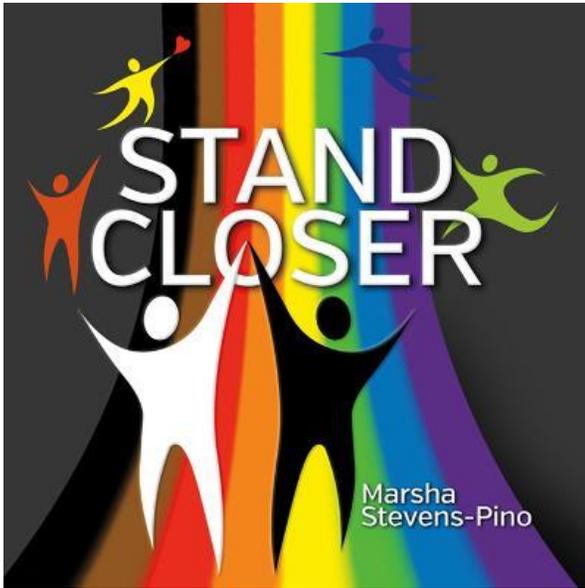


The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



It's here!

September 2020, Volume 24, Number 9



I am very blessed. You all who support Balm Ministries have made this possible. I hope you take some ownership in that blessing. This is not like it was back when I was doing 200 concerts a year and spending \$15,000 on a CD was made back in sales. I really thought I probably would not get to make another CD, but your generosity made it possible. It helped, of course, that so many Nashville musician were out of work and happy to do a project they could do at home, that the Musical Director of the Grand Ole Opry is a friend and supporter who was so gracious to head up the project, and that the fabulous

graphic artist Carolyn Woodard was willing to donate all the art on the project (for the umpteenth time), that my kids were willing to write and sing with me, and that Justin Ryan was willing to fill in whatever was missing. And a wife who co-wrote two of the songs, played clarinet on one and works to support us 😊. Just amazing.

Any of you that have Apple Music/iTunes or can use Spotify should already have the album available. I should be getting the physical CDs for us old folks, in another week or so. (We could not get as many of the old songs that we thought we could. Getting recordings done is obviously hard in pandemic times, so we had to do what we could.) But I would be happy to mail one to any of you who want the physical copy – since you paid for it with your support! Just let me know you want one and where to send it.

The other big news is that in a little over a week, auspiciously on 9/11, Justin Ryan will be releasing a music video of his version of the title track. I've seen the roughs and it is powerful. I love the stuff young people know how to do. And I have to say that the town of Paducah gave some amazing permissions to do what he did.

We got to see some of you in August when we visited Florida. That was wonderful! Happily, our former church, Passagrille Community Church, had several folks we got to visit with. I was able to record several times in Florida, both alone and with my sweet friend, Brian Feist. Maybe some of you caught the duet last Sunday. Most of you know that I love singing duets and trios and Brian is always up for trying one song or another.

Please offer special prayers for our friend, Jean, who had to postpone her visit with us in Florida because the doctor's visit she was going to get to quickly before coming over turned out to be telling her she had breast cancer and would need surgery, radiation and possible chemo. Please pray that her lymph nodes are negative and that she recovers quickly after her surgery.

I can't wait to see what you think of the new-ish CD (they are all new or versions of old songs that have never been released before). Leave us comments!!

With Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

BALM Ministries P.O. Box 609, Nolensville, TN 37135-0609 www.BalmMinistries.net

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. She is also working on ways to make the computer programs she uses available to all the missions she travels to, particularly to those our church runs in South Africa. The programs track everything from school attendance and performance to health and vaccination status to who is sponsoring that child or teacher and whether they are up to date on their donations. Unfortunately, as you might guess, the trips for this year have been canceled so far because of the concerns over COVID 19. Cindy is sad about this since she feels that people need the mission teams more than ever. But she also respects the concerns of the mission leaders. Right now, we are writing to the kids we support in Africa, and Cindy is on Habitat Builds and other fundraisers when they come up. We will let you know when we can travel again.

You can support BALM when you shop online

(You can read the instructions 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.)

(I forget myself sometimes, but it makes a big difference if you can remember.)

Prayer List & Ministry Opportunities

- ‡ ***First of all, prayers for our family of color. For the lives taken and anger unabated, for justice to finally come.***
- ‡ ***Praises for our church home in Brentwood United Methodist, & prayers for the changes that need to be***

made. Special prayers for guidance for us and our role/s here with "Draw the Circle Wide."

- ‡ ***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; to love because Jesus first loved us and we have SO much to give away.***
- ‡ ***Prayers for our friend Jean and breast cancer treatment.***
- ‡ ***Prayers for the new CD/recording (what DO you call them anymore?) and blessings on Justin's music video of Stand Closer.***
- ‡ ***Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts online.***

What You Have to Say

"I was listening to your CDs on the way to church when Cindy's song (she cowrote the song with Glenna Shepherd and me) about 'shattered hearts' came on. As I listened I realized that grief is a form of shattering. Some of the words applied to me (and to anyone else who has recently experienced the death of a loved spouse). Our hearts, our souls, our spirits, our personalities, our entire lives are shattered.

Grief is the process of putting our shattered lives back together. For me, the words have taken on a new meaning: 'Let Your light shine on shattered hearts, Reflecting rainbows from broken parts, Let your light shine so all my see Jesus in you and me.'

As I'm putting my life back together, I want to be Jesus to others (yes, based on the words 'Can you be Jesus to me' from another song on your cds). I can never fully express how your music has helped me heal, helped me draw closer to Jesus. Thank

you for sharing your gift of music with the world."

"You are a gift, my friend."

"Thank you Marsha, Rachael, and Johnny for writing such a wonderful son and for sharing what God has given to challenge, bless and encourage."

"Wow!! Awesome!! What God given talent you guys have. Stand Closer!"

"Just listened to Stand Closer. Powerful song from a true Christian!"

(you can hear this on <https://youtu.be/rrli9Tvkp2Q>)

"Just downloaded it. LOVE it."

"Thinking about you lots today as I've been listening to Stand Closer on Spotify, and sharing it with others. Still smiling ear to ear about it. Praying for LOTS of good things to happen with this album."

Upcoming ministry

Sept 1 The new CD, Stand Closer is released on CD Baby, Spotify and Apple Music/iTunes.

Sept 11 Justin's music video of the song Stand Closer hits electronic markets.

Please consider reaching me at ssbalm@aol.com to book something online for your church!

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 us now at <https://ChristianGays.com>