

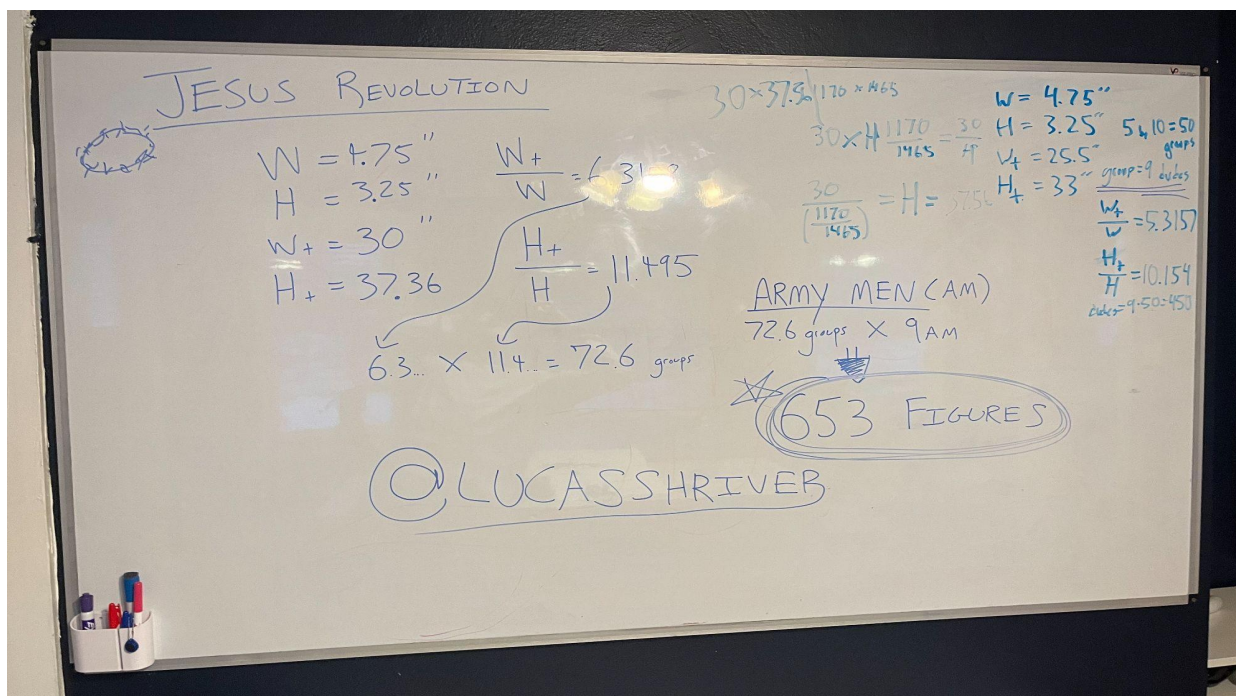
Jesus Revolution

By: The Shop

It all began one oddly warm morning sometime in January 2024 when Johnny was praying the rosary, he turned to set his water bottle down and saw the tip of a rifle pointed at his face. Normally, this would induce great fear, but Johnny softly smiled, and continued to pray...

Some days went by and Johnny was taking out his contacts and once again was held up at gunpoint by a small green man. This time, Johnny had an idea...

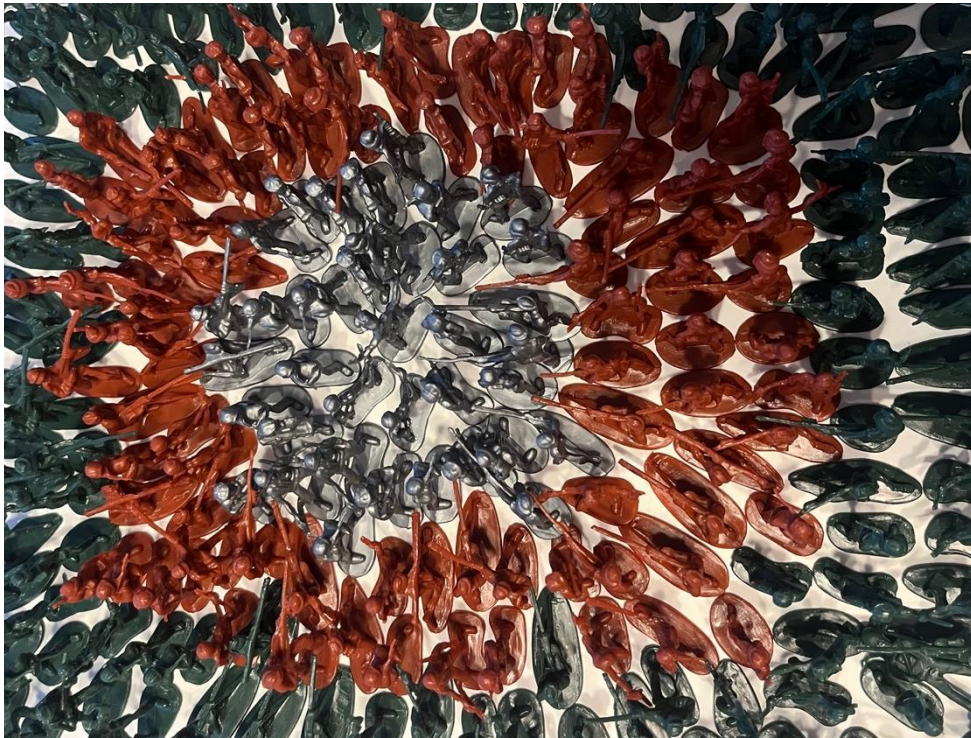
In his joy he ran into Lucas's room flailing his arms and casting his vision. Johnny was inspired by a piece of art in a museum over Christmas break in Chicago and couldn't get it off his mind. Lucas, now caught in the thick and heavy webbing of his cast, knew he couldn't escape. So he set aside his work, grabbed a sharpie, and helped Johnny run some numbers. It was like a scene from Goodwill Hunting. Lucas, whose veins were now coursing with adrenaline, covered a 6 foot whiteboard in a matter of seconds. We were going to need a much bigger little green army than I thought.



Now the shop was on a manhunt to acquire all of the little green army men we could find. Our search took us to Facebook Marketplace, a cemetery for forgotten hobbies, and lost passions, but also the birthing grounds for revolutionary ideas, and second chances. We met with strangers at their homes and coffeeshops.

The sellers would say, “You seem a bit old to be playing with these little guys?”

To which we would reply, “You seem a bit young to be giving them up so soon!”



With our big little army, we played out a good old fashioned battle before our mini comrades would be fashioned into fine art.

Now it was time to get down to business, we searched in Peter’s garage for the perfect canvas and found a solid piece. It was warped, but we figured

it wouldn't be a big deal. And much like our sin, it turned out to be a much bigger deal than we thought.

So Michael Flynn, aka Conquito, started cutting away to fit the proper dimensions that Lucas calculated.



After we cut the board we decided to check out Menards to see if they had anything more sturdy and straight. This masterpiece was already going to pop off the wall, a protruding canvas wasn't doing us any favors.

Michael pushed Johnny around in the cart like his dad used to do with him when he was a wee lad. Michael also brought refrigerated chicken & peppers in a baggie, which they heated up in a cup at a gas station and ate while they shopped. #justbluecollarthings



With the new thick, sturdy wood, we headed for the parking lot only to discover that this gorgeous slab would not fit in the backseat of Michael's 1997 Buick Park Avenue. OH BOB SAGET! We called all of our friends with a truck and Henry came to our rescue!

Once at home, we ran into Justin who kindly sanded down our rough wood into something smoother than a baby's butt.



Once our wood was smooth, we headed to Michael's to pick up paint, primer, and spray glossy sealant. Shout out to Annie Grobner who went shopping with us and let us borrow her paintbrushes!

With supplies in hand, Dusty dusted the canvas off and began to cover our wood with primer preparing its surface to hold an astronomical amount of paint...and soon an entire army.



We knew we were going to paint Jesus, but we needed to get the right style with just enough detail, but not too much. After hours of careful research, we selected this black and white photo because it had good highlights, would enlarge nicely, and wasn't overly detailed.



We hit the UST create space and printed out Jesus at maximum size a perfect 1:1 ratio so that it would be easier to transpose the print onto our 3'x4' wooden canvas. Funny enough, the most recent image on the create space laptops on Canva was a photo of Henry and his girlfriend Anne!



Once Jesus was printed, we rolled him up, tucked him under our arm, and carried him back to the house. After we rolled out the photo in The Shop, we realized this was quite a large project and we also live very full lives. How in the world were we going to keep this a secret from The Grotto? The consensus was, “We’ll cross that bridge when we come to it.”

We taped Jesus to our old warped board and placed some of the little army men on the photo to see if this idea had any legs...it did...and soon to be over 1,500. With slightly more confidence that this idea was going to work,



Johnny traced a 4 inch grid on Jesus and the primed canvas so that he could draw an exact replica of the Christ on the wood.

When the drawing was complete, we dipped our brushes into paint for the first time and went to work.

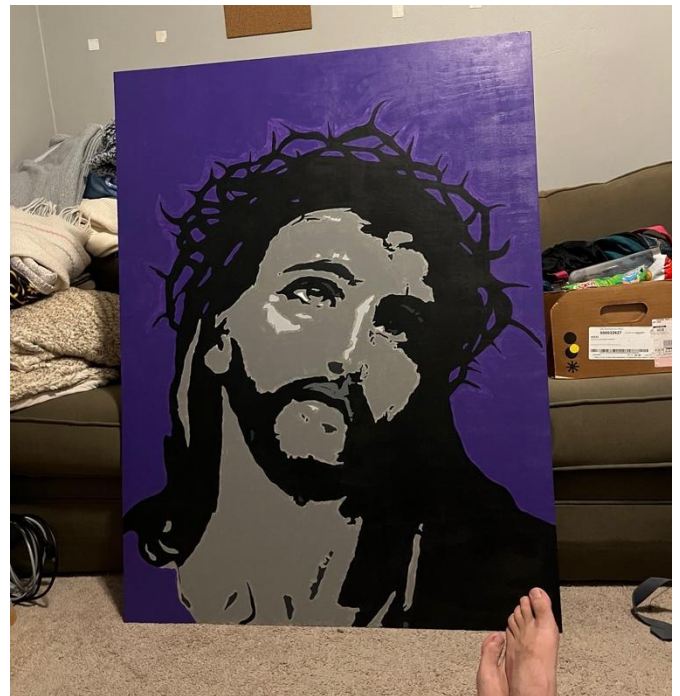


We declared a BAN on women in the study room and guarded the door carefully, assuring it would stay shut when we had visitors.



When we knew women would be over for a prolonged period of time we hid the project in the study room closet, which was just large enough to fit the wood. For the next weeks, we slowly painted away, the acrylic did not

spread as far as we imagined and it also needed multiple coats, so we took our time and let the wood absorb our paint as Jesus's wounds absorb all of our sin.



With the painting complete, we threw a mini celebration, but we were far from finished. We moved the

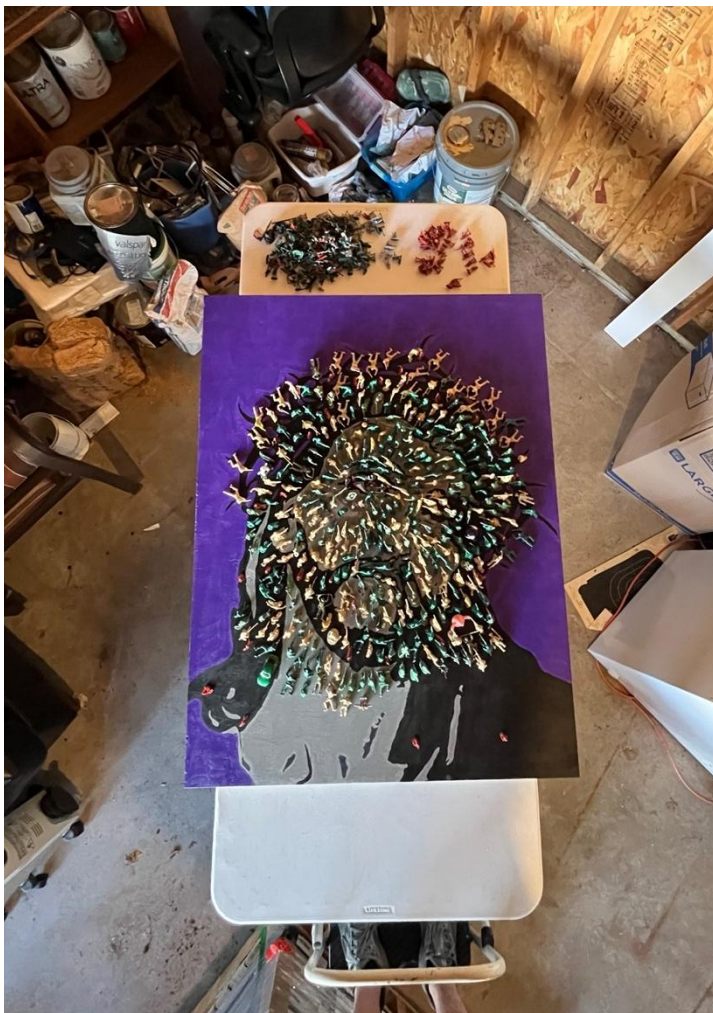
project to our phase #2 location, the left side garage tucked away in the back. The first scare came when Kyle and Claire walked by and Claire asked, “What’s going on in the garage?”

I quickly replied, “Oh, just a lil project.”

Kyle immediately jumped in saying, “Oh wow! Look at that pontoon, over there, has that always been there? And why are the windows boarded up?” Claire turned her head the other way and we both took a deep breath.

Now came the arduous task of staging all of the little army men. We placed all of them over the painting to see if we needed any more. We were short a few hundred...BOB SAGET...back to Facebook marketplace.

We placed final 167 army men and then tossed them into 10 different Ziploc baggies categorizing them based on which color they would be



painted. Some bags had several hundred, other bags had just 1 little army man.

When the painting was finished, we were very tempted to give in and call it quits. *The women would still hang this on their wall right?* But like Jesus, we resisted Satan with scripture. **Two are better than one,**



because they have a good return for their labor. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

So, we listened to the wisdom of the Word and began painting 2 by 2 and great was our return!







And when the spring drew near our backs were bent
We felt like struggling artists trying to pay off rent
But eventually our figures got a fresh coat
With a little help from Lianna Corzo!



We dried them out on cardboard
But the stench was abhorred
Brian got high
So we took them outside

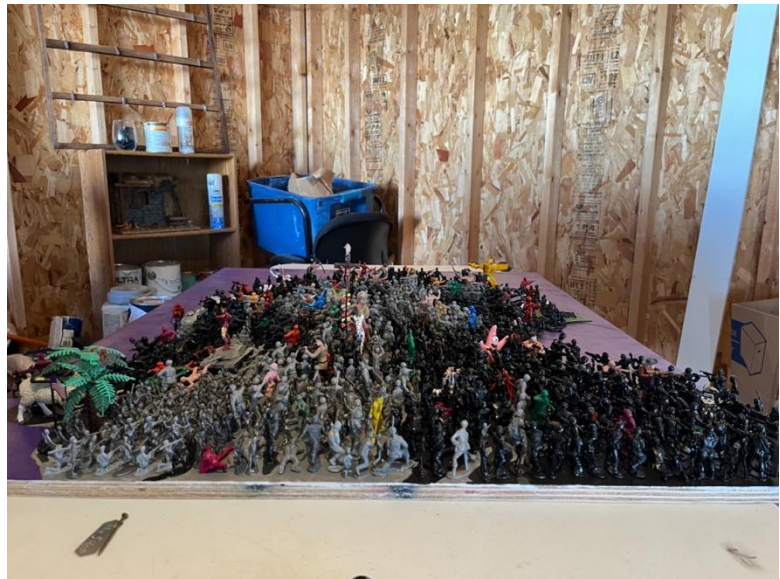
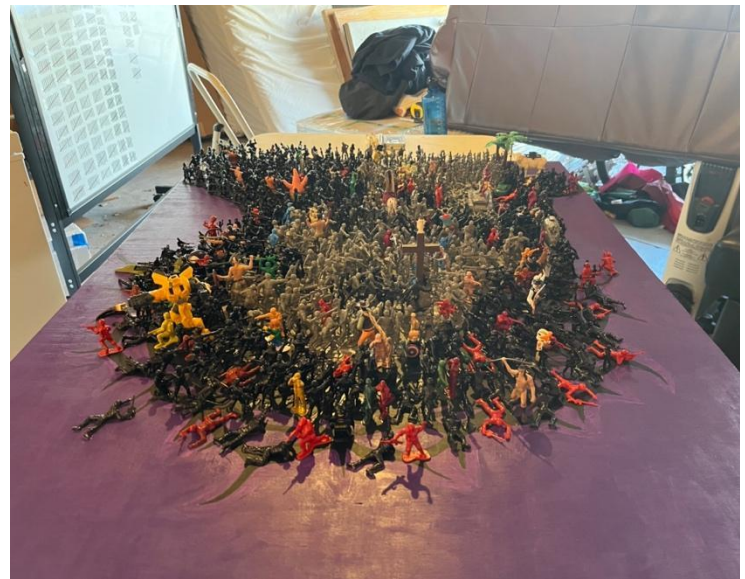


We sprayed em' till they shined
We agreed they were sublime
Then Katie came early
We scattered and we hurried



We had hundreds of army men on the warped board painting away when Katie walked into the back door of The Shop. JTC immediately pulled out the couch, we picked up the board, tossed it under, then JTC sat back on the couch pulling all of the blankets over his legs so it wasn't visible beneath, then we looked around to make sure all was out of sight and realized we had our paint covered rubber gloves on, we ripped them off and chucked them into the book shelf. Phew, that was the close one!

We placed the men once again
Now in their final position
How good it is when
Brothers share a beautiful conviction



But as we placed the final pieces
We remembered the big picture and the thesis

If Jesus were here we think we'd follow him regardless
Of what people shouted or acted even if it was dangerous
But like the rest of his friends we would crucify his egregious
Claims that He's the Way the Truth and the Life, such craziness

We point our gun at Jesus when we choose sin but such happiness is
venomous
We pull the trigger on laziness, wrathfulness, and hopelessness
We shoot Jesus, then check His wounds to make sure He's still with us
But He will never run from us regardless of our choices

As the blood drains from His side his body weight decreases
There on the tree, we left Him, unrecognizable and lifeless
But His Father's love put an end to all the madness
He breathed life, Jesus now and forever the holiest

So when we get caught up and find ourselves joining the masses
Take a breath, close your eyes, and remember this canvas
The world will always hate everything Jesus teaches
Because He is not of this world, nor from its weakness

Look closely at the figures, is there anything you notice?
To stand for Jesus is to stand versus the world and its ideas
The teams are not even, the canvas makes this obvious
But we know the pathways' narrow, and God is very serious

Dear sisters, be outward facing people
Be not afraid in the face of persecution
Yes, even if it is lethal
For, God is calling for a Jesus Revolution

Our God is perfectly precise
And He wouldn't think twice

How many hairs are on my head?
The answer is concise

Every person has dignity
Our God does not subtract
And as you can see visually
He really likes to add

God knows the number of his men
Every soul He ever created
So right before we say Amen
Remember you and God are related

Each of these men were accounted for
Eight hundred and fourteen
But there's still one more
Find the circle with a sheen

You completed this project and you complete us
For it is not good for man to be alone
And we wouldn't dare put God to the test
But would you exist without our rib bone?

When a masterpiece is finished, the creator thinks its genius
Except when God made you, He knew long before you're consciousness
Women of the Grotto, your lives are filled with purpose
Thank you for reflecting Christ's love in all of its sweetness!

- The Shop

PASTE POLAROID HERE!

We hope you enjoy this artwork and pray that it will serve as a visual reminder the beautiful mission that each of our lives truly is! There are very many “Easter Eggs” hidden amongst the painting, some that may never be recognized. We hope you’ll find something new each and every time.

Key

Johnny: Ironman

Dustin: Mini Fighter Plane

Thomas: Osceola and Renegade

Jonny D: Astronaut

JTC: Grumobile

William: LEGO Clone Trooper

Brian: LEGO w Soccer ball + Redbull

Tomas: Crystal bird

Lucas: LEGO on Skateboard

Ivan: LEGO Captain America

Kyle: Green Hot wheels

Sam: LEGO Batman

Eric: Patrick Star

John: Vikings helmet

Michael Flynn (Conquito): Crab claw