

# The Marsha Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*



If one must  
recuperate,  
Florida is  
the place to  
do it!!

February 2023, Volume 26, Number 2

Happy New Year! I know that has different significance to each of us, but I hope all your new beginnings are full of joy and expectation.

Thank you all for the surgery prayers. Things went well and healing is ongoing. Honestly, we are fearfully and wonderfully made (ahhh, there's the King James accent I so often have 😊). Having to be physically immobile is wearing, though. I was thrilled to get my steps in 2 days in a row this week!! On the up-side, I took some online classes. The first was on the theology of CS Lewis. Mind you, deep dives into seminarian subjects are not always my forte, but Lewis is so good at clarifying lots of aspects of our Christian faith that I loved having the chance to do that.

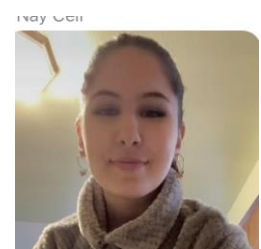
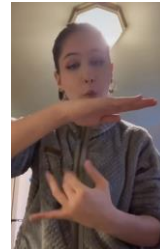
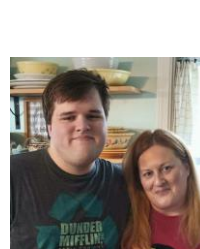
The second online class was about the life of King David. David is always a tough subject. He was both captive to the customs of his time (like the wives and concubine thing), but also just an outright heel! And yet so much that he did was a blessing and the openness of his thoughts and feeling in the Psalms has brought healing to millions. I guess in some ways, too, it just reminds me that human beings can do super creepy, cruel, thoughtless things but still have an honest goodness in them. Sure hard to find sometimes! But knowing that it is there helps.

We have two things starting up in February. Both are pretty open-ended. Several of you have contacted me about the movie *The Jesus Revolution* coming out later this month. Certainly it is about a time I was deeply involved in. Almost just as certainly, it will not mention anything about me..given that pesky gay

thing. SO, rather than moan about it, my wise friend Ed Ness suggested that we try to do some interviews about "what it was really like" back then from a different perspective. The characters as I'm seeing them in the preview trailers for the movie, are so exaggerated. For one thing I can promise you that Lonnie Frisbee never had this layered gussied up windblown look. *Shaking my head*. But there seem to be several events for which I was present and which I remember pretty well. We're hoping there are a couple other people from WAY back then who will join me in a little truth-telling.

The second is my attempt to keep singing without the stress of too much travel. Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota and Suncoast MCC in Venice, Florida, are going to host a series of concerts here in central Florida. We'll sort of tailor each concert to the local church, the current events, and the number of people who come. I think there are several nearby places where people would love to hear a concert, but they just don't have the wherewithal book, organize, advertise, and set up for a concert. I'll list the times for you on the back of the newsletter. I'm excited about it. Certainly it is easier on Cindy who is so patient with setting everything up. Plus, if you plan ahead, you might get to a concert too. 😊 None of this means that I will stop traveling, although probably only once a month. I'm happy to set that up if you have a place you'd like for us to minister.

I have two "proud GraMarsha" moments to share as well. One is that my youngest grandson turned 18 in January. He waited until one minute after midnight when it was official and immediately registered to vote! This is Caleb with his sweet Mom.



The other is my middle granddaughter, Joan, in her ASL fluency. I would love to SHOW it to you, but since I have zero idea how to access TikTok, here's a couple still shots. We so appreciate your prayers. Please let's see each other this year!!

*With great thanks, Marsha & Cindy*

**Any donation receipts over \$100 will be enclosed with this newsletter. Email me with any questions or problems**  
**ssbalm@aol.com**

#### **Cindy's Mission Work**

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Once we learn more about the political problems in Peru I'll be able to update you.

*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>

Amazon Smile is changing soon, so watch for new instructions on this.

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*

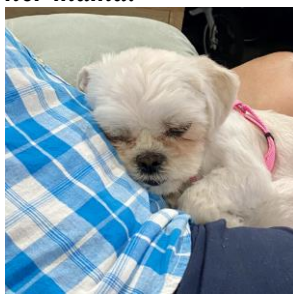
✠ *Prayers that we may all keep on sharing the Good News with the least, the lost and the hungry – to give as we've been given to; to love because Jesus first loved us and we have SO much to give away.*

✠ *Prayers for our health – esp Marsha who had 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.*

✠ *Prayers for Cindy who will have special ministry opportunities this year.*

✠ *Special thanks for those of you who jumped in to pray for our little dog, Emmy, when she ate a human pill off the floor (probably the ONLY time the spill has been Cindy's rather than mine). The vet and poison control worked quickly to revive her and get her well. She's on the mend...with her mama.*



#### **What You Have to Say**

*"How I miss you, Marsha Stevens. I'm a pastor in California*

*but I remember hearing you after I first came out and how you told me I could still serve God on "Plan A." Such a wonderful person you are and what a blessing you have been to many...and I mean many."*

*"Your songs bring me so much peace. The lyrics hit when I am in my darkest moments. For Those Tears I Died was sung to me as a lullaby when I was little. God's work through you continues to*

*touch my life. Thank you for being a part of my roots."*

*"My son came out to our family over the holidays. It came as a surprise and this is all very new to us. We're happy he's been able to open up and the weight is lifted off his shoulders. Nothing is more important than the love and support of a family. I discovered your story and your website. Thank you so much."*

#### **Upcoming ministry opportunities**

**Mar 17** Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota FL 6:30pm concert [www.TrinityMCC.com](http://www.TrinityMCC.com)

**April 28** Suncoast MCC Venice FL 6:30 pm concert  
[www.suncoastmcc.com](http://www.suncoastmcc.com)

**May 5** Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota FL 6:30pm concert [www.TrinityMCC.com](http://www.TrinityMCC.com)

**June 16** Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota FL 6:30pm concert [www.TrinityMCC.com](http://www.TrinityMCC.com)

**June 30** Pride concert 6:30pm at Suncoast MCC Venice FL  
[www.suncoastmcc.com](http://www.suncoastmcc.com)

**Aug 31-Sept 3** The Evangelical Network conference in Louisville, KY [www.TEN.lgbt](http://www.TEN.lgbt)

**Oct 26-28** Reconcile and Reform in Nashville, TN  
[www.reformationproject.org](http://www.reformationproject.org)

(watch the website for updates)

**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](http://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 [www.ChristianGays.com](http://www.ChristianGays.com)