

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.

*OK, I'm getting better at selfies!!
Justin Lee and Kathy Baldock were
gracious enough to let me practice 😊*



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Happy Thanksgiving! Wow, so much to be grateful for making it through these last two years – and so many to mourn whom we have lost.

I have often attended The Reformation Project (TRP) conferences, but I was not sure I would go this year. I didn't want to be part of a super spreader event!! But the more information I received, the more confident I became about going. They asked for your vaccination cards when you registered. They announced that they were holding all events in the very large conference room at the hotel – no small groups or small rooms. Everyone agreed to wear masks at all times when inside. Seating even in the grand “ballroom” was distanced by large round tables. So I had an antibody test to be absolutely sure the vaccines worked on me (with my immunosuppressants), and they did, and I decided to go.

What an incredible blessing. So many people with so many fascinating stories, insights and conundrums. Do you remember Eugene Peterson who wrote The Message version of the Bible? Eugene passed away in 2018 at age 85. His son, Eric Peterson, spoke at this conference and talked about his father's agony in dealing with LGBTQ inclusion in the church. Some of you will remember that a reporter, in Eugene Peterson's final interview of his life, asked him if he would perform a same sex wedding at his church if asked to do so. Peterson answered, “yes,” and brought the wrath of many evangelicals, as well as the wrath of his publishing company, down on his head. Try to picture that he is 84 years old and his whole legacy, as he sees it, is in The Message paraphrase that was his life's work. With that one word, “yes,” many of his readers threw out his books (and told him so), his publishing company (Lifeway) threatened to pull The Message off bookstore shelves and take it and all his

other books out of print, and his granddaughter came out.

His son, Eric, felt terrible that his Dad was forced to retract his statement the next day or face what felt like ruin at the very end of his life. Even at the time, I knew I could imagine what Eugene was going through. There were moments shortly after I came out that I would have tried to take it all back. I got to live long enough to work through that. He did not.

Another presenter was Jen Hatmaker, an evangelical women's leader who lost supporters and faced death threats when, after much prayer and Bible study, she came out in favor of gay marriage.

Always informative at TRP, author and researcher Kathy Baldock gave wonderful updates on Biblical studies supporting the LGBTQ community. She brought and interviewed Yvette Cantu-Schneider who was featured in the Netflix movie “Pray Away.” It was heartrending to hear how Yvette had been used by the “exgay” movement with Family Research Council/Focus on the Family and the now-discredited Exodus group. (It was also exciting to hear how the movie was bought by Netflix!)



*A kind
photographer
saved Karen Keen
and Sally Gary of
CenterPeace from
my selfie practice!*

Justin Lee shared. Sally Gary, the Church of Christ woman who founded CenterPeace in the 90s because she really had never heard of the rest of us, had a powerful testimony, that of course ended up including sweet Tony Campolo's support. All in all, it was a huge comfort to remember that wherever LGBTQ Christians are, we are all working...still, to include everyone.

Some of you know that the hard part of the month was last week when our miniature poodle, George, died of cancer. I appreciated all of your sweet thoughts and prayers. I can't wait until we can all get together again!



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 knee surgery and for gradually healing pulmonary emboli***
- † ***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.***
- † ***Prayers for our country & for all of us to find a way forward together.***
- † ***Praises for the ministry opportunities opening up and for ALL of your support***

What You Have to Say

"Love your music. We sang For Those Tears when I was down in Houston Texas I was in a group called Upper Room voices. I work with a friend who plays piano we in in churches. We were working on your song in Fort Wayne. You are a blessing."

"Good friends of mine sang your song at the funeral for my precious 5 year old daughter. November 1978. I read and listen and cling to the words every year since."

"I just listened to Stand Closer. Excellent....I love the line 'actions can be heard.' We need to listen to the prophets!"

"This week I came across my nearly 50 year old blue and white copy of this sheet music (to For Those Tears) arranged by Pete Jacobs. Ken Caton accompanied me the first time I sang it in church." (Note from Marsha: Ken Caton was my high school choir director and he wrote Free to Be with me years later.)

"Thank you for your music. If only everyone knew that Jesus loves them as they are!"

"Your voice is absolutely beautiful. This song was my favorite song in church as a teenager. How amazing the countless lives you have touched all around the world. I had no idea the history of this song until I found your YouTube recording. Thank you for telling the story!"

"Your song has remained in my heart ever since I heard it about 20 years

ago. I often sing it, esp the last verse, when I am sitting in God's presence. I thank the Lord for equipping you to write this song."

"50 years ago, in 1971, I heard a Christian musician singing For Those Tears on the street in New Jersey. It reached down deep inside me and I gave my life to the Lord...This song will always be very special to me."

"Thank you for sharing your story online and for writing FTTID. It played a significant part in my conversion and early faith. It is a gift to the church that God gave through you. How awesome that God uses us in ways we cannot even imagine!"

"This song had a movingly healing meditation to your youth group who heard it at the Sydney Opera House."

Upcoming ministry

Nov 6-7 The Villages FL, Canceled!! by the venue due to COVID concerns.

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

April 17 Sunrise service, and all morning services on Easter Sunday at Suncoast MCC in Venice FL

www.suncoastmcc.com

Oct 13-15 Dallas TX at CenterPeace retreat conference
www.CenterPeace.net

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>