

The Marshan Chronicles



April 2022, Volume 25, Number 4

Hurray – or I mean, Hallelujah, Easter is almost here and we might actually have an Easter with music and people and hugs!! Nancy Wilson was kind enough months ago, when I was at a sort of downcast place, to ask me to do Sunrise Service with her at Suncoast MCC in Venice, FL. I am thrilled to do that with her. This year, though, it means I will miss my precious friend, Marvin Matthews, who will be singing at our home church for Easter. Fortunately, Marvin agreed to start his concert weekend a little early and sing with me at Church of the Trinity MCC for Good Friday. I am SO excited. Plus, now that we're back in Florida, Sunrise service is "a thing" again. I was so shocked in Tennessee when Sunrise service was sort of an afterthought. As I'm sure you know, it's my favorite service of the year.

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.

As we (finally!) start booking dates for concerts again, I really want your prayers for wisdom, strength and songs. Let me know if we can book something at your church. Most of you have probably heard that the MCC General Conference has been canceled and will be held only online. In the meantime, I have several places who have asked for fundraisers but the consensus seems to still be that people are waiting to confirm in-person dates. I'll let you know any concerts as soon as I do, so watch the website: www.BalmMinistries.net

Cindy has made it through her first few bike rides with nothing worse than flat tires. Unfortunately, it's a heavier bike with heavier tires and she is quite frustrated that she cannot change them by herself. But I very much appreciate your continued prayers.

Thank you for your prayers for our friend, Kathy Baldock. We'd love to see her most recent book, Forging a Sacred Weapon: How the Bible Became Antigay get to publishing. 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 continue to 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.

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 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

"I just saw your YouTube recording of 'For Those Tears.' I had no idea this song was considered such a landmark, but I've always loved it since my sister taught it to me about 1980. We recorded a duet of us singing it on cassette tape at the time, and I have recently rediscovered the recording. I enhanced it to produce this version: <https://youtu.be/epi-ucPuB8I>

Wow, it looks like you were the first person to see this! Thank you, Marsha. As another 'born again lesbian musician' it seems especially appropriate for me to be producing this recording!"

"My congregation occasionally sings your hymn For Those Tears. We sang it this past Sunday and the words really spoke to me. So much so that I was led to your website and from there watched an interview you did on Geeky Justins youtube channel. I'm a bi Christian am disabled, a singer, and have a call to ministry. Since coming out in 2014 It always warms my heart when I meet another gay christian. To echo Justin, thank you for being in the world."

"I have seen Marsha perform her concerts several times. She is a Spirit-filled Christian. You can see the Holy Spirit in her. We need more people like her as she is

telling the love of Jesus Christ. Thanks to you my spiritual life has gotten stronger. Your music is like hearing angels sing."

"I have had the opportunity to see Marsha in person and hear her in concert several times. I find myself humbled in her presence because I truly believe that she is a woman of God with a wonderful ministry. She is very gracious and loving. I will always hold her and Cindy dear in my heart."

Upcoming ministry

April 10 Church of the Trinity MCC Sarasota FL Special music with Olliver Dill

April 15 Good Friday service at Church of the Trinity with Marvin Matthews 7pm

www.trinityMCC.com

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 (canceled. Online only)

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>