

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*



With Justin Ryan at King of Peace MCC in St. Petersburg FL. Yes, we coordinated the outfits, but he really does still laugh at my jokes.

December 2022, Volume 25, Number 12

Well, we gave MANY thanks for all of you at our Thanksgiving celebrations. Cindy and I got to start our November with good friends from Centerpeace, Sally Gary and Karen Keen. We have ministered at other conferences with Centerpeace, but this year they combined forces with The Reformation Project for the “Place at the Table” conference in Dallas. We met at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas and we filled the place UP! We had about 500 in person and a couple hundred more on our live feed. What an amazing group. They considered us an “older group” since just over half the people were over 50 (SMH, are you kidding me? Define “older”!). But just under half did NOT consider themselves part of the LGBTQ community, meaning that almost half were allies, pastors, parents and other family members. How great is that?



Of course, some of the people who spoke very eloquently were people you would know: Justin Lee, Matthew Vines, and Kathy Baldock. Cindy shared to a soldout dinner and I sang, and both of us did a seminar on “Living in Covenant.” One of the real highlights was a preview showing of the movie “1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture.” It’s a movie about how the large group of scholars who

translated the Revised Standard Version (RSV) of the Bible decided to use the word “homosexuality” in the Bible for the very first time in 1946 – it had never been used before. Because that translation was so huge and costly of time and resources, they agreed NOT to make revisions for several years (so that the publisher could print millions of copies to recoup their expenses for the translation). But shortly after they did publish, the scholars came to believe that they had used the wrong translation there (long story; watch the movie) so they determined to revisit that when they updated the RSV. Unfortunately, in the meantime several newer translations decided to use the RSV’s word – the translators of the NIV, NAS and Living Bible even justified their use of the word homosexual since the RSV translators had used it. By the time it was corrected, it was part of our culture.

Since that conference in Dallas the movie was released at the New York City Documentary Film Festival. It won the viewer’s choice award and was the most viewed film there. We’re praying Netflix or someone picks it up!

A couple of weeks later, Justin Ryan flew into town from Kentucky to do concerts with me in 3 churches: Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota, Suncoast MCC in Venice, and King of Peace MCC in St Petersburg. What a great weekend. We did a fundraising concert for Trinity MCC for their TransMemorial Garden. People were SO happy to have Justin back at Trinity where he was a member for several years. He brought the house down there – I think there were 3 standing ovations and a LONG line to talk, pray or (shockingly) purchase CDs afterward. Part of the fun was that it was the first time since I’ve been a member there that I got to do a whole concert. It always feels like people understand my heart after that. At the church in Venice, Justin did all the singing and the congregation sent him off with a very generous love offering. In St Pete we had a great group of old friends and an AMAZING sound person. That made the whole concert just sail along. For me it was the perfect lead up to Thanksgiving.



*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 5<sup>th</sup>, for instance, if the date on the check says "Dec 30<sup>th</sup>" we enter it as a 2022 donation. Email me with questions [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto: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/early February.

*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.

(Cindy will also be a keynote speaker at Evangelicals Concerned later this year – more on that later)

#### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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*
- ✦ *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 – esp Marsha who has to have surgery again in December.*
- ✦ *Praises for our safety and for the safety of those with whom we minister. God please keep us in the palm of Your hand.*
- ✦ *Praises for the ministry opportunities opening up and for ALL of your support.*

#### What You Have to Say

*"My daughter called her father a couple of years ago to ask how she should tell me she was a lesbian. You see I was raised Assembly of God and I raised my children the same way. If you know anything about A/G they are very against homosexuals.*

*However, (don't take this the wrong way), I may not have approved totally of her life style choice, but she is my daughter and it is her choice. Don't get me wrong it was hard for me at first, but I was praying one day and God brought to my mind a song we sang when I was a teenager. Guess that song! 'For those tears I died'. I went on line and read your story and God told me that He can and will use whoever he chooses to reach people. I bought your book and I intended to read it, but instead lent it to my daughter and her life partner to read (needless to say I haven't gotten it back yet – over a year ago).*

*I was raised A/G, but my parents taught me to love everyone, just as Christ loves everyone. I am trying my best to show her that Christ loves her, but I think she has been told by so*

*many people that God can't love her because of her life style. I have been looking for your CDs, and was hoping you might be able to tell me where I might be able to get your CDs.*

*I want to thank you for having a ministry to support LGBT (I am sure I got the letters wrong and am missing some, I never could remember initials for things. LOL) God bless you and your ministry. I will keep you in my prayers."*

*"I was very disappointed to miss you in Phoenix last month. I hope some day you can come back to Tucson. Just know that my 85 year old heart missed you. You have been such a blessing in my life. Please come back."*

#### Upcoming ministry opportunities

**Dec 4 Church of the Trinity  
MCC Sarasota FL 10 am special music**

[www.TrinityMCC.com](http://www.TrinityMCC.com)

**Dec 10 King of Peace MCC  
Saint Petersburg, FL 5pm  
Special music in Christmas concert with Cindy**

[www.ChurchStPetersburg.org](http://www.ChurchStPetersburg.org)

**Dec 11 Church Of the Trinity  
MCC 5pm Special music in  
Christmas concert with Cindy**

[www.TrinityMCC.com](http://www.TrinityMCC.com)

**Please consider reaching me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto: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](http://ChristianGays.com)*