

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*



Singing with my daughter, Naomi, on a previous visit.

## **February 2018, Volume 21, Number 2**

Dear Balm Benefactors,

Let me apologize first, for being so late this month. I had set aside a couple of days early in the month to get the newsletter out before I went and visited my daughter, Naomi, in Portland Oregon after her surgery. I had to go early. She could still use your prayers for a quick healing, but she's more stable now and through the worst of it. Thank you for your patience. I thought I'd include a bit of the book that got edited out. You've probably heard some of it before 😊

"Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa and Pastor Chuck out in California began to planned a huge "Jesus People Revival" in 2007. They were going to set up a large tent as they had in the 70s and do a 6 week "reenactment" of the Jesus Movement with a reunion of all the old Jesus Music groups. This was very hard for me. I certainly knew that Papa Chuck would in no way allow me to sing.

I had not spoken with Papa Chuck other than quick greetings when I'd seen him at a wedding or funeral over the years. I called Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa and asked for a meeting alone with him. Typically, my thought would have been that a secretary would call me back and tell me I could see him in the greeting line after a service. But with the Revival coming up, I thought he might be willing to see me, and he was. I got an early flight and managed to fly from Tampa to Orange County, see Chuck, and fly home the same day.

I prepared some pictures on my computer to help Chuck see how my ministry had gone over the years. When I got there I knelt next to his chair so we could see the pictures together and for an hour I told him about my family, my wife, my friends, my music. I shared stories of people who for all kinds of reasons had counted themselves out of the Gospel...until I got to tell them the truth about God's love for them...

I told Chuck that I knew he'd been hurt when he was young, and I didn't want him to think that I was somehow

championing anything but Jesus. I was intentional about falling back into a sort of family in-speak with Chuck. There's a shorthand that families use, referring to times they all experienced together or stories they'd shared. For instance, I'd heard Chuck tell many times about the incident where God finally dealt with his bad temper. It had to do with throwing a hammer, so when I talked to Chuck about my son Johnny, I said, "He had his hammer throwing moment when..." and Chuck, of course knew what I meant. Chuck remembered that we did have a history together that could not be overwritten or revised.

I told him I didn't want a root of bitterness (Hebrews 12:15) between us. He looked surprised. "Oh there is no bitterness." I told him that I knew he thought I was stuck in Romans 1 and I thought he was stuck in Acts 10 – and that time he laughed out loud. He knew immediately what I was talking about. The Romans 1 reference to people burning with lust for the same sex, and the story in Acts 10 of Peter on the rooftop being told by God to eat things that the Scripture said not to eat and being told that what God has called clean, no one should call unclean. I have to laugh myself. It was a lot of theology in one sentence.

I asked him for two things in reference to the upcoming concert. I asked if he would please say, "Part of the group the Children of the Day are with us," or "Some of the Children of the Day are here to sing," because that was the truth. I also asked him if this came up again, to please ask my daughter to sing in my place, so that a part of me would be there. "After all," I reminded him, "she's the wife of one husband," and he chuckled and agreed (and when he introduce the group, he did say, "some of the Children of the Day are here with us tonight...")

Papa Chuck held me for a long time. Then he very carefully said, "Well, I can see how it has opened some doors for you to do ministry in places where no one else is ministering and where it is desperately needed." I thought that was a lovely place to stop - as far as we'll probably get this side of the eastern gate. I did say that once he gets there, he should ask Jesus, "So what is the deal with Marsha?" and he laughed. He "got there" in October of 2013."

*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. Join  
us now at <https://ChristianGays.com>*

***Love and Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy***

**IMPORTANT!! YEAR END info**

We date your year-end giving by the date YOU put on your check, NOT by the date we receive your donation!

**Cindy's Mission Work**

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Next is Honduras in January. 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](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.)

(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 church home in Brentwood United Methodist, & some truly open minds and open doors.*
- † *Prayers for wisdom for outreach here in Nashville for the LGBTQ community who mostly continue to gather in bars.*
- † *Prayers for my daughter, Naomi, to heal quickly – and to be able to accept the*

*help she need in the meantime!*

- † *Praises for all of you!! 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.*
- † *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 God's healing from his stroke. He is not doing well. 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**

*"It was great to read your book. I loved seeing where you fit into the Jesus Movement, but it was a wonderful insight into that part of my own history. What a wonderful youth we were blessed to have. I hope there's a second one coming!"*

*"I don't know why I was thinking about this this morning. But years ago, as a struggling teen I would sit in church as my mother, who would later cut all ties with me when I came out as a lesbian, would sing this song in front of the church. As fate would have it, years later, I would be introduced to [Marsha Stevens-Pino](#) through a MCC friend and find out this song was written by her as she too struggled with her sexuality and the realization that God loves us and would never cast away his children. Thank you Marsha for being a trail blazer, I'm sure it wasn't always easy!!!"*

*"Thank you for your book! I just finished it last night and it spoke to me so much.*

*Some of the names in the book reminded me of my journey as well. I might have given up on my evangelical faith upbringing had not been for finding Sylvia Pennington's books in the 1990s at the lending library of the local LGBT community center. There was a church not too far away from me listed in the back of one of them that was affirming and Pentecostal. I contacted them, they baptized me in water and I got filled with the Holy Spirit. That was twenty one years ago. God used your testimony mightily to bring me to where I am today. Thanks to You, and the Mighty One who still lives and intercedes on our behalf. Pray that I find direction to be a witness for Jesus Christ for ministry in the GLBT community. I want them to know His incredible love for them so badly, but still don't know what that looks like. God bless you and thanks for staying humble, ready, willing and available. Thank you for being Marsha in Jesus."*

**Upcoming travel**

**Mar 17** Brentwood United Methodist Church (BUMC) 6pm 309 Franklin Rd, Brentwood TN 6pm service, special music with Cindy and with Chip Davis

**Mar 18** BUMC 8:15, 9:45, and 11:05 (see address above) special music with Chip Davis

**April 1** Happy Easter!! 7am Sunrise service at BUMC

**April 22** Passagrille UCC 10am service with Brian Feist

**April 28-29** Forgiving Heart Christian Community Church, Columbus GA 7pm concert Saturday night with Justin Ryan, special music Sunday morning.

[www.forgivingheartchurch.com](http://www.forgivingheartchurch.com) (706)681-5246

(I would love to see you. You can reach us through the website or at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com) – I know, I'm old, I still use aol!)

**Check the website for updates** ☺

**[www.BalmMinistries.net](http://www.BalmMinistries.net)**

**BalmMinistries.net for booking!**