

# The Voice

Winter Quarter 2009

Volume 4, Issue 1

## The Angels Cry Holy

*When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Job 38:7*

The phrase *shouted for joy* in this verse is actually a single word in the Hebrew, *ruwa*. This word carries a number of meanings. However, it is most frequently translated *shout!* When the army of Joshua surrounded Jericho it *shouted*, and the walls fell down, Joshua 6:20. In Psalm 100:1, *ruwa* is translated, *Make a joyful noise*. It can refer to a shout of alarm, a shout of triumph or a shout of joy. But it always refers to a *loud* shout.

In fact, it comes from a root meaning to *split*. This sound would be as a noise that would split eardrums or shatter glass.

In the context of Job 38, the Lord is reminding Job and his friends of the great event of creation. When the earth, which is destined to house God's throne in the eternal ages to come, was established on solid foundations or on the third day of Creation, a resounding noise like mighty thunder or, better, a gigantic angelic anthem echoed throughout the universe.

An innumerable company of angels, Hebrews 12:22, is identified in the poetic structure of the Hebrew parallelism in our text. As both *morning stars* and *sons of God*, shouted and sang in unison when the solid earth appeared.

It is quite probable that the angels were created on the first day of creation, immediately after the creation of the universe. Even though Satan and other angels later rebelled against God, most of the angels still obey Him, and one day, we will actually hear them singing His praises and shouting for joy when He returns to earth. I Thessalonians 4:16 says, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel,*

*Therefore, Praise ye Him all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts,* Psalm 148:2. Someday, we shall join them in a *joyful noise* at God's throne.

DEC, 2009

## Funeral Evangelism...

*"From death comes life...No one comes to the Father except the Spirit draws them...We need to allow the Holy Spirit to draw people."*

These are the words of Dr. David A. Larson, *The Country Preacher*, First



Dr. David A. Larson & Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani

Baptist Church, Independence Iowa.

Now in his 10th year of ministry at First Baptist, Pastor Dave has seen a congregation that most pastors would have shunned, grow from a Sunday morning average of 16 souls to over 100.

For some this may seem like a small addition to the membership. However, when one considers that as of the writing of this article Pastor Dave has had 134 funerals in these past 10 years—truly he has practiced *Funeral Evangelism*.

In the spring of 1999, Dave found himself in a situation where he had

*to fill in while I'm on vacation."*

Dave called Dr. Kramer and asked him what he should do? *"Go preach,"* was Dr. Kramer's reply.

In September of 2000 Dave was still without a congregation and was wondering what direction God was taking his life. Following a ministry trip to St. Louis and Ohio, he returned to Independence.

On his return home Pastor Larson was contacted by First Baptist Church. Their pastor had resigned and had left a firestorm behind him. They wanted to know if Dave would minister on the 4th of September, 2000.

The rest is, shall we say, history. The pastor that had asked Pastor Dave to minister for him was now gone. Behind he left a broken congregation that needed healing and restoration. In the midst of all this the former pastor was suing the church.

Following that September 4 service, the Pulpit Committee approached Dave about filling their pulpit. They told him they could not pay much because of all that was happening. They offered Dave \$100 a week.

Continued on page 2...

been out of active ministry for a number of years. In interviewing Dave for this article he told me he had been out of the pulpit 5 year. During a visit with Dr. L.D. Kramer, Dr. Kramer told Dave that he wanted to pray with him because he *"desired to see Dave back in the ministry."*

Dave told Dr. Kramer, *"You can pray, but if I am not back in ministry in 30 days—the ministry will be in my rear view mirror."*

Within 16 days Dave was asked to fill in for the pastor of First Baptist Church in Independence. The pastor told Dave, *"The Spirit of God led me to this store and told me to ask you*

## *Funeral Evangelism - continued..*

Pastor Larson the past few asked, "What about the hospitals and nursing homes—who will visit them?"

This was a very important question for a congregation comprised of people ranging from 60—90 years of age. There were many people in hospitals and nursing homes that had connections to First Baptist.

Pastor Larson told the Pulpit Committee he would accept their offer and he did visitation. Dave became tireless in his pursuit of those often forgotten and overlooked. Dave not only visited shut-ins during the week, he saw to it that Sunday morning services were set up in nursing homes. He trained men to become the Pastors of the forgotten.

Over the years Dr. Larson helped 5 of those men fulfill their callings and become credentialed. The retired pastor of a country church joined the ministry of First Baptist. Rev. Charles B. Hewlett recently died at the age of 76. During

the past few years Rev. Hewlett (Charlie) became an important part of the ministry team at First Baptist.

I remember the first time I visited Dave for a weekend of ministry. He wore me out taking me to assisted living facilities, nursing homes and hospitals visiting shut-ins. Dave introduced me as, "The special speaker at our church this weekend—just thought you would like to meet him."

Dave felt that shut-ins should not only have the opportunity to read about me. He saw to it that they met me so they would know who I was.

Our daughter Erin later told me that Dave did the same thing with her. He wanted those that were shut-ins to meet the missionary.

Pastor Dave's vision



Shelley Larson, Joanne Cash & Dr. David Larson

tal in Rochester, MN. The congregation and pastor are always happy when Shelley can spend a weekend in Independence.

The past years have been full. Pastor Dave has recorded 16 music albums, authored a book on Genesis, and sold Kirby vacuums—his one claim

to fame with Billy Graham. In the early years of his ministry Dave had a radio program in which he was known as the *Country Preacher*. During that time he developed the ability to pack a punch in a 15 minute message. Pastor Dave preached 3,300—15 minute messages. This characteristic remains a mark of his ministry today. No service exceeds 1 hour. Once, in a 6 minute message 5 people joined the church.

Over the years Dr. Larson has helped first Baptist celebrate 150 years of worship. He has held many special events to reach into the community and has served on many boards at a variety of levels. Just about everyone in Independence, Iowa knows Pastor Larson.

It hasn't always been easy. Dave and his wife Shelley are separated for long periods of time. Shelley is a surgical nurse at Mayo hospi-

## *Credentialing Time...*

Have you taken a few minutes to renew your credentials with World Bible Way Fellowship for 2010? This would be a great time to do so.

I'm often asked, "Why it is important to be part of a fellowship?" My most common answer is this, "Because it's nice to

know that you belong to something that is bigger than yourself."

I think back to Camp Meeting this summer. It was so much fun to listen to other pastors and friends share their calls, visions, hurdles, obstacles and victories.

The lunches, din-

ners and Camp Meetings help us keep in touch with each other and stay aware of the reason we are ministers of the gospel.

The national office has been sending reminders since early summer. If you cannot find a renewal form from the national office just go to the World Bible Way

website and type in: [www.worldbiblewayfellowship.com/CustomerImages/1464-1117/Files/radA49D0.pdf](http://www.worldbiblewayfellowship.com/CustomerImages/1464-1117/Files/radA49D0.pdf). And download a renewal form.

Don't delay—do it today!





Dr. L. D. Kramer

## *Dr. L. D. Kramer Invites*

*All Pastors, Spouses, Members and Prespective Members  
Of World Bible Way Fellowship - North Central Region*

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*To A Christmas Dinner*

*Monday, December 14, 6:30PM*

*Come for a night of singing, worship, fun and fellowship...*

*Please RSVP to Rita at*

*952.898.7644 or*

*secretaryrita@comcast.net*

*It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco.  
The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he  
noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from  
among the figures of the nativity set.*

*Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy  
with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little  
infant, Jesus.*

*So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get  
Him, my fine friend?"*

*The little boy replied, "I got him from the church."*

*"And why did you take him?"*

*The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the Lord  
Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christ-  
mas I would give him a ride around the block in it."*



## *The Voice*

Editor  
Dr. Daniel E. Cole

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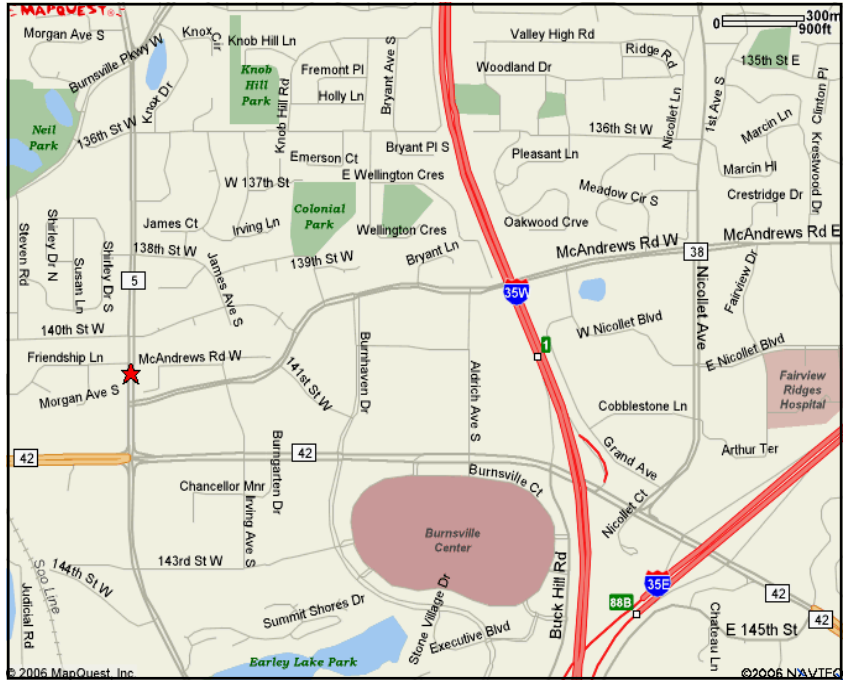
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Email: wbf@comcast.net

Website: [www.wbf.org](http://www.wbf.org)



**World Bible Way Fellowship**  
**P.O. Box 902**  
**Burnsville, MN 55337**  
**Phone: 888-210-4336**  
**Fax: 952-435-1912**  
**www.wbwfi.org**



### Lemon Snowball Cookies

**Cook Time: 15 minutes**

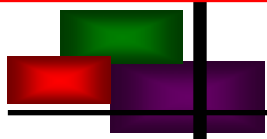
**Ingredients:**

- 1/4 cup shortening
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon soda

- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans
- 1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar

Cream butter, shortening, and sugar until light; beat in lemon zest and egg. Stir in lemon juice and water. Sift together the flour, soda, cream of tartar, and salt. Stir into the first mixture. Stir in chopped pecans. Flour hands and shape dough into small balls. Place balls about 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake for about 10 to 15 minutes in a preheated 350° oven. Cookies should be browned

on the bottom, but not on top. Immediately remove hot cookies from the baking sheet and roll in confectioners' sugar. Makes about 3 to 4 dozen cookies, depending on size.



## December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 <i>Dinner—6:30 PM</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		