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## 'Touchdown Jesus' statue to get facelift

60 gallons of paint will be used to coat the 62-foot tall King of Kings.

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GARY STELZER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The King of Kings statue at Solid Rock Church in Monroe is seen Tuesday, April 6.

ENLARGE PHOTO

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By Denise Wilson, Staff Writer

Updated 6:33 PM Thursday, April 8, 2010

MONROE — A well-recognized, large religious statue depicting Jesus Christ erected in front of Solid Rock Church will soon get a facelift.

The King of Kings statue at the church at 904 N. Union Road will be power cleaned and repainted, said Ron Carter, administrator at Solid Rock. The work is needed to address exposure from the elements, he said.

It will take 60 gallons of white paint to complete the job.

"Before you put on a fresh coat of paint, the surface has to be cleaned. There's a lot of atmospheric dirt on it from exposure to the elements," Carter said.

The work, which will take three to four weeks to complete, also will include conducting repairs to the skin of the structure at the base of the statue.

"Every year, we have a little bit of repair to do at the base of the statue where the water forms into ice and it puts some pressure on that area. So there's always a little bit of repair work to do in that area," he said.

Though work on the base is conducted annually, this is the first time the statue has been repainted since it was built in the summer of 2004.

The statue, which is seen by motorists traveling along Interstate 75 in Monroe, continues to accumulate nicknames. It has been called "Touchdown Jesus" because the arms and hands are raised upward, a motion often made when a football touchdown is scored. It has also been called "Big Butter Jesus" after comedian Heywood Banks referred to it as such and created a song about the statue, which he performed on radio's "The Bob and Tom Show."

The King of Kings statue is made out of steel and covered with a fiberglass material.

"Big Butter Jesus" was a popular Google.com search term in early March, according to Google trends. The trending topic spurred a number of media outlets to post photos and stories about the King of Kings statue on their Web sites.

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i go to this church and i'm very proud of our statue.this church is an awesome place to worship our GOD.think of all the people that pass this statue every day and maybe some talk about it on their way and maybe some dont but might get them thinking about faith and beliefs.

**randy**  
6:59 PM, 4/22/2010

REPORT ABUSE

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The liberals would rather have a large sculpture of their hero Jim Jones. Oh I forgot, liberals are trying to keep that dirty little secret under lock and key. I think we need to refresh this generation about Jim Jones, whom was the most popular and most staunch liberal of the the 70's. Respected and revered by such notables as Nancy Pelosi, Barbara Boxer, Harvey Milk and Masconi. Where's there's liberalism, there's major dysfunction.

**Sco Fo**  
10:15 AM, 4/17/2010

REPORT ABUSE

Repaint, repaint, and thin no more.

**Bill**  
9:22 AM, 4/16/2010

REPORT ABUSE

I think this is an ugly, horrible depiction of Jesus. It looks like an amateur built it. I believe it is wrong to make huge statues of Christ. The Bible plainly states, "Do not make any graven image of anything on heaven or earth. People may worship the statue instead of God himself" However, if it is leading people to salvation, it is doing some good. Our church has a lifesize bronze statue of Jesus that is beautiful, tactfully done and not overpowering. My grandchildren love it.

**Susan**  
2:52 PM, 4/14/2010

REPORT ABUSE

Can we get 96 more comments to make 400? I would really like to see more dumb comments. Pleeze!

**Bring 'em on**  
10:52 AM, 4/14/2010

REPORT ABUSE

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