



AWE AND COMPASSION

Bass

MATTHEW 18:5

"Whoever welcomes one such child as this, welcomes me."

My church, King of Glory Lutheran Church, in North Myrtle Beach, SC, was undergoing a major renovation. Due to a structural necessity, a niche was formed near the entrance to the sanctuary. Our pastor showed me the niche in the plan and said, "Walter, that is your niche to fill with a carving." As with St. Stephen, I was free to design whatever I thought was appropriate and no time element was involved.

I had sketched a little girl and Jesus, showing the girl's awe and Jesus' compassion, as pictured. It happened that about that time a young girl was baptized in our church who looked a lot like my sketch. I felt it was a good omen and started on the carving a few days later.

I had to go to Columbia, SC, to find the kind of bass wood I wanted and it took nine pieces, 6" x 8" x 48", glued together to get the overall dimensions I needed.

My son said he wanted to make the brass plate with the title and dedication information engraved on it, which he did.

It was finished in four and one-half months. My wife and I donated the sculpture to our church on our 50th Wedding Anniversary, August 27, 1995. It is dedicated to our children, Grandchildren and to all of God's children everywhere.