

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



March 2022, Volume 25, Number 3

February was full of blessings. Singing in church is always my favorite thing. But there were more get-togethers with friends, more stuff (finally!) going on to get involved in. Two nights a month one of the members of Church of the Trinity MCC hosts a karaoke night. Oliver really does it up with a full sound system and a screen with lyrics. Of course, my problem is I know very little popular music. My one song repertoire is Evergreen! But everyone was great and Ollie brought the house down with his bluesy style. I feel like this is a silly thing to go on about, but wow – normal life, even in masks, is a lot of fun.

Cindy, in typical fashion, continues to do bike rides and only thinks of it as very incidental that she stops so often to help others. We are doing interviews and podcasts whenever we are asked. (Podcasts still feel very old-fashioned to me. Remember listening to people talk on the radio? Same thing, right?) So many of our upcoming ministry opportunities currently are outdoors, so I am brushing up my limited guitar skills and when my aging fingers get too arthritic Cindy jumps in on her guitar too. This will make our Easter time concerts much more mobile.

If you are missing CDs, this is also a good time to order them. (I know; CDs are old and podcasts are new. SMH!) Most of you download from Apple Music or Spotify or other new and mysterious places

😊, but if you need CDs we can ship them out without charge by the end of March. The list is on the website: www.BalmMinistries.net, but you can send me an email (I know I know, email is old fashioned. Whew. I can't keep up.) at ssbalm@aol.com. The cost of CDs and shipping has been covered – mostly by you, our regular supporters. So just let me know and we'll snail mail them out by the end of March.

A couple of specific prayer requests. First, Cindy is getting ready to do several more long bike rides. Now, when I say a long bike ride, I probably mean 6 miles. She means she will be riding from Saint Augustine to Mobile, Alabama – around 200 miles, and several other long segments. Pray for her safety. Bike riding is her prayer time, so she listens to nothing but the voice of the Holy Spirit and the brush of angels' wings when she rides. Second, our wonderful friend, author and researcher, Kathy Baldock, is having one of those “terribly ill and no one can figure out why” times in her life that is blocking completion of her most recent book, Forging a Sacred Weapon: How the Bible Became Antigay. This is such an important work about how and when the word “homosexual” even appeared in the Bible for the first time in the 1940s. Please hold her healing and her doctors' wisdom up in prayer.

We have been blessed with generous supporters for BALM ministries. This means that you do not need to worry about expenses if your church or organization would like a concert or special music. We can even book something tentative since Southwest does not charge for cancellations or changes in flights. We are hoping to set things up for concerts that include Cindy's ministry and testimony since our supporters have been so generous. Please email me at ssbalm@aol.com to get information, book a concert or organize a fund-raiser. This would be the perfect time to do that since there would be no expense for you or your church right now.

As always, we are incredibly blessed by our faithful supporters – both financial and prayerful. You make everything possible.

With Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

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

Our bookkeeping at the end of the year goes by the dates YOU put on your checks, no matter when we receive them. Email me if you need a receipt and did not get one.

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 2 years 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.

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 healing!*
- ✦ *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 Kathy Baldock and her healing.*
- ✦ *Prayers for Cindy's safety as she rides her bike.*
- ✦ *Praises for the ministry opportunities opening up and for ALL of your support*

What You Have to Say

"You are very kind! I like to think doing this sort of thing keeps plaque out of my brain. To be truthful, I am humbled to hear you sing and listen to the beautiful music that you write. It is quite a gift to be able to impart what is in your heart and transfer it to music for all to be moved by."

"I love being in ministry here. This afternoon I walked into our sanctuary and there was Marsha Stevens-Pino playing the guitar and singing softly and beautifully. She didn't hear me come in. There were a few quiet moments just taking her music into my heart and spirit. There is nothing like the guitar to take us into worship."

"Marsha I had to write and tell how much I loved the song you wrote For those tears I died... I also grew up in southern California in the 70s Van Nuys and attended Church on the Way . I also came out after many years of struggling and now at peace with myself and

have a wonderful husband who loves God and grew up in the Assembly of God church in Brazil . Thank you again for being such a blessing ..."

"I'm from Helsinki. In my family fundamentalist men always called me abomination, sinner and so on. In Finland we have a saying "pitakaa tunkkinne". I believe Jesus died for my tears too."

Upcoming ministry

April 17 Sunrise service, Easter Sunday at Suncoast MCC in Venice FL 7:00AM (but check the church website in case of changes.

www.suncoastmcc.com

April 17 Special music at 10 am church service, Suncoast MCC Venice Fl

www.suncoastmcc.com

Jul 1-3 MCC General Conference in Houston TX (details to be announced)

Sep 1-3 TEN conference Louisville KY see

www.TEN.lgbt

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>