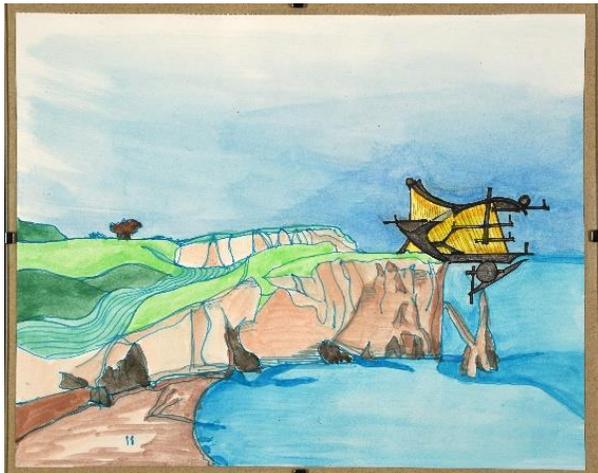


A-22 | Laura Koci
“Now and Forevermore”
Collage and Calligraphy
Laura.kochi@gmail.com
Ps 121:6-8

INSPIRATION:
The Lord is our Protector. He is with us always -from day break through the night No matter the situation, no matter where you go- He will always be with you. His presence will never cease. Our loving Father has both the

power and the will to protect us always through anything.

I was inspired to use mixed media collage showing how the Lord will be with us from day to night It also has a variety of colors, textures, shapes. sizes, items from nature, man-made material, overlapping, torn edges and cut edges. In life we have a variety of situations, experiences, relationships, feelings, passions, seasons, celebrations. hurts and joys. For lettering, I chose a dressed-down pointed pen font because it is less formal, has thick down strokes and thin up strokes. Like our lives, God sees us for who we really are - less formal, less put together than we show others. In life, we will experience some thick down strokes and some thin up strokes. Through it all the Lord will always be there now and forevermore.



A-27 | Stephanie Aurora Lewis
“On the Edge”
Ink and Watercolor
614-354-0463
Ps 121

INSPIRATION:
I view this passage as an interpretation of our complete dependence upon God. The building I designed is in a precarious and beautiful location -the Sea Cliffs of E'tretat France. The design of the building is such that the foundation is delicate and based on a sphere that is located on the center of gravity. The building is to represent our lives balanced and dependent fully upon the Lord. If the sphere rolls just a little bit one way or the other, the entire building falls into the sea below. The building's location is pure beauty - to represent our Christian lives. The Lord makes us to dwell in the center of beauty. Lastly, the lights are bright and shining from within, again

to represent our Christian lives as a beacon to the world around us.

EXPERIENCE:

This passage in Psalms has always been an anchor for me. Throughout my life, I feel like I have lived through this passage in many different situations. If it were not for this particular passage, who knows if I had always been able to hold on tight to the foundation that God has laid before us.



A15 | Douglas McBride
“The Lord is my Guardian and Guide”
Woodcarving
Ps 121:1-8

INSPIRATION:
The Psalmist cries out in distress and ends with a bold and confident statement of faith.

Day and night his existence seems threatened by circumstances of both natural and supernatural nature. Feeling overwhelmed, he lifts his eyes to the hills as a place of safety and help. Why?

Because he is not there! He is in a valley over shadowed by the possibilities of death. He is surrounded and threatened by the predators of evil: the lion who prowls about seeking whom he may devour; the ravenous wolves eager to consume and destroy; the snakes which seek to poison our lives with lies and half-truths; the foxes of harmful habits which undermine and subvert our efforts to succeed; the bears of strength and power seeking to intimidate and compromise our integrity; and last but not least, the alluring waters of comfort and pleasure which entice us to distraction and the abandonment of our journey's purpose.

How can one find safe passage through this valley shadowed by death? Suddenly the Psalmist realizes "Safety" is not a place but a Person. **"My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."** How, then, does one pass safely through this valley of death? Learn to become a follower! Do not be falsely courageous or independent. Do not be spooked from the safe shade of the Presence who guards and protects you from all enemies. Trust His Word and His Presence. Be His follower and enjoy the journey.

EXPERIENCE:

As I prayed and meditated upon this passage, I began to see (insight) it and read it with new meaning. As I asked, and allowed, the Holy Spirit to guide me, I was struck by the statement "The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life." That seemed rather startling to me and a bit "out of place" until I reread the previous verses and realized they were incited by an attack against God's loving care and attention. They accused God of "being absent" or "sleeping on the job." They claimed that the maker of heaven and earth was incapable of protecting his people from "natural calamities." Suddenly, I became aware of the presence of evil: the serpents of lies and deceit were at it again!

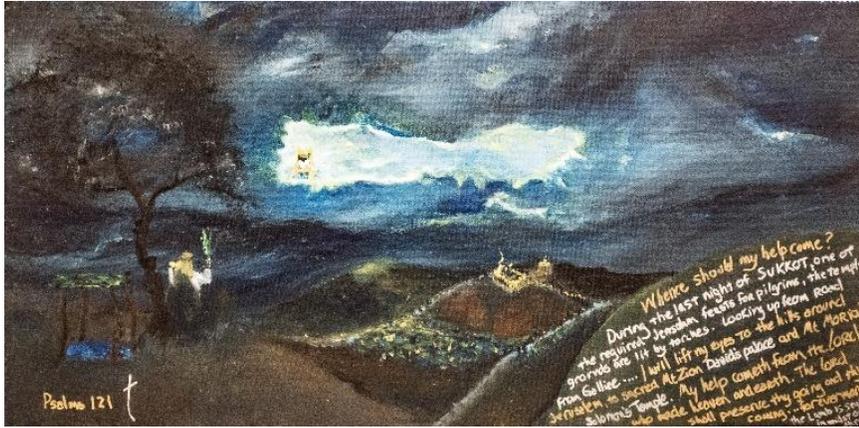
As I considered how I might interpret the insights I was experiencing, began to see the agents of evil as the predators that prey upon us. This, of course, translated easily in my mind to three dimensional forms for woodcarving. Who or what were some of the predators that threaten to hinder, corrupt, or destroy God's people? And to whom shall we look for protection and guidance? The One who made heaven and earth is well able to deliver us from the fear of "our going out or our coming in."

As grandfather to infant grandchildren, I look forward to using this show board to initiate stories of danger and adventure; and to teach a new generation to trust and follow the Lord and maker of heaven and earth.



A-16 | Olivia Miller
My Keeper
Photography
faithfulbuckeye@gmail.com
Psalm 121

INSPIRATION:
I was inspired by the views from my seat on an airplane this week that put God's creation on display. Psalm 121 gives me comfort in knowing that our almighty creator will take care of me.



A-20 | Penelope Miller
“Whence should my help come?”

Oil

penelope.b.miller@gmail.com

Ps. 121:1,2,8 KJV & APV/ Lev. 23:

33-44 KJV/ John 7 KJV/ Rev.

7:17KJV

INSPIRATION:

Go on my journey with me following pilgrims attending the annual third required Jerusalem feast of the year – Sukkot (Feast of the Tabernacles). Can you see all the tiny

temporary booths built with sticks and branches along the roads? This feast gives remembrance and homage to wandering in the wilderness and worshipping in Moses’ tabernacle. The pilgrim on the left forefront is waving the Lulav made from the branches from a palm tree, a willow tree, and a myrtle tree while his left hand is holding a citron. Waving these branches “prayerfully sprinkles” the presence of God all over their everyday lives. See King David’s Palace on Mount Zion to the right and behind Solomon’s temple on Mount Moriah? (These landmarks are noted in the Amplified Version.) This painting’s view is sighted from the middle road leading south into Jerusalem from Galilee, the one probably taken by Jesus on his last observance of Jerusalem’s Feast of Tabernacles (John7 KJV). Psalms 121 was traditionally the pilgrim’s song as they ascended the mount into the Temple for the Feast of Tabernacles.

When you need help: Do you look to a building for help? Or to the government? Or to the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne (Rev 7:17)? Stand and declare like those pilgrims, “My help comes from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.” Ps. 121:2 He is my Lord Jesus Christ.

Key verses to follow my narrative– Ps. 121:1,2,8 KJV & APV/ Lev. 23: 33-44 / John 7 / Rev. 7:17 KJV

EXPERIENCE:

Studying Psalms 121 over 12 hours in my KJV, I looked up cross references in my simple study Bible. Looking at ancient maps, I was amazed that Solomon’s temple was raised up on a hill and the pilgrims would need to ascend to enter. I painted the central road going south from Galilee then the one to the left going to Jericho. The road that curves off to the right comes from Bethlehem. The Mount of Olives is behind the Temple looking toward the east. When I read Psalms 121 in my Amplified Bible the first verse identified the landmarks in the hills as a pilgrim looked up from the roads around Jerusalem: Mount Moriah is where Solomon build his temple (the current temple mount) and Mount Zion, traditionally is where King David’s palace was built in the old city.

Understanding Jewish feasts made the chapter even clearer. The Feast of Tabernacles includes temporary booths and waving branches of myrtle, palm, and willow trees, and lighting. The seventh night of the feast temple surrounded with torches. Can you see the smoke arising from the Temple’s front courtyard?

Last, I had an old photograph of clouds opening as if you could see into heaven. I could sense God’s presence as I painted the Lamb in the midst of the throne.

Imagine singing Psalms 121 as you came to Jerusalem from Galilee, set up your booth, and ascended to the temple. Look for Jesus to minister to you today.



A-12 | Tamara D. Davis-Kisor-Nelson
“My Rock Shades Me in My Hills”

Acrylic

7 40-577-4887

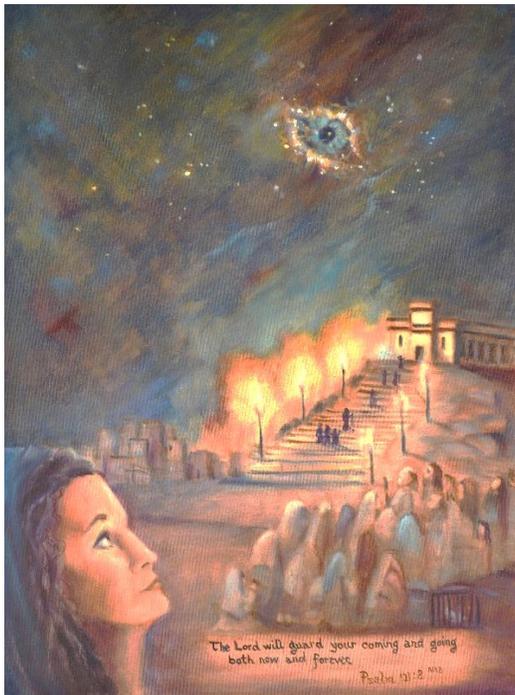
Ps 121:5-6

INSPIRATION:

Walking in the middle of the hills in Zaleski Forest Vinton County Ohio stands a tall rock wall like a fortress. It shades the road and those walking there from the winds, rain and sun coming from the southeast, our right side. I felt as if I was walking into Heavens gates smelling and feeling the wonders he had created here on Earth. It was majestic while comforting. Calming as He gave me peace in a way only walking with Him by my side can ever occur. Comfort in our hills of Southeast Ohio. God Blessed.

EXPERIENCE:

I enjoyed researching how a warrior is protected on the north side by his shield but on the south side of a warrior, his sword and he are protected by God. The shade on our right hand is frequently referenced in the way. God kept telling me to look at my pictures from a trip I had had into Zaleski State Forest last summer. I found a picture that showed me a large rock fortress on the right side providing shadow for us on the road. It just fit. I used it as reference to start my painting and prayed God would use my hands to show the love with which he made our forests and other natural wonders. If he did this for things thought not to have souls how much more, he must have thought about the wonders he made in the human and their soul. It all gave me pause and gratitude for his care and thoughtfulness.



A-07 | Donna Nesbitt
“As You Journey”

Oil on Canvas

dnesbitt@fromcurioustocreative.com

Ps121:8 NAB

INSPIRATION:

Psalm 121 is a song of ascent sung by the Israelites as they made their way to the temple. It assures them of the Lord's help and protection. Imagine what it would have been like to be a pilgrim in ancient times, approaching the temple after a long journey! As I was praying for a symbol of God's watchfulness I found photos of the Helix Nebula (NGC7293), also known as the Eye of God. I wanted to incorporate it as a symbol of God's infinite power and creativity. That symbol was the missing piece that pulled together color and composition. I hope the painting will move viewers to read the psalm and take it to heart.

EXPERIENCE:

The Holy Spirit's creative inspirations came once I'd immersed myself in the words and unpacked the verse. I did multiple small studies in watercolor and pastel, each one working out some part of the concept: adding and deleting, pruning. I realized that the best luminescent color would come if I used oil paint, glazing it in layers. This is a challenging process in a short time frame. Once I worked out the elements in the underpainting, the rest of the image really seemed to paint itself. I lost track of chronological time and found Kairos, God's opportune moment.



A-09 | Mindy Newman
“He Watches Us and Shades Us”

Watercolor

artistsworks@gmail.com

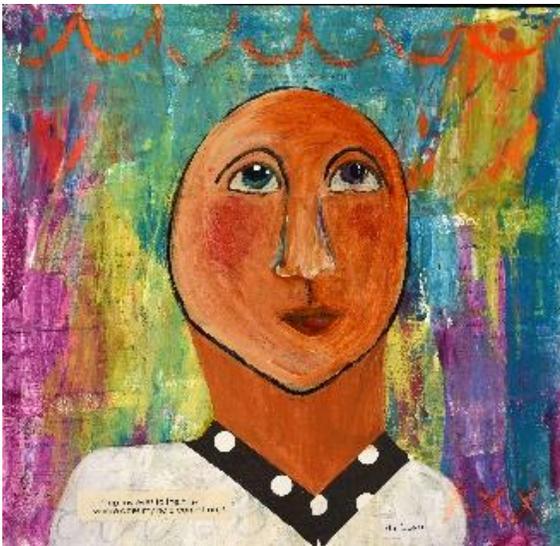
Ps121:5

INSPIRATION:

“Thy shade upon thy right hand” This verse reminds me of how big God is, bigger than heaven and earth, powerful enough to divide night and day, protective enough to watch us always. The tree of life, we rest in his care.

EXPERIENCE:

I use red for the sun, green for the moon to divide night and day. The warm sun, the cool night. These become my shading colors. This was a new experience in watercolor technique.



A-06 | Jessica Porterfield

“The Watched One”

Mixed Media (2/25 church program embedded in piece)

Porterfield81@msn.com

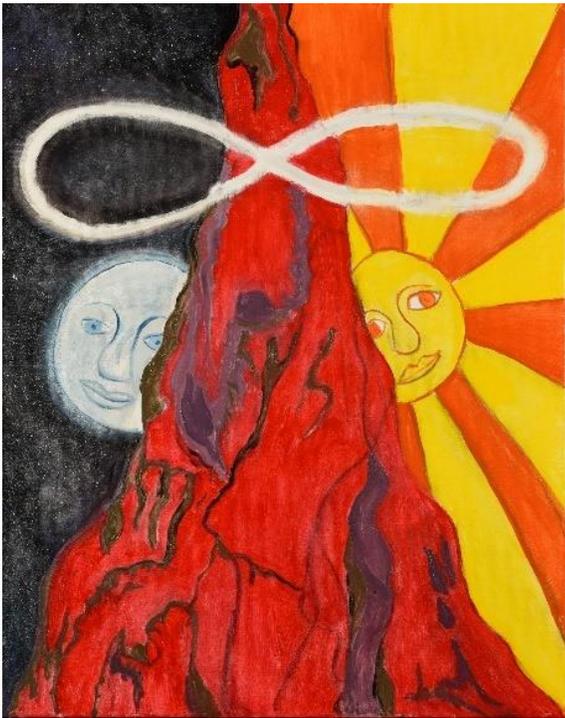
Psalms 121:1 NRSV

INSPIRATION:

First painting I tried with my ideas did not work out. Asked others to pray and continued praying for help from God. Began receiving clear messages one at a time about starting another painting using just the first verse. Then I got a message about putting half of the first verse in the piece in words which I do not usually use in my work. For the collaged part of the piece, I was inspired to use the confession and other parts of the Feb. 25th church program. These pieces are covered with paint and are barely discernable. The piece is simply someone looking up to heaven for help from God.

EXPERIENCE:

I started another painting first which was not turning out no matter how many times I went in and tried to rescue it. I received a clear message to do what I knew how to do which was outsider folk art faces. I started another painting and felt such relief and peace in doing it. I thought that it was done but received more messages from God I believe. One was to put some of the words of the first verse in the painting. I don't typically use words in my work. I believe that I was guided by God all the way in doing this work.



A-14 | Lisa South
(No title)
Oil on Canvas
614-588-0260
Psalm 121

INSPIRATION:

With the eternal light of his grace the Lord protects us from the mountains we must climb, through the turning of the days and nights.



A-25 | Brett Wade
“Creation”
Oil
brett@brettwadeart.com
Ps 121:5

INSPIRATION:

I have a psychology degree I have noticed the abuse of power by the hands of so called “physicians.” I thought to myself after experiencing this: what do you call a black man. a catholic. and an art worker? Patients in a mental hospital. So, who better to represent them than C S Lewis. Jesus and Leonardo de Vinci

EXPERIENCE:

God has essentially allowed me to live out the scripture: several catastrophes were avoided because God guided my steps



Y-04 | Anna Scheuerle | Grade 10 | **FIRST PLACE**

"He is not Here"

512-695-9281 or melscheu@gmail.com

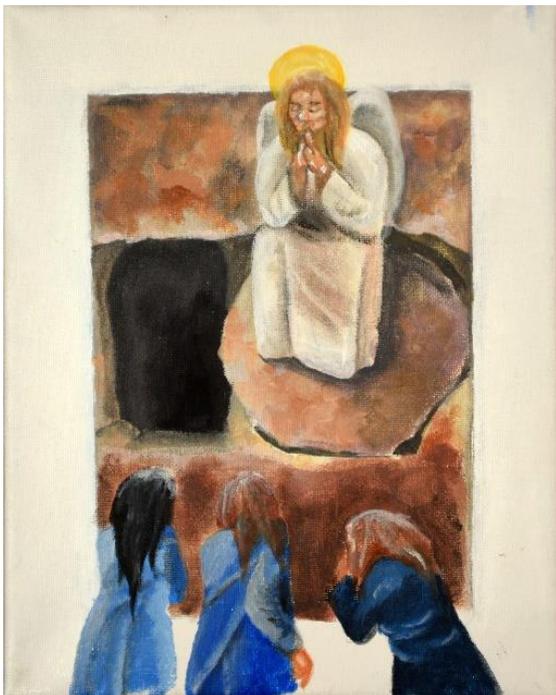
Mark 16:1-6

INSPIRATION:

My inspiration for the artwork was the desire to interpret, and paint Mary Magdalene's expression upon discovering Jesus was no longer present in His tomb; the bewilderment and puzzlement she felt. The angel told Mary that Jesus had risen, and this news came as an unforeseen blessing to her. I can imagine this coming as a shock to her. A hand reaches out to comfort Mary. It may be the hand of God, or the hand of the angel who gave her the news of Jesus's resurrection.

EXPERIENCE:

My experience in creating this artwork was very different from creating any of my other pieces of art. At first, I had no idea what my piece would look like. As I painted, I gradually planned out what I was going to paint as God inspired and worked through me. One of the final details I added was the hand reaching out to Mary. I still find it unclear as to whether this is the hand of God or the angel. It just came to me late in the project that it needed to be there.



Y-08 | Madeline Miller | Grade 12 | **SECOND PLACE**

"The Mourners"

Acrylic

614-603-4662

Mark 16:4-5

INSPIRATION:

My inspiration for this piece came from the sense of mourning that was felt by all who glorified Jesus. They felt the loss as many who believed in him were overwhelmed with grief for the suffering that he had endured. But, to their amazement, upon reaching the tomb the large stone had been rolled away from the entrance and Jesus had risen from the dead. This piece of artwork is my vision of that moment.



Y-06 | Hudson Lewis | Grade 3 | **THIRD PLACE**
“Jesus Will Rise”

Ink

INSPIRATION:

The guard standing by is saying, "Stay Out!" The guard does not want anyone to steal what is in the tomb. The angel standing by says to Mary, "Do not be afraid." Mary asked, "Where is Jesus?" The angel says, "He is arisen; tell everyone!"

God is telling me to go to China and help people; go to Africa and help people. Help people who are in need of food and who don't know about Jesus.



Y-05 | Carter Lewis | Grade 7
“Mary Sees an Angel”

Photography/Photoshop

INSPIRATION:

I was thinking about when Mary was right about to go to the tomb. There is an angel there that greets her. The angel is wearing armor because he has the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, the boots of the gospel of peace, the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the shield of faith. The angel is also wearing white and red armor. The white is for the purity of having no sins. The red armor is for the blood of Jesus who has risen for us.



Y-07 | Elise Lewis | Grade 1
“God is Risen from the Dead”
Acrylic

INSPIRATION:

The angel is telling Mary that God has risen from the dead. Mary said, "Oh no! He is not there!" But the angel said again, "Mary, He has risen from the dead. Now, calm down." Then Mary said, "Ahhhhhh, an angel" Then the angel said, "Nothing to worry about. Nothing to be scared of." Then Mary ran as fast as she could home and told everyone that God has risen and that there was an angel. And, everybody said, "Ahhhh, an angel"

EXPERIENCE:

God was telling me that there is nothing to be scared of when an angel comes down.



Y-01 | Emma McMullen | Grade 3
“The Resurrection of Christ”
Pencil
Mark 16:6

INSPIRATION:

The inspiration for my artwork was the Lord who directs me. I chose the cross because it reminds me of Jesus' death and resurrection just like verse 6 talks about. He was on the cross but is no longer on it. The blue sky represents Jesus as our living water. The lamb represents Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross and that He is the resurrected lamb. Also, that He is our shepherd and we are His sheep resting on the rock. God is our rock and our firm foundation. The hill with the flowers represent peace and heaven. Just as Jesus went to heaven and gives us peace through what He did for us on the cross.



Y-03 | Carolyn Taphorn | Grade 8
“Tomb”
Oil
Mark 16: 1-7

INSPIRATION:

The part of these verses that I was inspired by was thinking about the two people walking towards the empty tomb and seeing a man in white.



**Watch for news about the 3rd Annual UALC 7 Day Bible Art Challenge
February 2019**

Registration begins in August at www.ualc.org/7dayart

If you would like an alert when the Call for Entries is issued, email visualarts@ualc.org
(Participating artists are already on the mailing list.)

To learn about organizing a 7 Day Bible Art Challenge in another community
or to support spreading this concept nationwide, visit
www.7dayart.com



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