

CAST YOUR NET ON THE RIGHT SIDE

After spending the entire night unsuccessfully fishing on the sea of Tiberias, some of the disciples heard a voice calling from the shore. In the early light of dawn they saw the figure of a man beside a small campfire. The man encouraged them to cast their net on the right side of their boat. Though it probably seemed that such a small adjustment would avail them little, the disciples followed his admonition and ventured a try. Perhaps there was something familiar about his voice and his simple request that subdued their unbelief.

The disciples were rewarded for their simple act of faith with a huge draft containing a “multitude of fishes”, so great that their net could scarcely keep from bursting! With this miracle came the recognition that the figure beside the fire was the Risen Lord. The heartened disciples came ashore, there to enjoy a breakfast of bread and fish prepared by Jesus himself.

What an amazing way to start the day! Imagine being fed, warmed and invited to bask in the glow of the “Light of the World”. With a simple act of faith we can do the same and greet each new dawn nourished and warmed by the fire of His spirit!

Greg Olsen -2009

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Greg was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho and grew up in the nearby farming community of Iona. He is the oldest of five children. Greg was blessed with very supportive parents who always encouraged him and provided opportunities for him to pursue his passion of art. Greg remembers a time as a teenager when he had been hired to paint a large sign for a local grocery store. It was wintertime and too cold to paint in the garage so his parents let him set up a workshop in his bedroom. He promptly spilled two quarts of black and orange enamel paint all over his bedroom carpet. Amazingly, his parents still encouraged him in his artistic endeavors.

After high school Greg attended Utah State University where he studied art. While attending school he met his wife, Sydnie Cazier. They have six children and are enjoying their new role as grandparents. Greg likes being close to his family. He paints in his studio, 37 steps from the back door of their home. Greg says, “From an early age I have always been fascinated by paintings that create mood, emotion and atmosphere; especially those paintings that lift me and transport me to some far off place. These are the elements I strive to create in my paintings. My paintings in many ways record what is most important to me: my feelings and experiences with family and friends along with the spiritual aspects of my life. My hope is that in these images you will find something familiar, something which will resonate and remind you of what is important in your own life.”