



October 2013, Volume 16, Number 10

Dear Balm Benefactors,

Lots of ministry in September – hurray. Joy MCC in Orlando had their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Just getting there was an adventure all its own. Cindy & I started out in the RV to just stay for at least Friday & Saturday & join in the festivities. The weekend started on Friday night with a big concert & several artists. I was scheduled to sing with Jeremiah Cummings, Joel Ogburn, Marcus Young & the Orlando Gay Chorus. That sounded exciting so we headed out early to be sure to get sound check & rehearsal in. The RV did not cooperate. Just as we got through Tampa on the interstate toward Orlando, the inside rear tire on the driver's side blew out, damaging the fuel injector (or some doohickey that makes gas get to the engine). ANYway, Cindy carefully pulled to the far right onto the shoulder (which damaged the outside tire on the driver's side, but got us out of traffic.) We have learned before not to do this. One actually gets help MUCH more quickly if one is broken down IN the lanes of traffic, but it was instinct so I couldn't blame her ☺.

The whole process of getting a tow truck large enough to tow us (which you would *think* would not be hard since our roadside assistance is specifically for RVs) took hours & hours. I immediately texted everyone I had on the list of those singing that night & amazingly enough Joel Ogburn was just then leaving Tampa for Orlando. He stopped right on the side of I-4 & picked me up. (Poor Cindy missed everything but ultimately got us towed to a repair facility. She waited there until afterward when Joel picked her back up & took us home.)

It turns out that Joel had wanted to talk to me, ask me questions, & share stories with me & thought he'd never have the time to do that! Cindy said, "*You know, Lord, if you wanted Marsha to spend with Joel, it would have been SOOOOO much cheaper to just tell us...*" But Joel & I went on to have a wonderful time. He had a contract with Bill Gaither's group for 8 years & had struggled a long time to accept his sexuality & finally to accept who he is. This was his first time back "out on the road" ministering & it was a precious time to be with him. Turns out he had been to one of my concerts about 14 years ago & parts of my story had been instrumental in him finding his way – both out of the closet & back to Jesus. What a blessing to get to hear all that. The concert was spirit-filled & full of old-home-week for seeing friends.

The next weekend found me at MCC Rehoboth for the dedication of their new building. Rev. Dusty Pruitt is their pastor for the next 3 years & both she & the board of the church worked hard to make this an amazing weekend. I can't begin to tell you how beautiful their building is. Like so many churches, it took years of fundraising & permit-obtaining to actually come to life & the congregation worked together to build, beautify & bless this wonderful church. "Rehoboth" is the place in Genesis 26:22 where Isaac finally had the people "dig their own well," so I sure had the song for the occasion (many thank to Evelyn Schave for the idea)!! Their sound-person, music leader, little of everything miracle worker, Domi, did all my sound for me. He was so attentive to every detail. Dusty & Joanne made me welcome in their home. And Nancy Wilson & I had to laugh that we live 30 minutes apart in Florida but have to travel to Delaware to see each other.

This was a month of losses for me. Tommy Wells, who played drums on all of my Nashville CD's since 1987, died unexpectedly of a brain aneurysm. Dusty had dedicated Communion to him during my time there. A few days ago Pastor Chuck Smith, who founded Calvary Chapel which was "ground zero" for the Jesus Movement, also went to be with the Lord. He had preached the Sunday before. He meant so much to me & to my foundation in Christ. I understand I only grieve for me & not for him, but I am sad.

Thank you all so much for your prayerful support!  
***Love & Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy***

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(PS from Marsha: This has been a blessing for BALM & we thank those of you who are able to do this! I forget myself sometimes, but it makes a big difference if you can remember.)

**Prayer List.**

- ✦ *Gratitude for your prayers for my health.*
- ✦ *Pray for more concerts-starting with YOUR church!*
- ✦ *Prayers for work on a book. I'm plugging away. I have changed the way I'm*

*working on it and it really helps!*

- ✦ *Prayers for upBeat! artists. Check the website for links.*
- ✦ *Prayers for our granddaughter, Bri Joy-& wisdom on raising a teenager.*
- ✦ *Praises for the songs I finished writing and prayers for finances and time to record them ☺*
- ✦ *Prayers for the Balm Fundraiser for Cindy's missionary trip in January. Please read the enclosed paper or visit the website!*

**What You Have to Say**

*"You'll never know how much healing your concerts brought to my life."*

*"I have to tell you your Christian Music & Meditation cd literally kept me in a safe space at night for 2 yrs. Every night I would go to my room and put your cd in and listen and go peacefully to sleep. During those years I had 2 strokes due to the stress and I knew I had to gain my physical and emotional strength back. You have no idea how much it helped, and I want to thank you. I am healthy and happy for the past 2 1/2 yrs. I am back at church Trinity MCC and singing again in the church choir. Marsha thank you I cannot say it enough. LOVE Your music. You signed my copy of Music & Meditation Phil 4:8 it has been awhile back but I still have it and use it. Bless you and your family."*

*"Just wanted to offer my heartfelt condolences and prayers on the re-location to heaven of the one I know will \*always\* be your, "papa Chuck." Even when it's long expected, the loss of a parent is a stirring-up kind of thing, and I know you've had other losses as well lately...I wish every person at Calvary, all the thousands and thousands who are grieving Chuck Smith, could see it. I wish they could know what a good job MCC in general has done in creating spaces where hurting Christians of any stripe can find enough of themselves to feel welcomed and embraced and at home, and the central role you and*

*your gifts have had in furthering that. I wish you were going to be singing from the platform at his "home-going," not just from the audience or in your heart. But I know this: where he is now, he's rejoicing in you and your gifts and all the many souls you've touched. And in that, I rejoice, too."*

*"I heard your spiritual Dad & mentor died in the night. At least you'll know that this morning he knows and understands who you really are and how you've furthered the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the GLBT community!"*

*"When I met you, I had mentioned to you that long ago when I first started singing, my brother and I sang, "For Those Tears I Died." I haven't sung it in many, many years except when I sang along with you at the conference. I called and talked to my brother the other day to let him know that I will be traveling to see my siblings and my dad. My dad asked if I remembered the song we used to sing & asked if I would sing it with him while I am there. I told him how I had met you over the summer. He thought that was pretty cool. So, we are going to sing together for the first time in close to 30 years, the song you wrote. I've also been asked to sing a solo. I am excited to be able to sing with my brother again. He is the one who encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and sing."*

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