

"HE IS SKILLED IN ENGRAVING AND MOUNTING GEMSTONES AND IN CARVING WOOD. HE IS A MASTER OF EVERY CRAFT!"

Exodus 31:5



WOOD CARVING



*GOD GIVES EACH PERSON
SPECIAL GIFTS TO USE FOR HIS
GLORY!*

INTRODUCTION:

After spending just a short time around elderly residents in a health care facility, you will marvel at the level of applause extended from them upon hearing about an individual overcoming adversity; especially if it is someone living in the winter season of life.

Certainly this is experienced by the writer in the facility where she volunteers as a reader every Thursday by witnessing the residents' responses regarding information about her own 95 year old mother that is still living independently. They not only are delighted to hear about the times when she stays up 24 hours baking food for her church Christmas Bazaar, but also want to know the flavors and order in which items are prepared for the 9:00 am deadline.

Then, when strawberry picking time rolls around each spring, without prompting, they remember to ask if she has already been out in the patch. Amazingly, after hearing that, as the oldest picker, she is greeted by the owner in a golf cart designated for her only, their responsive smiles light up the room. After all, this is a person their age still out in the world at large facing life head on! Bravo!



Consequently, when they were introduced to a very special man possessing a gift in carving wood, their attention became riveted on him. After having been told by his physician that the only way to deal with the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis was to use his hands in spite of great discomfort, their ears went into the listening mode called overdrive.

Thus, when learning that he chose to become a woodcarver, an art that he had never before done, the facial expressions they wore could only be described as pure unadulterated astonishment. How was it even possible for a person to take this approach selecting a category that he appreciated but had never tried?

Therefore, when Tim Trafford introduced his guest, Ron Cruse, as having been a woodcarver for only 3 years, the support they offered was incredible. As he began his presentation, one could have heard a feather drop in the room. However, after observing his first creation, the atmosphere turned into an electric energy field of excitement and joy!

Without doubt, this group immediately recognized they were witnessing an individual blessed by the Almighty with a very special talent! Not only was he using this incredible gift, but was doing so as therapy for his health; even though in obvious pain and agony. Since they were in the winter season of life, functioning daily with the results of an aging body, **empathy** was immediately extended.





**NOTE THE SHAPE OF HIS HANDS AND
SUPPORT NEEDED IN ORDER TO
FUNCTION!**





BIG AND SMALL! HE CAN DO IT ALL!

***HOW DOES HE CARVE
SOMETHING SO TINY?
HOW TALENTED!***





UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL!



HANG IN THERE!



ACTIVITY: Wood Carver Artisan

SUPPLIES:

****Wood Carver**

****Tables**

Directions:

Remember to introduce guest with excitement! As an activity director, always stay involved. Walk around sharing carvings up close and personal with each resident. Make remarks throughout presentation to promote engagement! Encourage questions and comments from residents!

Most of all:

HAVE FUN TOGETHER!

