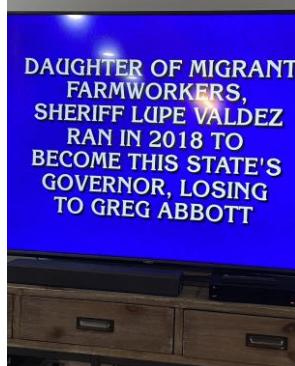


The Marshan Chronicles

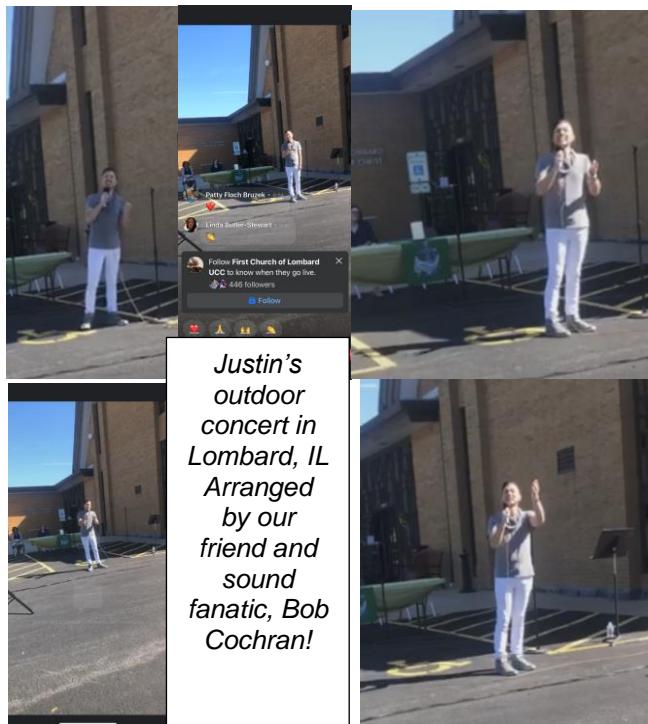


Above left, my sister Wendy and I celebrate birthdays on the West Coast and above right, Cindy and I celebrate our 18th wedding anniversary. To the right, is the Jeopardy clue that included our friend, and long time MCC and ministry supporter, Lupe Valdez. "I know her, I know her!!" 😊



September 2021, Volume 25, Number 9

Well I know that the whole world is surprised by where we are healthwise. As you will see on the back, some of the concerts have moved or canceled because of the Delta variant Covid surge. We both have friends who have fallen ill with it, although none with whom we have had physical contact. Still it is heartbreaking watching people struggle. Our prayers are with all of you.



For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.

If you follow Balm Ministries online, you probably know that Justin Ryan was kind enough (young enough, healthy enough, certainly *talented* enough) to fill in for me at the TEN conference in Chicago in August and at the First Church of Lombard. This is how you get to the mini-concert he did there. Wow. He's so good. I'm not tricky enough to know the link for a FaceBook page, but if you go to the FaceBook page for First Church of Lombard UCC, and scroll through their posts until Aug 15th, Justin's whole concert is there and it's worth taking the time to listen to!!

Shawn Thomas was generous enough to include Justin in the TEN conference at the last minute and I know that was a blessing for everyone.

Other dates are mostly on hold. The Reformation Project sounds do-able because of the extraordinary precautions they are taking and the folks in The Villages in November say they are definitely on. So those of you in mid-Florida who want to see a concert, that will be your chance!!

Cindy keeps having mission trips delayed, too, but we'll keep you posted when they start again.

August is birthday month for my family. My sister, my nephew and I all have birthdays and we usually get together. We were all more careful this year, but I couldn't miss the hugs.

My own health is holding well. My knee is almost all healed and oddly many people want to know if I can kneel on it. The answer is yes, I can kneel down on both knees – but just for the record, I pray just fine sitting up 😊.

Speaking of prayers, I so appreciate your prayers. I have felt your presence with me in the healing process. At this point, I have to be on blood thinners for the clots in my lungs, but it all seems to be under control.

In case it is of consequence to any of you booking a concert, Cindy and I were both vaccinated early on, and have both had a booster since. We're happy to adjust to whatever works for you congregation, such as afternoon outdoor concerts or masks indoors, and of course, let me know if we can pre-record anything for your church or ministry.

It is always better to reach me by that old-fashioned thing called email at ssbalm@aol.com. (Facebook Messenger and I don't always get along. I have found messages there that are years old and I do not know where they have been hiding!)

Hope we see you soon!!

With Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

Please note our PO Box address – it's too long to remember!

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Unfortunately, as you know, the trips for the past year have been canceled. 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. It looks as though it might be January before she heads out again.

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

We will let you know when she can resume mission trips.

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

- † *Prayers for our family of color. For the lives taken and anger unabated, for justice to finally come.*
- † *Praises for Marsha's surgery on July 7th & for the*

prayers that got me through the complications!!

- † *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 health as we start up regular concerts again.*
- † *Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts and special music IN REAL LIFE – hurray!*
- † *Prayers for our country & for all of us to find a way forward together.*
- † *Praises that some of our get togethers are getting scheduled in the fall. I will be there!!*

What You Have to Say

"Your song has always meant so much to me. I can't believe it took me all this time to figure out why and what Jesus was trying to tell me all this time!"

"You will never know how much you have blessed my life with the song "For Those Tears I Died". My wife passed away in January of this year. As a family we had a memorial service in San Diego at the beach. My wife loved the beach. We played that song there. My whole family, 3 daughters and their families were all there. How that blessed us. I continue to play the song almost every day. It is on top of all my favorites. So speaks to my heart.

Blessings on your ministry."

"So your wife gave you new bedroom closet doors for your anniversary. I guess that's ok – depends which side of the doors the lesbians are on!"

"I sang this when I was in high school, at a baptismal service on a mission compound in Quito, Ecuador in the

late 70's. Sweet memories. Thank you."

"I just found this video while looking for the original one placed on YouTube to share with a friend. I played guitar and sang with my best friend 1970-1975. To this day....and I'm 63 yrs old now, and I still cry as my heart fills with the spirit. This song, changed this hippie's life so many, many years ago. God bless you for the love and spirit this song has spread through so many years. I taught this song to all 5 of my now grown children through voice and sign language as 3 of them were deaf. It's beautiful heard and seen."

Upcoming ministry

Sept 16-20 Portland OR area.
Tentatively Sunday am special song at MCC Portland on 9/19/21

Oct 1-3 Beersheba Springs

~~Brentwood UMC women's retreat~~
Canceled due to Covid concerns.
Probably not rescheduled until next fall.

Oct 28-31 Reformation Project in Phoenix AZ *Dates are open this weekend!*

Nov 6-7 The Villages FL, United Church of Christ. Concert on the 6th at 3pm, service on the 7th at 10am www.villagesUCC.org

Please consider reaching me at ssbalm@aol.com to book something 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>