

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



SO much fun in Lexington Kentucky at Bluegrass UCC. With Kenny Bishop who is the associate pastor.

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Dear Balm Benefactors,

Well, fortunately, I learned from the dearth of photos in Florida and I took some at the wonderful ministry in Kentucky. I only had to drive to get up to Lexington to sing at “Bluegrass” United Church of Christ. First of all, don’t tell anyone, but I love the name. (Something my Floridian and Californian friends will no doubt fail to understand.) But it was also fun to be close enough to drive, so that I could come early, stay late and hang out with people since I had my own car.

The church was sweet to put me up in a lovely hotel room. Kenny Bishop had made sure it was all paid for before I got there. THEREfore everyone at the hotel called my Mrs. Bishop all weekend. Very cute, but I’m not sure what Kenny’s husband, Mason, thought about that 😊.

I was really happy to be included in the Sunday morning service as well as the evening concert. Pastor Marsha (!) and Kenny were doing a series on questions congregants had about unusual characters in the Bible. Kenny had just done a sermon about Balaam’s ass the week before (I hate that I missed that, since people have CALLED me that in my hate mail). But the week I was there Pastor Marsha’s sermon was on the witch of Endor.

I had never heard a study of that Scripture. The story is in 1st Samuel after Samuel the prophet dies. King Saul is getting freaked out because the Philistines are getting ready to attack Israel and the King has not heard from God. So, he gets some friends to find a witch to bring Samuel’s spirit back to let Saul know what’s going on with God’s plan for Israel. The story is long and involved but the bottom line is that the woman DOES conjure up Samuel and Samuel yells at Saul for all kinds of things that Saul has done wrong. Plus the woman instantly knows that this

disguised stranger in her house is King Saul. My question is, wait – so there are people who can conjure up dead people’s spirits? Even when the dead person’s spirit yells at them for doing so? Someone tell me if they’ve heard a good study on all that.

But the sermon in Lexington was about another aspect of that whole thing entirely, which was how we need to learn to be open to God’s voice in more ways than we can even imagine. I thought it was a good point. I can definitely see that I might limit the places that I can hear from God because of my own little secret judgments. If you know the song “Jesus to Me,” you can understand how perfect it was to go with that sermon!

I came back that night for the concert. Kenny and John did amazing sound, which as you know, no one notices if it’s perfect. I mean the only time you look at a sound person is if something’s not going the way it should, right? It was a really responsive and tender crowd.

They have a local celebrity drag diva who calls herself Helena Handbasket. In and out of drag, Helena is a part of the congregation there. When I told some of my diva stories almost half the congregation stood up to high-five or point to Helena. It was really fun and there were tears at the end when we all took time to pray that we left our time there on “plan A.” The group that went out afterward shared some of the stories that will be in the next sermon series they are having which involves God Moments experienced by member of the congregation. Wonderful sharing!

They let me spend another night in the hotel as “Mrs. Bishop,” and I drove home. **I’m going to wait till next month to tell you about my great adventures in California last week.**

Back in Nashville, I got to see sweet Mark Moseley who I told you about last month. (Back when no one was recording gay Christian music in 1985, Mark Moseley was perfectly willing to open his well-known studio, Sound Control, to me and to dozens of other gay Christian singers. He’s also reached out to other people the church has discarded – one who had her Dove Awards rescinded because of an affair she had while on tour. A fabulous singer, Mark made sure she had studio work to support herself after she lost her job, her marriage, her child and her ministry.) But Mark had a devastating stroke and was paralyzed on his left side 2 months ago. All of you who have sent gifts to Mark are greatly appreciated and, of course, those gifts have gone directly to Mark’s rehab. THANK YOU! He was there for us when no one else was! Please all you, keep him and his wife Donna K, in your prayers.

Love and Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Beside local Habitat builds, she returned to Uganda in July to finish installing the computer program she wrote for the clinic there.

Keep her in prayer. Any gifts to BALM noted to Cindy (continue to be tax deductible) will be used for her 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

- † *Pray for more concerts-starting with YOUR church! And for all the concerts that are in the works right now.*
- † *Gratitude for your prayers Prayers for Cindy on all her mission trips & the computer work she does to help them.*
- † *Praises for our new church home in Nashville – Brentwood United Methodist. I'm used to being the burr in someone's saddle, but that doesn't mean they're used to having one!!*
- † *Prayers for wisdom for outreach here in Nashville for the LGBTQ community who mostly continue to gather in bars. There are really no other LGBTQ*

places to hang out & talk. We need a church to be willing to have an LGBTQ meeting place. IMHO. The Methodist pastor has agreed to meet with me in August (oops, make that September) to brainstorm this.

- † *Prayers for the book to reach all the people it needs to. The Audible book is now available in all outlets where recorded books are sold.*
- † *Please pray for the book reviews that are being pitched in larger markets.*
- † *Prayers for upBeat! artists*
- † *Please keep sweet Mark Moseley & his wife Donna K in your prayers for COMPLETE healing from his stroke. AND please remember that if you or someone you love has symptoms of a stroke, you basically have 3 hours to get to a hospital where they have meds that can HEAL you before all the damage becomes permanent.*
- † *Praises for the songs I finished writing & the ones in progress. Prayers that I tune in on writing the things God wants to say today.*

What You Have to Say

"Just a note to say "thank you" for your presence among us at our church. Your story is a blessing & your music is a message . . . for those who were, for those who are . . . for those who will be . . . searching for God who is already in us. We just have to OPEN OUR HEARTS & SEE!"

"Sunday. Listening to you share & sing always takes me to such a place of peace. I was so glad to see your guitar when we walked in. I love to hear you play. (Destiny Rambo's song) 'Starts With the End' takes you to that place of peace & comfort too. My bibliophile kid likes the verse where the characters don't have to worry, & I love the reminder that we

are so well taken care of by our creator."

"Dear Cindy & Marsha,
Greetings from someone you've inspired & ministered to through the years. In the early 1990s I was with River City MCC in Sacramento on Broadway. Chuck Vickers (who was in your HeartSong tours) was directing the music there.

Anyway, if you ladies are EVER in the bay area (even if it's a layover at SFO) it would mean so much to see you again. Thank you for remaining faithful to the LORD,--each other,--& continuing to share your love for Christ with others."

I know many of you are praying for Cindy's work/ministry in getting health insurance to pay their share of bills.

She has recently written another program to identify trends in health insurance denials. The head of that revenue department said this week, "CJ (her name at work) we have been able to uncover millions in dollars of inappropriate denials because of the system you wrote for us. Now they are paying what they owe their insured."

BalmMinistries.net for booking!

Oct 20-22 Beersheba Springs with Cindy for the "Breathing Space" conference from Brentwood United Methodist Church www.BUMC.net

Oct 26-28 Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago IL for The Reformation Project with a special presentation on Friday the 27th – time to be announced

www.FourthChurch.org or www.reformationproject.org/chicago

Check the website for updates ☺

A word for 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. Join us now at <https://ChristianGays.com>