Arnold Jackson and his wife Janice came to Peachland with the hopes of remaining for one year. With twelve years behind them at Mt. Carmel now, they have become a vital part of the Mt. Carmel church family.

**Heavenly Hobby**

Mt. Carmel Pastor Adds A Little Color To His Life

By Darrell Ussery

When Arnold Jackson came to Peachland as the pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in 1985, he was excited but realistic about his future. Aware of the care that congregations generally take during the selection of a permanent preacher, Jackson hoped that his stint would last for at least one year.

"I asked God to give me one year and he has given me twelve so far!"

possess a more diversified color scheme. "It was really all about getting down the brush strokes and then spending time practicing," says Jackson "...it's interesting because a pencil never touches the painting." Followed show in the numerous paintings that adorn the walls of Jackson's home as well as the homes of members of the Mt. Carmel congregation. "All in all, I've probably given away 25 paintings," said Jackson.

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"I asked God to give me one year and he has given me twelve so far." says Jackson, sounding amazed at how quickly time has passed since that transitional period in Mt. Carmel's history.

During these twelve years, the people of Mt. Carmel have come to know Jackson as a man full of many talents, one of which is oil painting.

Jackson, who has been painting for a number of years, says that his initial attraction to painting was for the relaxation that it offered as a hobby. It was later that he found it to also be a "great way to break monotony."

Rather than taking the usual route of going to art school or taking classes at night, Jackson learned his technique by watching the popular PBS series, "The Joy of Painting." The program ran from 1983 until 1996 and featured Bob Ross, a soft-spoken, fuzzy haired artist who was known as much for his gentle demeanor as he was for his exceptional talent. From its inception in 1983 until Ross' death in 1995, the show appealed to working people like Jackson in light of its short air time and lets-get-started instructional content.

The Joy of Painting was founded on the Bob Ross method, a particularly innovative style of oil painting geared for people of all levels of talent. This technique, also referred to as "wet on wet" painting, concentrates primarily on brush strokes and the frequent use of the palette knife on the canvas. Once mastered, these elements alone are capable of producing enormous amounts of detail in little time. Thus, the "happy trees" and "cheery clouds" that became a staple of Ross' landscapes and language over the years.

Paintings done in the Ross fashion also require close to a year to completely dry. This affords the painter an ample amount of time to make any desired change or correction.

After watching Ross on television and ordering one of his instructional books, Jackson began familiarizing himself with the Ross style. Elementary works soon increased in detail and the paintings began to...