

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*



Cindy playing guitar with me at Easter Sunrise Service

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I hope your whole Easter season was as lovely as ours. It is always just the best. At our own church I got a chance to share a song on Palm Sunday that I have not had as much chance to sing. It's a song I wrote with my son, Johnny, about Mary & Peter. He really did most of the lyrics talking about how at this time of year, even though we know about Judas, we often think about Peter denying Jesus even as He was led to judgment & death. And we think about Mary – esp Mary Magdalene & how she stayed with Him & even went very first thing to His grave early on the first morning of the week. Johnny pointed out that even though we often feel that horrible weakness of Peter, there really is a part of us that loves Jesus so much. “And oh I deny Him, though I love Him. A bit of Peter, but a bit of Mary too...”

Then on Good Friday, (which I'm afraid I still don't understand – why is it good & why is it Friday???) I sang For Those Tears I Died. Cindy learned it on guitar so that I could do it live. (I still cannot play guitar with my arthritic hands.) She continued that ministry into my favorite service of the year, Sunrise Service, which I often end up doing somewhere with Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson. Cindy learned all the music for Sunrise Service on guitar to sing at Suncoast MCC. It was such a lovely morning. We stayed for their regular morning service where their fabulous music director, David Katz, did some piano accompaniment for me as well.

Cindy left for a trip to Jordan & Israel the next day with our wonderful friends from the church we belonged to up in Passagrille Beach. She was SOOO excited to get to visit Petra & to return to Israel where she visited places we were not able to visit on our trip fifteen years ago. If you are not her friend on Facebook, you should be. She posted amazing pictures, all with explanations of the importance & history of each place.

While Cindy was gone, I began to realize that it takes a village to take care of me! I had a concert at MCC Windsor Ontario Canada. Easy-peasy right? I tried to

plan (no heavy carry on baggage, leave early), & my precious friends Dale Burkholder & Dan Scaife worked for weeks to be the most hospitable hosts ever. They flew me into Detroit & drove down to meet me to drive into Canada. But after I got all checked into the Tampa airport for Detroit, I realized I had forgotten my passport! Who do I know who is out of bed at 5 am? Oh. Nancy. She ran over to my house, got my passport & texted me a copy of it, then waited to see if I needed it “couriered” to me. Fortunately, with my enhanced drivers license, they let me in (& out again, by the way).

Dale & Dan took me to lunch & then checked me into the hotel room. They had the perfect combination of “we can let you rest” & “let us show you around,” which is quite a feat! Lay pastor John & his hubby AJ joined us with some others for my first Lebanese food – fabulous! Dan's daughter passed away late last year & this weekend would have been her birthday. I was honored that John let me do my music for the whole service. This was the beautiful altar that they set to honor his daughter's birthday with the amazing crystal cross.



THEN we got to Sunday afternoon after church when the summer weather in Windsor dropped from the 80s into the 30s. Really. No problem, right? I'll just drop by the Windsor Walmart – huge store – & grab a jacket. Oh no. They are OUT of jackets! Men's? Nope. Large boys". Nope. This was the single one they had left in the men's uniform section: I cannot tell you how many people stopped me to ask about current roadway construction. New rule. I travel with Cindy!



*With great thanks, Marsha & Cindy*

## Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Once we learn more about the political problems in Peru I'll be able to update you.

*Please be assured that all of the donations you sent are in savings for her opportunities to travel!*

We will let you know when she schedules more trips.

(Cindy will also be a keynote speaker at Evangelicals Concerned later this year – more on that later)

### You can support BALM when you shop online

You can go through Amazon Smile and support Balm from there through your amazon orders. It's very easy. No charge to you, but every Amazon order will donate a small portion to Balm Ministries <https://Smile.amazon.com> Amazon Smile is changing soon, so watch for new instructions on this.

ALSO, You can read the instructions for [igive.com](http://igive.com), online but the simple thing is this: when you want to shop online at a major store, you go first to [www.igive.com/BALM](http://www.igive.com/BALM). You put your info in & then it gives you a list of most stores you've ever heard of.

So, for instance, you go to [igive.com/BALM](http://igive.com/BALM) & pick BestBuy, it takes you to that site & you order whatever you want to online. All your coupons & 'special deals' still apply. There's no extra charge to you at all, but that way, they automatically donate part of their profit to BALM Ministries.

### Prayer List & Ministry Opportunities

- ‡ *Prayers for Justin's husband, Scott, who is having surgery this week.*
- ‡ *Prayers that we may all keep on sharing the Good News with the least, the lost and the hungry – to give as we've been given to*
- ‡ *Prayers for our continued ability to travel...together!*

- ‡ *Praises for our safety and for the safety of those with whom we minister. God please keep us in the palm of Your hand.*
- ‡ *Prayers for Cindy who will have special ministry opportunities this year.*

### What You Have to Say

*"I watched the Lonnie Frisbee documentary recently that gave background on his life. Great man! And as a So Cal native much of my church context includes this movement and I don't want us to forget Lonnie and Marsha and who they were – legends down here. Let's not erase their soul."*

*"Marsha, I grew up listening to my mom sing your song 'For Those Tears.' You deserve all the flowers for your contributions. Thank you for letting your light shine brightly."*

*"By 1972 your song had made its way into the youth group playlists for Fundamental Baptist to the Foursquare Churches, Assemblies of God and well beyond. I know. I was there in all those spaces. Thank you for the most beautiful song of my youth."*

*"Thank you (Facebook entries) for opening my eyes to all of this. It would have been a much bigger movement if Lonnie had not been silenced. I am grateful that we know Marsha who was also a large part of the movement. My wife recorded with her and I am forever grateful."*

*"I just discovered you and your beautiful music. I've started with your album 'I Still Have a Dream' and have listened to it on repeat about a dozen times now you write lyrics that are unlike any others I've heard in CCM. I identify so much with them – probably also as*

*a member of the LGBTQ community. Anyway, I enjoy the songs so much."*  
*"I feel as if this is going to be an amazing time for you – a crescendo and a redeeming shine on you, Sis. You are a light!"*

### Upcoming ministry opportunities

**May 5** Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota FL 6:30pm (check the website on this one. They may change the date) concert

[www.TrinityMCC.com](http://www.TrinityMCC.com)

**June 16** Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota FL 6:30pm concert [www.TrinityMCC.com](http://www.TrinityMCC.com)

**June 30** Pride concert 6:30pm at Suncoast MCC Venice FL [www.suncoastmcc.com](http://www.suncoastmcc.com)

**Starting in June:** Cindy will be the Keynote Speaker at the 2023 Connection website of Evangelicals Concerned. You can watch her loving words at [www.ecinc.org](http://www.ecinc.org)

**August 12-13** MCC Gainesville's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Times to be determined.

[www.mccgainesville.org](http://www.mccgainesville.org)

**Oct 26-28** Reconcile and Reform in Nashville, TN

[www.reformationproject.org](http://www.reformationproject.org)

*(watch the website for updates)*

Please consider reaching me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com) to book something for your church! We have no fees required at this time!!

A word from a longtime supporter of Balm ministries: [ChristianGays.com](http://ChristianGays.com) is a community for ALL LGBT people to meet & develop friendships based on faith & other common interests. We offer Chat Rooms & Forums, & all information is private, accessible to members only. WE need this now more than ever! Join at [www.ChristianGays.com](http://www.ChristianGays.com)