

Greetings and Shalom!

Dear friends, we are excited! We find ourselves deeply encouraged as the Lord leads us ever forward toward the fullness of our destiny in Him on the earth and the vision He planted in our hearts for In The Midst Ministries. It is with effervescent delight that we look forward to sharing time with you in these monthly emails. We are calling our email newsletter The Chazown (kawh-zone') which is Hebrew for "vision".

Below is a small sampling of sections you'll find in each:

1. In The Midst – Team Members

In this section we will focus on a different member each edition so you may get to know them better.

2. Bible Study – In The Midst Teachings

3. Song of the Month - Music written for and used by In The Midst

4. Personal Note from Tom

This will be a special message from the President and Founder of In The Midst Ministries

In The Midst - Team Members



We'll start this first issue with our Founder and President, Tom Long.

As an anointed Worship Leader Tom Long has lead worship most of his adult life. Some of those years he was given a title and a paycheck and some not. But what always mattered most to Tom was using his God given gift to lead people into intimate worship of His Lord. Tom is ordained. He is a singer, songwriter and musician. He and his loving wife, Lisa, live in Nashville, TN with their 2 beautiful children, Bethany-8 and Isaiah-5.

God gave Tom the vision for In The Midst in 1995. Through suffering and good times the Lord established wisdom and maturity in Tom's life until the winter of 2002 when Tom and his wife fasted 3-days a week for 8 weeks seeking God's plan for their destiny. It was at the end of those 8 weeks that God revived this Vision for praise and worship that He had given Tom many years earlier. So many years had passed that it was almost to Tom's surprise when God began to speak to him again about this Vision.

The Lord then gave Tom in great detail what He wanted to accomplish through In The Midst. Since that time Tom and Lisa have been about the service of being faithful and doing their work to bring that to fulfillment. Above all, it is Tom's heart to know God more and to help bring others into a deeper and more intimate relationship with God through praise and worship.

ITM Song of the Month - Praise His Name

Verse 1

Come on everybody let's join together and sing
Lifting up our praises to the King of Kings
Telling of His faithfulness
How he led us through the wilderness
Come on let's join our voices
Magnify Him, Exalt His holy name

Chorus

Praise His Name (4 times)

Verse 2

Give thanks to the Lord
For His mercy endures forever
For His word is truth and His love it never ends
And though the nations 'round me fall
Upon His name I'll call
Applaud His splendor
Exalt His honor, Lift up His holy name

Words and Music by Tom Long
Copyright 2002 In The Midst Music

What is Praise?

The word praise can be traced back to Genesis 29:30 when Leah bore Jacob's son and said, "Now I will praise the Lord." In the Hebrew translation of that word, Leah was saying yadah which means "to give thanks, laud or praise." From there we begin to see the use of the word halal for praise. Halah means to thank, rejoice, boast about someone. David told us many times throughout Psalm to praise or halah the Lord. "Let them praise (halal) the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted." (Ps. 148:13a) "Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!" (Ps 150:1) In fact, the rest of Psalm 150 tells shows us that praising God is not just done by word, but also through instruments.



A couple other words used quite frequently for the word praise are shabach meaning to commend, to adore, to glory in something in a loud tone and tehillah meaning a celebration or a lauding of someone praiseworthy. We see an example of shabach in Psalm 117 when David said to "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!". He is saying to shout your praise one to another "For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever." In Psalm 22:22 David said "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise (tehillah) You."

In the New Testament we see examples of the Greek word epainos such as when Jesus healed the blind man in Luke 18 and in verse 43 "all the people, when they saw it, gave praise (epainos) to God." They applauded God for this mighty act. In Luke 19:37 as Jesus was ascending from the Mount of Olives, "the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise (epainos) God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen." In other words, they were looking at one another and proclaiming what an awesome God they had that He would do such marvelous things.

We can approach praise from 2 different angles. On one hand when we praise God we are saying that we are grateful of the mighty things He has done on our behalf. We are looking up at Him and expressing how thankful we are. Another aspect of praise that is so often overlooked is that praise is also intended for us. As in the case of Psalm 150, we are instructed to boast about God one to another in words, in song and through the instruments.

Here's just a few popular songs that would be classified as Praise Songs:

Trading My Sorrows by Darrell Evans
Copyright 1998 Integrity Hosanna! Music

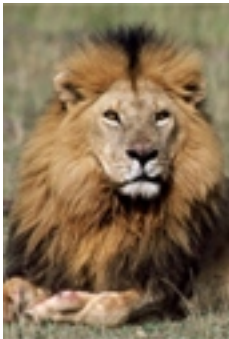
Forever by Chris Tomlin
Copyright 2001 Six Steps Music

Let Everything That Has Breath by Matt Redman
Copyright 1997 Thankyou Music

Lord, I Lift Your Name On High by Rick Founds
Copyright 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc.

Better Is One Day (in His Courts) by Matt Redman

From the desk of Tom Long



On behalf of In The Midst and my family, I would like to thank you for your love and encouragement. We know that God has many wonderful things ahead for In The Midst. Over the past few years God has laid the foundation for a strong organization. Now He has commissioned us to march forward.

We are committed to getting the message of the Vision to the Church. It is our deepest desire to live in His presence. It will forever remain our lifelong goal as we seek His pleasure.

I want to leave you with this. David wrote in Psalm 97:5-6, "The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord. At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory." God will go before those who love Him. There is no mountain nor evil opposition that does not lay slain before the presence of our Lord. What a powerful place to set your life!

May God's richest blessings rest on you today!

Worshipping God His Way,

Tom Long



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