

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



From top clockwise: Me singing with Ollie Dill, Me singing at Tampa MCC, Singing with Nancy at Suncoast MCC, meeting with Orgena Rose at MCC Tampa, Singing with Cindy and Vanessa at Church of the Trinity Sarasota



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We were so grateful for all you prayers over the last month. As most of you know, Cindy had surgery for breast cancer on August 15th, had a bad reaction to meds and had the same surgery re-opened on August 16th and after some other complications finally came home on August 20th cancer free. We were so excited and I know she just expected to be on the mend shortly. On Sept 20th her doctor said she could ride her bicycle again. So Cindy headed out on her regular routes and last Saturday decided to branch out a little. It was too soon and she fell on the newer route. Besides the road rash and bruises, she completely tore the right side of her mastectomy wound open. She was back in the hospital for a few days to clean it out and sew it up again and came home. Today, she's back in the hospital with a bad wound infected. She'll be there several days while they try to save the wound with antibiotics. So, sigh, that's a lot of our life right now and she appreciates

your prayers and, most of you know, her privacy as much as is possible.

Other than that, Mrs Lincoln, the play has been great. I have such wonderful local churches which have included us in ministry this last month. You can see the pictures of us ministering at Church of the Trinity in Sarasota where I sang with the delightful Ollie Dill and Cindy played for me to sing with Vanessa – a wonderful new singer at our church. I love the little concerts we do there. They introduce new singers in a cozy situation, give us chances to share our stories in more depth and keep the use of church resources at a minimum (no big sound systems to be set up, no sanctuary to cool down, etc).

Suncoast MCC in Venice did the same thing. When I get to sing with Nancy Wilson, I can dig up some songs that I'm no longer able to sing in those lovely original keys – Nancy is like love (that covers a multitude of sins 😊 I Peter 4:8). And finally in September, the Florida Network of Metropolitan Community Churches had a gathering at MCC Tampa. I got to reconnect with the fabulous Orgena Rose and got to hear her sing a bit. Then on the final morning, I was able to share the song "Stand Closer". Jesus, speaking to the Pharisees in Luke, said that it was great that they were so careful about keeping the law, but that they completely forgot to share the love of God. "This you ought to have done and not left the other undone." That's how I felt about the murder of George Floyd when I wrote those lyrics: great that I've worked so hard for justice for the LGBTQIA community. Sad that I didn't work harder for other communities. Stand closer.

The other "Don't Miss" thing that's been going on is Justin Ryan's incredible Southern Gospel Sissy series. You owe it to yourself to watch these. This is the one about my own ministry in music: <https://youtu.be/xOK2IXx2JJE?feature=shared> But you should see ALL of them. Subscribe to his YouTube channel.



Blessings and Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. She is working with a ministry centered in St Petersburg that plans to have more in the future.

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 is also a keynote speaker at Evangelicals Concerned this summer:

<https://ecinc.org/cindy-stevens-pino/>)

You can support BALM when you shop online

You probably know that Amazon has stopped its auto-donations through AmazonSmile. This is a loss for Balm Ministries. Amazon made it very easy to support us online. Igive.com is a good substitute for us, but more work for you.

You can read the instructions for 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. 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 & 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 has been diagnosed with an especially aggressive form of colon cancer. And please remember to pray for Justin, too, as he battles fears for another loved one with cancer. Scott has started chemo.
- ✠ Prayers for Cindy's healing – she's had so many

unexpected complications and it's easier to get discouraged about the long healing time.

- ✠ Prayers for Justin's new weekly recording called Southern Gospel Sissy. Every week he covers the history and make up of another gospel group or song, with clips of their previous concerts, and then sings his own version of the song. Look on YouTube under "Justin Ryan Southern Gospel" (my favorite is <https://youtu.be/xOK2lXx2JjE?si=QIAIUC43heflrGx>)
- ✠ Prayers that we can get back out on the road sharing Good News!

What You Have to Say

"I remember the first time I heard For Those Tears in a Christian coffee house being sung by Children of the Day. I was 14 and struggling with depression and the words really spoke to me. Thank you, Marsha, for letting God use you to bring this song to life."

"Thank you for sharing your beautiful story and your gifts with the world. Bless you."

"Situations come up where our hearts get broken and I had never seen this video before. I am awesomely impressed fan and I followed her career for a lot of years and I said in in the beginning and I'll say it again..she is a beautiful woman with a beautiful ministry and she is a

beautiful child of God and I am so glad that God let me know her."

"I sang this song in church many times. There was a lady who was going through a lot and she would ask me to sing it with her. I'm now 71 and she is with our Maker. So it's a precious memory for me"

Upcoming ministry opportunities

Oct 8, 2023 MCC San Diego California, sermon in song in 10 am service.

www.TheMetChurch.org

Oct 18-21 Woodmont Christian Church Progressive Church music conference in Nashville

Nov 3 at 6:30 Church of the Trinity MCC in Pierce Hall. Marsha and Cindy in artist-in-residence concert...again! www.trinitymcc.com

Nov 11-12 concert and special music at New Life Community Gospel Church, New Port Richey, FL Marsha and Cindy in concert

Watch for Christmas concerts in our area of Florida! We can't wait to see you.

(watch the website for updates)

Please consider reaching me at 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 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