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Northport Gazette

13 Thursday, Sep

Northport, Alabama

1 Section, 16 Pages

50 cents

Local artist devotes time to spiritual art

By Michelle Price
Managing Editor

Sometimes the Lord moves in mysterious ways. But for two men in Samantha it is not so much a mystery as it is a mission.

Willie Logan of Samantha is an artist who has been doing wood carvings all his life. However, the greatest project of his career began when Johnny Williamson, also of Samantha, approached Logan with an idea.

"Mr. Johnny saw me at the store one day and said, 'Willie, I've had some- thing on my mind,'" he said. "He knocked all over the country, and hadn't been able to find what he wanted."

Williamson asked Logan to carve a life-size sculpture of Jesus to display in his front yard.

"I'd like people to know that the Lord is my shepherd," Williamson told Logan.

Logan also told Logan that the Lord had told him that Jesus to display in his front yard.

Logan put Williamson off at first. "I didn't think Johnny would want to pay what it would actually cost to do something that big," he said. "But the spirit, I felt like, was wanting me to do the carving, so I called him and told him I'd do it."

"I had an idea one day when I was out mowing the grass," Williamson said. "I got a real strong feeling that I should get a statue of Jesus and a sheep and put it out on display."

"This is supposed to be the good shepherd," Williamson said of the statue. "And the Lord is my shepherd."

Williamson quit drinking 20 months ago and feels that Jesus helped to achieve and maintain sobriety. "I've had a good bit of turmoil in my life," he said. "But I've also had a good life."

"My mom always liked the 23rd psalm and felt like the Lord guided us in everything we do," Williamson said. "And that same Lord is the one that leads me today."

Williamson said he put the statue in his front yard as way of getting the attention of people who might benefit from his story.



Photo by Michelle Price

Willie Logan stands in his wood shop next to an unfinished carving of a sheep, which will stand next to the sculpture of Jesus in Johnny Williamson's front yard.



Photo by Michelle Price

Johnny Williamson looks up at the six-foot-six-inch tall wooden statue of Jesus sculpted by local artist Willie Logan and displayed in Williamson's front yard since Saturday.

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