



**Not Only Christmas Day**

Lord, this is my prayer  
 Not only on Christmas Day  
 But until I see You  
 face to face  
 May I live my life this way:  
 Just like the baby Jesus  
 I ever hope to be,  
 Resting in Your loving arms  
 Trusting in Your sovereignty.  
 And like the growing Christ child  
 In wisdom daily learning,  
 May I ever seek to know You  
 With my mind and spirit  
 yearning.

Like the Son so faithful  
 Let me follow in Your light,  
 Meek and bold, humble and  
 strong  
 Not afraid to face the night.  
 Nor cowardly to suffer  
 And stand for truth alone,  
 Knowing that Your kingdom  
 Awaits my going home.  
 Not afraid to sacrifice  
 Though great may be the cost,  
 Mindful how You rescued me  
 From broken-hearted loss.

Like my risen Savior  
 The babe, the child, the Son,  
 May my life forever speak  
 Of who You are and all You've  
 done.

So while this world rejoices  
 And celebrates Your birth,  
 I treasure You, the greatest gift  
 Unequaled in Your worth.  
 I long to hear the same words  
 That welcomed home Your Son,  
 "Come, good and faithful  
 servant,"  
 Your Master says, "Well done."  
 And may heaven welcome others  
 Who will join with me in praise  
 Because I lived for Jesus Christ  
 Not only Christmas Day

# Under His Wings...

Often there are verses of Scripture that we do not properly translate. This happens because of the wide gaps that exist between present and ancient cultures. A simple word in English often yields a totally different picture in our minds from the original meaning.



Under the Chuppah

One such word is found in Joel 2:16, *Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: Let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.*

The word I want to focus on is *closet*. In our culture a closet is a small room often attached to a bedroom where we store clothing. In Biblical times the word closet comes from the Hebrew word *chuppah*—pronounced *hoop-a*.

The chuppah is a shawl worn by Jewish men. Often we call this the prayer shawl. All Jewish men that were under the covenant wore a chuppah. The chuppah was and still is a very important piece of clothing. The coloring and wearing of the chuppah told of ones faith and belief in God. When a man prayed, sang or praised the Lord he would

pull the chuppah over his head. This was called, going into your closet. It was a picture of shutting yourself in with God.

In Matthew 6:6, Jesus said, *But you, when you pray, go into your closet, and when you have shut the door, pray to the Father which is in secret; and your Father which sees in secret shall reward you openly.*

Note the use of the word closet. Even many commentaries translate this word as meaning a room. Literally, Jesus was talking about shutting ones self in with God by pulling this shawl over the head.

Now, attached to the four corners of this shawl were woven cords called wings. According to Numbers 15:38 and Deuteronomy 22:12 these wings were to have one blue cord woven into them. This cord represented the promised Messiah.

The promise of Messiah was important to Jewish covenant because the Messiah represented peace, safety and the res-

toration of Israel.

In the ancient Jewish wedding, couples would get married under the husband's chuppah. The chuppah would be held up at the four corners or the wings. Getting married under the chuppah represented every promise of God that had been spoken to Israel.

At the end of the ceremony the chuppah would be taken down and placed over the shoulder of the groom. The groom in turn would extend his right arm around the shoulders of the bride and spread his chuppah over her. This promised the bride that the groom would take care of every need the bride had.

Isaiah put it this way in talking about the Messiah, *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace,* Isaiah 9:6.

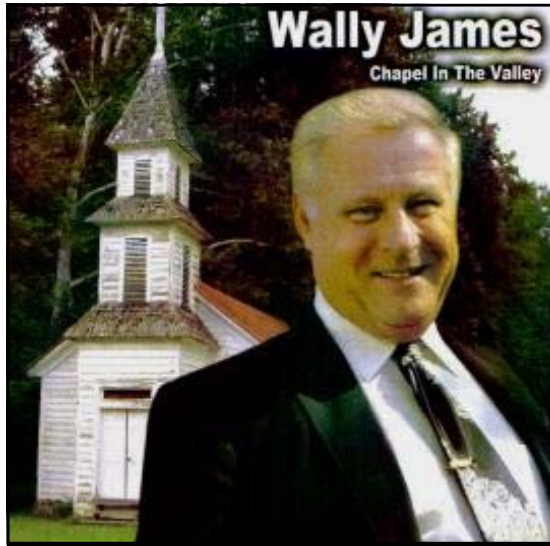
The next time you read Psalm 91 you'll not think of feathers. Perhaps you'll think of the intimate love of Christ for us the Bride.

# Wally James in Concert..

Wally James will be in concert Sunday evening, December 6, 6:30 PM.

Wally is an accomplished recording artist with a heart for the gospel. His down to earth style always makes a Wally James concert an enjoyable event. Wally will also be ministering the Word during this service.

A free-will offering will be received for Brother Wally.



Wally James

## Who Really Started Christmas?

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children; after many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

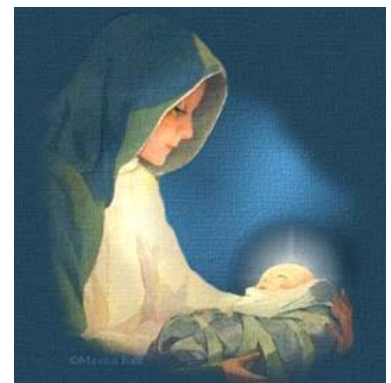
She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year - overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, get that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, make sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet, calm voice respond, "Don't worry. We already crucified Him."

For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.



**Candle Light Service**  
**Sunday, December 20, 6:30 PM**  
**Carol Singing**  
**Testimonies**  
**Communion Served**



# Men's Breakfast...

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 12, 8:00—10:00 AM.

Our own Chef John will be preparing an excellent assortment of nourishing delights for the discerning palate. All men are invited to attend our breakfast and join in the fun.

Following breakfast Dr. Kramer will be sharing some insights from the Word



of God and leading us in a discussion of spiritual importance. Our discussions are often enlightening and healing. If you desire to bring friend Rita at 952.898.7644. This will allow us to plan the right amount of food.



Jack Pokela

Dr. Kramer recently honored Mr. Jack Pokela with an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Bible Way Institute International.

Brother Jack has been a faithful servant to God and a real friend to Dr. Kramer and Rejoice Christian Center. We love Jack so much and words can never express our sincere appreciation for all he does.

Jack has cleaned, maintained and kept the building and grounds in tip-top shape over the years. He has served Rejoice Christian Center under the leadership of Pastor David Klefsaas and Dr. L.D. Kramer. It was so very special to have Mrs. Sharon Klefsaas, former members and members of Jack's family join us for this very special time.

Jack, we know we don't see you around the church during the day like we use to. That does not mean that you are forgotten or unwanted. We love you and look forward to every opportunity to see you and talk to you.

May God's richest blessings be upon you.

*We Honor  
Dr. Jack Pokela  
May God  
Keep You  
&  
Bless You  
In All  
You Do*

***Mr. Michael McCraney  
U.S. Marine Corps, Retired***

*Will be singing during the  
Hour of Power  
&*

*Be in concert on  
Sunday evening, 6:30  
PM.*

*Sunday  
December 13  
Michael will be  
sharing some  
Christmas and  
Patriotic  
Music.*



**Rejoice Newsletter**

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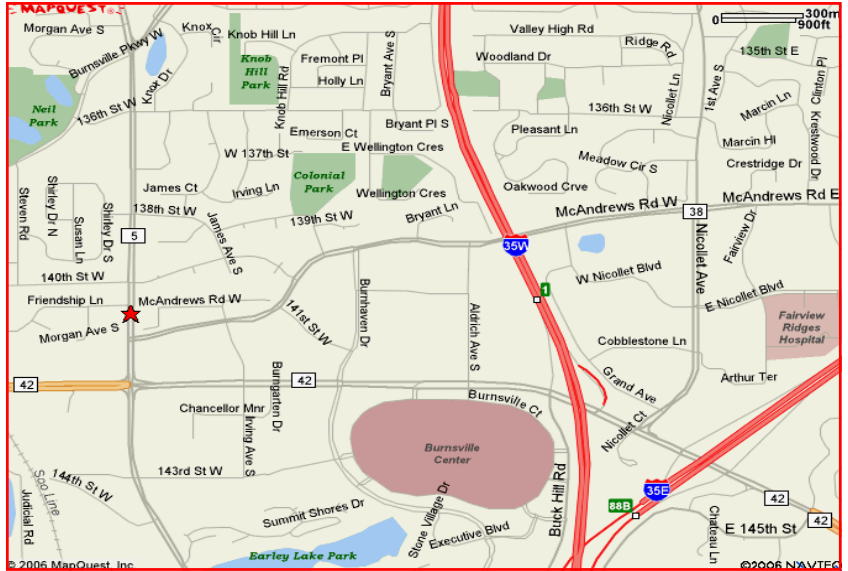
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**Heavenly Orange Cookies**

*MMM it smells like Christmas*

*I have decided these are my favorite Christmas Cookies*

The Cookies:

- 1 cup melted butter
- 1—8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups sugar (I used organic unbleached sugar crystals)
- 2 eggs
- 1 t. baking powder
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 t. finely shredded orange peel

3 T. orange juice  
 4 cups whole wheat flour (I used freshly ground soft white wheat).

Cream butter, cream cheese and sugar. Add eggs, baking powder, vanilla, orange peel and orange juice. Stir in flour one cup at a time until mixed well. Chill dough for about 2 hours.

Roll dough to 1/4 inch thickness, cut with cookie cutters and bake on a cookie sheet for 10-12 minutes at 350 degrees.

Allow cookies to cool completely before frosting.

The Frosting:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 t. vanilla
- 2 T. orange juice
- 2 1/4 – 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Cream together cream cheese, butter, vanilla and orange juice with beaters. Gradually add powdered sugar.

*These are MMMMM-Good!*

# DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 PM Prophecy Seminar 7:15 PM	3 Bible Way Institute 6:30 PM	4 Women of God International 7:00 PM	5
6 Study in the Word—9:15 AM Hour of Power—10:15 AM Evening Service—6:30 PM Wally James in Concert	7	8	9 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 PM Prophecy Seminar 7:15 PM	10 Bible Way Institute 6:30 PM	11	12 Men's Breakfast 8:00—10:00 AM
13 Study in the Word—9:15 AM Hour of Power—10:15 AM Evening Service—6:30 PM Michael McCraney in Concert	14 World Bible Way Ministers Dinner 6:30 PM	15	16 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 PM Prophecy Seminar 7:15 PM	17 Bible Way Institute 6:30 PM	18	19
20 Study in the Word—9:15 AM Hour of Power—10:15 AM Evening Service—6:30 PM Candle Light & Carol Singing	21	22	23 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 PM Prophecy Seminar 7:15 PM	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26
27 Study in the Word—9:15 AM Hour of Power—10:15 AM Evening Service—6:30 PM	28	29	30 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 PM Prophecy Seminar 7:15 PM	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		