

The Marshan Chronicles



Such a great time at Casa de Cristo in Phoenix, AZ. Above with Pastor Charlotte Strayhorne and Papa Jim who has sent support checks to Balm Ministries for over 25 years. He's 92 now!! And sweet Johnny there on the right.

November 2022, Volume 25, Number 11

Early in October I flew to Phoenix to sing for the belated 50th anniversary of Casa de Cristo Apostolic Church (it was actually the 52nd, but you know..Covid.) Pastor Charlotte Strayhorne is a long-time friend and I was honored to be included. For a fairly small congregation, they are really making a difference in their community. They use one of their church buildings as a sort of community hang out. Not just for the LGBTQ+ community, but for everyone. There were houseless people stopping by for a snack and other community people dropping off sodas and snacks there. You can feel how important ministering to EVERYone is to them. Both Rev. Charlotte and her co-pastor, Rev. Adero lost their spouses in the last year, so the level of ministry that they keep up is especially touching. I sang at events with Rev. Charlotte's wife, Roseanne, and heard her at many events over the years, so there was still a sense of loss, too.

I was sorry I was not close enough to catch up with Tucson friends. I did not have a car and none of them were able to get up there that weekend. We will have to go back to Arizona and catch them again. I missed you!

Most of you know that, at my age, I rarely get recognized in public anymore. (Especially in Florida – I just mix right in with the aging senior here!) But as I was heading home from Phoenix, I recognized some great friends from...maybe 21 years ago? Sherry and Jill are active members of Kinship, the Seventh Day Adventist LGBTQ+ group. Cindy and I ministered at their retreat back then. So I was shocked to see my friends from Ohio, whom I had met in Washington, show up at the Phoenix airport and have us recognize each other. That completely redeemed the misery of airport waiting!

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



(Cindy and I took a pic with the Jacksonville sound team of Reed and Robert – they made the whole evening SO easy!!)

Next stop was a concert and service at Christ Church of Peace in Jacksonville, FL. Rev. Ken Walsh organized our time there. Cindy was able to drive up there with me. We stopped to see if our trailer was ready at the repair place (remember it blew a tire that caused damage back in July?). Anyway, they are still waiting for parts. Who is surprised? Nevertheless, Rev. Ken was saving a space for us to park just in case. We were glad to be back in this area for the first time since before Covid. The sound guys were great. For one thing, they're really good at what they do. But mostly because they stayed on top of everything and genuinely cared how it all turned out. Great sharing and ministry afterward. Even though we are traveling without any charge right now since you have provided for these trips for us, many of the attendees gave personal donations, as did the church. What a generous group. I love it when people get to know Cindy, too. And since the sermon was about singing a new song from Psalms 96, we dusted off "Songs of Praise From a Strange Land" for the am service. It was perfect with the message Rev Ken brought.

Two other happy get-togethers (for which I remembered to take photographs!) were catching up with our friends Kathy & Lori at the Jacksonville concert (Kathy was responsible for bring the whole Open and Affirming movement in the UCC to FL) and a separate get together for Rev. Elder Darlene Garner and her wife, Candy Holmes, birthday parties. I love hanging out with friends. SOOO much laughter.



As always, we are thankful beyond words for all that you make possible with your prayers and support. Hope to see you out there on the road again. When we make our Thanksgiving list, we start with you!

With great thanks, Marsha & Cindy

Our year end bookkeeping enters your donations by the date on your check; so even if we don't receive your gifts until Jan 5th, for instance, if the date on the check says "Dec 30th" we enter it as a 2022 donation. Email me with questions ssbalm@aol.com

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Cindy's mission trips resume early in 2023 with a trip to Peru in January.

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

We will let you know when she schedules more trips.

You can support BALM when you shop online

You can go through amazon smile and support Balm from there through your amazon orders. It's very easy. No charge to you, but every Amazon order will donate a small portion to Balm Ministries <https://Smile.amazon.com>

ALSO, You can read the instructions for igive.com, 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.

Prayer List & Ministry Opportunities

- ✦ *Prayers for Justin's husband, Scott, who is having health problems*
- ✦ *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 all of us to find ways to gather safely (and resume hugs!)"*
- ✦ *Praises for our safety through the Hurricane and prayers for my health as I resume more travel and ministry. (Turns out it's harder when I'm older!)"*
- ✦ *Praises for the ministry opportunities opening up and for ALL of your support.*

What You Have to Say

"Marsha, I am so glad I found this video of you still singing God's praises. I remember the day you came over to the Christian commune where I was staying and said God gave me a song! We crawled up on the top of the stack of mattresses in the living room at the House of Miracles and you shared your beautiful song with me? We sang it at Bible Study that night...and then it went around the world. Praise God! You are such a precious sister in Christ. I am sorry to say J.R. Conklin passed away last Christmas. It is hard to believe we are 70 now. It was just yesterday, wasn't it?"

"One of your fans died last Tuesday. I was wondering if you could sing for his online memorial service. His name is Balou and your music was so important to him. He was only recently telling other friends that you belong to MCC, and he was very upset that in

many German hymnals For Those Tears I Died is still listed as "Author unknown." (Note from Marsha: My high school choir director was so smart to make me copyright For Those Tears back in 1969...who knew?) Balou and I loved your songs and used to sing some of them as duets."

Upcoming ministry opportunities

Nov 3-5 Centerpeace Conference
Cindy and I will both be at the Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, TX for this conference.

Other guests include our dear friends Justin Lee and Matthew Vines. www.centerpeace.net

Nov 12 with Justin Ryan at Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota FL 6pm

www.trinitymcc.org

Nov 13 supporting upBeat! artist, Justin Ryan for Sunday am mini concert at Suncoast MCC, Venice FL 10am

www.suncoastmcc.com

Nov 13 with Justin Ryan at King of Peace MCC in St Pete, FL 5pm

<https://churchstpetersburg.org/>

Please consider reaching me at ssbalm@aol.com to book something for your church! We have no fees required at this time!!

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 at ChristianGays.com