

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.

least twice a day for WEEKS and played them flawlessly. Nancy and I sang as well and consecrated communion together:



At Suncoast MCC my old friend (well, younger than I), Rev. Rick Rhen-Sosbe, gave the regular Sunday morning message. All in all it was a great message, but the line that stuck out to me was about the stone being rolled away from the tomb. I've used that line ("in our hearts the stone is rolled away") and heard it many times, but Rick made an observation. The Bible stories seem as though the stone was rolled away because Jesus rose again and left the tomb. But we know that in His risen body, Jesus walked into locked rooms, presumably through locked doors or walls. So He did not need to roll the stone away: it wasn't rolled away to let Him out. It was rolled away to let us in.

The other message of the month came because Rev. Nancy talked me into reading a Brené Brown book. I am generally not at all a fan of "self help" books that propose to tell others how to live. But I have to give credit where credit is due and "grace" was the focus of Easter. *"Grace means that all of your mistakes now serve a purpose, instead of serving shame."* Now tell me, how cool is that?

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. 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 this year.

With Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy



Sunrise Service with Cindy at Suncoast MCC in Venice, FL I've struggled with arthritic pain in my hands, so Cindy graciously picked up the guitar.

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Oh wow. Was your Easter fabulous? Ours was amazing. Rev Elder Nancy Wilson has asked me months ago to sing at Suncoast MCC in Venice FL. I was thrilled to have that to look forward to. Of course, a lot of life happened in those months. No one knew if we'd have inside services, but we KNEW we'd have Sunrise Service.

More recently, our own Church of the Trinity in Sarasota (COTT), had arranged to have the marvelous Marvin Matthews come minister for their Easter Services. Happily, Marvin came in a few days early and we sang together for the Good Friday service at COTT. He was stupendous!!

For Sunrise, we wanted to be sure that we were sort of self-contained so that no matter who could or could not be there and no matter what sound system was or was not available. That meant singing with the guitar, and my hands are not up to it. Cindy, who is an actual musician, decided if she played guitar 50 years ago, she could do it again. She practiced our songs at

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 our supporters who have made returning to music ministry possible.*
- † *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 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

Some of you wrote to let me know that David Phelps had released a new recording of For Those Tears I Died with his daughters. It is here if you want to hear it:

<https://youtu.be/rtqCh6-gwgA>

This is one of the comments from YouTube:

"Thanks for always blessing me...If I remember correctly, David used to sing this with his sister, Sherri, who passed in 2012 from cancer. After she passed, David did not (could not?) perform this song for years. It has just been recently he has begun singing it again with his girls. It is a precious song of how our God is always with us."

"I love this song. I love the amazing harmonies David and friends bring to it. And i love the heart of the woman who wrote it. Marsha Stevens-Pino is as steadfast in her love for Jesus today, as she was many years ago when she first proclaimed Him as her Savior. And there are those who claim to be Christian today who hate her just as much as those back then. Why? How can this be? Because she is a lesbian. Deafening silence. I love you Marsha. I am so thankful for you and your music and your ministry. Your faithfulness inspires and encourages. I am honored to call you friend."

"This was the theme song at my summer camp more than 40 years ago. I've never heard such a beautiful version."

"This has been and remains among my most favorite hymns for almost 50 years now. Such a powerful story in song. Thank you for helping to reintroduce it to a new generation of people in such a tender and harmonious way."

"I just love this song. I cry every time I hear it. Your harmonies are gorgeous."

"I love this song. We sang it in chapel (Azusa Pacific College, Azusa, California) after Marsha Stevens got it copyrighted and published. She shared it with us in her dorm room. Thank you for singing it with your daughters. I hve always enjoyed hearing them sing too. Just beautiful!"

Upcoming ministrc.com

June 4-5 Woodlawn United Methodist Church, Birmingham AL. Times to be determined. Concert with Justin Ryan for Marge Ragona Scholarship fundraiser

Sep 1-3 TEN conference Louisville KY see www.TEN.igbt

Oct 13-15 Dallas TX at CenterPeace retreat conference

Oct 22-23 Jacksonville FL Concert – location and times are tentative at Trinity Lutheran Church.

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>