

THE COLORS OF GOD'S LOVE



PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG SCHNEIDER

VITALS: Cher Threinen-Pendarvis, 51, is an artist, an author and the owner of a design company, Cher Threinen Design (www.pendarvis-studios.com).

PERSONAL FILE: Pendarvis and her husband, Steve, have been married 10 years. They live in San Diego.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Pendarvis received a bachelor's degree in art in 1974 from San Diego State University, specializing in painting and printmaking. Her earliest digital paintings were in black and white. Her digital paintings have been exhibited worldwide, and her work has been featured in numerous books and periodicals. Pendarvis teaches digital painting and illustration workshops internationally and is a frequent speaker at conferences. She is most recently the author of the award-winning *The Painter 6 WOW!* book (Peachpit Press, 2000), which describes techniques and provides inspiration for students of digital media. She does one-person shows, and her work is exhibited in a gallery in San Diego and has been sold to collectors.

CALLING: Pendarvis divides her time between teaching, writing books and creating her fine art. She also does some commercial illustration and graphic design.

INTEGRATION

Look outside under a tree in sunny San Diego, and you might find Cher Pendarvis “painting” on her “canvas” — a laptop computer. Her art is a mixture of digital media and conventional methods: drawing with a stylus on a pressure-sensitive tablet, then using pastels or watercolors applied with traditional tools to enhance her work.

Paint a picture of Pendarvis, herself, and it's as varied and blended as the techniques she uses in her art. The palette of her life is made up of both adversity and gratitude — difficult circumstances overcome through God's grace.

Pendarvis has childhood memories of happily drawing with her mother. But these memories are salted by more bittersweet recollections — the Navy duty that meant her family never lived in a house more than two

years; the remarriage of her mother and her resulting abusive home life; her mother's death; and Pendarvis' escape at 17 into a marriage that ended in divorce. As she worked in commercial art, Pendarvis watched her friends slip into trendy lifestyles, but she found the superficiality of that kind of life depressing. She longed for something more. It was at this point that she felt God speaking to her.

“The Lord came to me and let me know He was there for me,” she remembers. “I told Him I wanted to have Him in my heart. ... I wanted to follow Him.”

She wants this experience to be the central point of her existence.

“God has done a lot of healing in my life,” Pendarvis says. “He helped me grow through difficult circumstances.”

Pendarvis works out of her home office in

San Diego, traveling and teaching workshops once a month in the United States and Europe. She wanted desperately to teach but was petrified about speaking in public.

“I prayed, ‘Oh, Lord, I don't have a voice, and I'm so fearful ...,’” she remembers. “Then, God told me, ‘You're going to have to make a leap of faith — and I'll catch you!’ And I did ... and He did.”

For Pendarvis, the opportunities to teach, paint and write are all gifts.

“All of my creativity comes from God. I pray about everything — the projects that come along, whether I should travel. ... I ask Him to direct my path.”

Just color her grateful. *l@w*

— Cindy Crosby