

THE ARM WRESTLE

Friendships sometimes come with struggles, strife, and differences. One person's will or opinion becomes pitted against those of another. Each side is determined to emerge the victor. That scenario, however, always leaves someone feeling defeated. In those situations, humor has often proven to be the splash of water that extinguishes the flames of anger and contention. No contest is worth the loss of a friend. There is wisdom in the advice to "let not the sun set upon your anger." Friendships are worth our efforts, for wealthy is the man who enjoys the company of friends!

Greg Olsen - 2007

❖ About the Artist ❖

Greg Olsen

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."