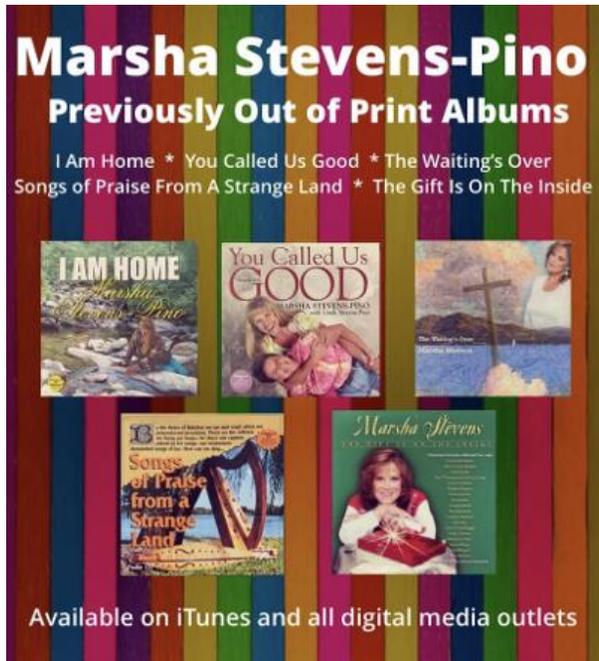


# The Marsha Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*

send a mailing address.



Proof that Justin Ryan has been busy during the pandemic!!

## **November 2020, Volume 24, Number 11**

I'm actually writing this on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, trying to stay sane and centered why Cindy is volunteering at the poll from 6am until whenever the last person in line votes. With her rainbow socks and rainbow mask – which she says with perfect seriousness, is not at all political!



By the time you get this, we'll surely know more about our immediate future, but writing this now seems so ... distracting.

Several of you have asked for CDs and as far as I know I have sent them all. So if you have not received anything you ordered, please let me know. We are about 5 weeks out from discarding all the older CDs and, as I said, all the postage is paid. We would love to give them anywhere they would be a blessing, so just let us know. Email me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com) and

As you can see – and you may have seen online – Justin Ryan has done the work to make all of my published music available online. What an enormous job! Let me know if you have any questions about it. You should be able to download from Apple/iTunes, CD Baby, Spotify and so on. I'm very grateful for his help.

Incidentally, I heard a rumor (although I have not seen a public announcement yet) that Justin will be releasing some Christmas music this year. I hope so. I know you can hear his passion in his music.

As a reminder, Justin Ryan's music video of the song, Stand Closer, is going well. If you haven't seen it, you can see it on his Facebook Page or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/D9ep86Wx0co>. As I said last month, it is a very intentionally heart piercing video. Somehow, it's hard to find the balance between how crushing so many of the images are to people of color, and how benumbed so many of us white people are until the injustice is right in our faces. (My much tamer version is here <https://youtu.be/rri9Tvkp2Q>)

We have had a lot of talks recently, especially with people from our church here in Nashville, about the history of racism. My California high school friend, Alicia Katz wrote an Op-Ed in the LA Times today about how deeply rooted racism has been in California, where we like to think of ourselves as so forward-thinking and open-minded. In reality, we were one of the last two states (along with Oregon) to ratify the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment allowing Blacks to vote. Anyway, if you're like we are trying to learn a more accurate and enlightened history, this is the link to her article:

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-11-03/california-voting-history?fbclid=IwAR2fT6I83C3Olas1jxKvqc4OoRHmc2DsIy7pOmhwR7aewUkrshafgvjCN4>

Well, by the time you get this, we'll know more about the direction of our country – and I'm sure Cindy will be home safely 😊

*With 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 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, working the polls 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](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.)  
(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, & for the Upstander presentation with Jane Clementi.*
- ‡ *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 my daughter who will need surgery in the next couple of weeks*
- ‡ *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 and special music online.*
- ‡ *Prayers for our country & for all of us to find a way forward together.*

### ***What You Have to Say***

*"Hope this finds you well. Monica just found your new song. Nice! It is especially meaningful since our 3 granddaughters are black and brown. We have been attending BLM protests here in Abilene.*

*Miss you and love you."*

*"I am standing in my kitchen crying, listening to your CD. My stereo CD player has been out of commission, and I don't drive around long enough at a time during this pandemic to listen to an entire CD, so I've plugged it into my computer. Oh my goodness, STAND CLOSER had me grab for tissues! BREATHING SPACE took me back to one year ago today! What lovely memories.*

*What a blessing your music is! I really needed to soak this in, particularly today, as days grow shorter! Thank you so much for your generosity in sharing, Marsha."*

*"Thank you for the CDs. Please thank your supporter for us, too.*

*There are a lot of us at our church who wouldn't be able to have this any other way."*

*"Marsha, I heard you singing in our church broadcast last week. I can't remember the song, but you were on your guitar and it was just so perfect. It made both of us feel less alone and isolated."*

*"Thank you SO much, Marsha! We've missed being able to listen to those because of no longer having one car with a cassette player and one with a CD player. Ever since Karen's accident and my retirement, we've only needed one car--which has a CD player.*

*I really LOVE listening to you and Deb Hardy singing "A Faithful Friend." I got to speak with her at one of your concerts when I lived in Texas; she was truly a special person."*

### **Upcoming ministry**

**Nov 26 We are SO thankful for YOU**

Please consider reaching me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com) to book something online for your church! A concert or a single song or two.

*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>*