

Greetings and Shalom!

On behalf of In The Midst, may we take this opportunity to speak His favor upon you. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26 May God reveal Himself to you in ever deeper places as you seek to know Him more intimately.

In The Midst Team Member - Karlton Scott



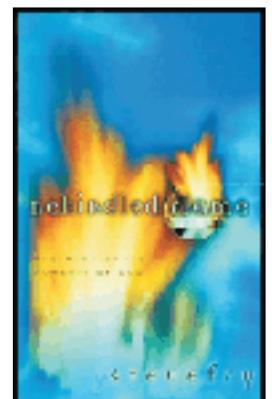
Born and raised in Rochester N.Y., Karlton studied drumming at the Hochstein School of Music, and orchestral percussion at the Eastman School of Music. He completed his undergraduate degree at Potsdam State University. After graduating he "hit the road " with "Sunshine Express" opening shows for Louise Mandrell, Tammy Wynette, Ronnie Stoneman and others. Upon leaving "Sunshine" he moved to Nashville, Tennessee where he toured the U.S. spreading the gospel with contemporary Christian artists Andrus and Blackwood, and recording projects for Gary S. Paxton, Camp Kirkland, Benson Records, and others.

In 1992 he left Nashville to pursue a Masters degree as a graduate assistant in Percussion Performance at the University of Tennessee. While in Knoxville he performed many dates with jazz artists Donald Brown and Jerry Coker, Rocky Winder, The Marcus Shirley Band, the Joel Fairstein Group, The Wendel Werner Trio, and his own group Jazz FX. In 1994, the Jazz FX group was selected to open the Jazz Exchange Organizations annual "Jazz in the Park" Festival. Karlton was also called upon to back featured artists Antonio Hart and Gary Motley. Also, his 1994 audition for the Knoxville Symphony landed him a position as percussionist with the orchestra.

Karlton, now a Yamaha Drum Artist, is back in Nashville working with producer, composer, arranger, and pianist Kim Jordan (Gil Scott Heron, Vanessa Williams), and is in the studio with saxophonist Joe Johnson completing his debut project; in the studio and touring with country artist "Shandy"; and an active player for the Worship & Arts department at Belmont Church.

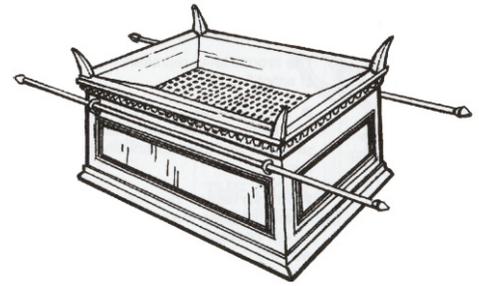
Resource Of The Month - **Rekindled Flame** by Steve Fry

Eloquence meets piercing mastery of expression in Steve Fry's God-given talent to communicate. Not a word is wasted. **Refined Flame** speaks to the ageless issues of the human heart. These pages will lead you with brilliant clarity back to the central passion of your Spirit-filled heart. Your soul will cry out "Yes and Amen!" I suggest you highlight heartily as the Spirit speaks to you. Then keep this book close for we are creatures of forgetfulness. These waters are deep yet Steve Fry reminds us how simple they are to navigate when our eyes are stayed on the One who formed them. You must read this book! No matter where you are on the road of spiritual maturity, **Refined Flame** will refine and polish your passion for His presence.



The Original Blueprint - The Tabernacle of Moses (The Altar of Burnt Offerings)

Continuing our series on the Tabernacle, we are currently studying the Courts of the Tabernacle, it's furniture and it's services. This month, let's take a closer look at the Altar of Burnt Offerings.



Exodus 27:1-8; Leviticus 4:7, 10, 18

**The Hebrew word for altar is mezbech (miz-bake) which means “slaughter place”.

The Altar of Burnt offerings was the article used the most in the Tabernacle. Throughout the day, the Israelites would bring different offerings to the Tabernacle to be sacrificed on the Altar. These offerings could be put into 2 categories: Gift-Peace Offerings and Sin-Guilt Offerings. They lifted up their prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of forgiveness all day long - just as we do today. The difference today is that we don't need to offer up a physical sacrifice to get the job done. Because of the blood sacrifice of Jesus and through the Holy Spirit, we are able to bring our petitions before the Father all day long.

Throughout the Old Testament, altars were representative of places to offer sacrifices. They were also intended to be a place of remembering their covenant with God.

Details of the Altar of Burnt Offering

The Altar of Burnt Offerings was the first article encountered as you walked into the Outer Court. It was made of acacia wood 7.5 ft square by 4.5 ft high and overlaid with brass/bronze. There are different teachings as to what the metal was that overlaid this altar. Some believe it was brass (a mixture of copper and zinc) and other believe it was bronze (a mixture of copper and tin). The most common belief is that it was of brass because brass was considered to be one of the strongest metals allowing it to withstand intense heat. Either way, it was overlaid with a “mixed” metal versus the pure gold that overlaid the articles in the Inner Court, the Holy Place. The Altar was carried with brass plated poles that went through hoops on all four corners. It had a “horn” on each corner believed to be where they tied up animals brought for sacrifice.

ITM Song of the Month - Come To Celebrate

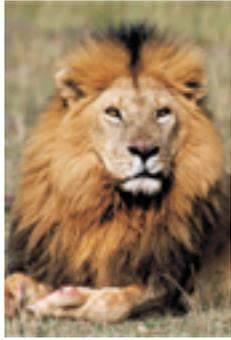
For the Lord is good and His love endures forever
For the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever
His mercy endures forever
His mercy endures forever

Let's celebrate His mercy - Celebrate His love
We come to celebrate
Celebrate His goodness - Celebrate His grace
We come to celebrate - We come to celebrate
Celebrate His power - Celebrate His might
We come to celebrate
Celebrate Him bringing us - From darkness to light
Let's celebrate

For the Lord is good and His love endures forever
For the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever
His mercy endures forever
His mercy endures forever

*Words and Music by Tom and Lisa Long, Ben Sams, Carissima Joseph and Carl Dobbins
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From the desk of Tom Long



Our church had Robert Stearns of Eagle's Wings Ministries as a guest speaker a couple of weeks ago. His message was timely and intensely moving for us. He spoke of the job that God gave Nehemiah in the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls and the opposition Nehemiah encountered from the leaders in the region and even eventually the Jewish exiles that God had sent him to help.

There were several great take-aways in this message but I'd like to tell you about two that really spoke to us. First, Robert said, "Be willing to be the answers to the prayers you pray." In Nehemiah 1 we read how Nehemiah mourns over what he hears about the exiled Jews and the condition of Jerusalem. Nehemiah asks God for favor with his king. God grants it. The king sends Nehemiah out with letters of endorsement as well as army officers and cavalry.

Then came the most pointed take-away for us. Robert said, "There will always be a half-way point. Press through the half-way point. You will never give up at 10% or 15% because you've just begun. You'll never give up at 75% or 80% because you're almost there. BUT, OH, THE HALF-WAY POINT TESTING!" It would have been easy for Nehemiah to give up at the half-way mark. After all, the work became much more difficult. They had to give up half their work force to security and the rest that was left had to work with one hand while holding a weapon with the other, Neh. 4:17. Could you imagine? They were ridiculed and mocked. Their lives were threatened but they pressed on. Eventually, the walls were rebuilt and God's purposes for Nehemiah were accomplished.

Worshipping God His Way,

Tom Long



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