

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



Cindy actually preached a wonderful sermon, but she can only stay serious for a very short time

July 2018, Volume 21, Number 7

June was an interesting month for us. Some of you had asked about the concert & music work we were doing at Sandy Cove campground in Maryland. A woman had contacted me to do music for the retreat & a concert one night. Shelley shared with me that she had been a camper/counselor at this camp when she was younger. She & her wife attend an American Baptist church in Pennsylvania & she asked if I could do the morning service at this church. I asked if Cindy could come – both because it would be a lovely getaway for us, & because it is so nice for Cindy to be there. She learned to play guitar with the camp singalongs, she does some songs with me, & she gives wonderful messages. Shelley thought that would be a great idea, so we started planning.

One of you contacted us & wanted to come, but they explained this was a group that has met every year & they reserve rooms just for that group. It turned out that Shelley paid for a special suite for Cindy & me since I was a surprise for the group. It seems that *For Those Tears I Died (Come to the Water)* was their favorite camp song all those years ago. When they were singing it last year, Shelley thought *hey, I'll bet the woman who wrote that would come do a concert for us next year.*

Another friend phoned me to say that her church, which is openly LGBTQ affirming, was told they could not use that campground since the campground owners believe in "Biblical marriage." Of course, so do I! But what they mean by that is one woman & one man. I immediately contacted Shelley to be sure she knew about that & offered to let her cancel if our orientation, or marriage, was a problem. She felt the group had known her & her wife for years & they were fine with us. She did ask me to list the concert at the campground as a private event on my website, which I did.

It did end up being a kind of challenge. Of course, the whole reason you support us is because you feel this ministry is needed, so none of us should be surprised. We were *definitely* a problem for many of the people there. Several in the group confronted Shelley while we were there when they found that my VERY good friend Mary Pearson had generously posted all my concerts on her website *ChristianGays.com*, & when they did a search for Sandy Cove Campground, that's where they were directed. They asked me to take the concert off the internet. I explained, of course, that once something is on the internet it's...out! But I really prayed about the request. Let me tell you some of my thinking.

First of all, had it been a concert that was open to the public in the first place I would never have considered taking it down. But it was all along a private booking. Second, we still had not done the concert yet & had not shared any of our own testimonies & I felt like it was important that they not just ask us to leave. I also felt for Shelley, who was very surprised that these people who know her & her wife, would not be welcoming. She had gone to great lengths to bring them what she thought would be a happy surprise. She believed they loved & accepted her just as she is & I felt like it would break her heart to have them ask us to leave. Third, I know Mary at *ChristianGays* & I knew she would be happy to help in any way she could.

I'm still not sure I made the right decision. You know, speaking of "Biblical beliefs," the BIBLE says that it is when we "walk in the light, as He (Jesus) is in the light" THAT'S when we have fellowship one with the other & the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses every sin. SO...I really try to walk in the light. But on the other side, we were able to do the concert & share stories & some of the women heard just what they needed to hear. One spoke to me for almost an hour afterward about one of her kids who is gay & how grateful she was to have some understanding of "Christian Gays!" Even after all this time, it still feels like it's three steps forward, two steps back. I work with so many people who just *cannot* imagine that being LGBTQ & Christian is still an issue.

Happily, the Green Church was *extremely* welcoming to us. Pastor Jeri gave us the whole service, so I was able to sing, share, do a song with Cindy AND have Cindy preach. She really was great. Dressed all in black with a beautiful short rainbow-colored stole...& bright pink socks. Pray for all the sweet people who heard the message – & have Cindy come preach at your church!! The Green Church really outdid themselves in hospitality. I was very glad to see that Shelley and Terri have a home where they are wanted!

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. She is Uganda right now. Then Honduras August 31st – August 7th. Haiti will be in January, but I don't have dates yet. 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 teaching she does to help them.*
- † *Praises for our church home in Brentwood United Methodist, & MANY prayers for the Methodist Council of Bishops who are currently meeting to help prepare a suggested "way forward" for the United Methodist church and the LGBTQ community.*
- † *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 upBeat! artists*
- † *Please keep sweet Mark Moseley & his wife Donna K in your prayers for God's healing from his stroke. He will be able to help on a new recording for at least 4 or 5 songs. He wants so badly to be included!*
- † *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.*
- † *Prayers for wisdom for me when I'm bridging gaps. Peggy Campolo says the only bad thing about being a bridge is that you get walked on by both sides!*
- † *Prayers for ChristianGays.com – the outreach they do which is so inclusive, and their gracious support of us.*

What You Have to Say

"If I hadn't met you I would never have known my son could be gay and still be Christian. Not only that but be called by God for the plan God has in his life. I knew I would always love him, and of course that God loves him, but seeing the joy you and your wife have in serving Jesus just let me know that my son is going to be fine."

"I'm still processing the weekend. I really feel like your message needs to get out there. I want to do everything I can to help."

"I can't believe I found you online. Our stories are so close to each other. I'm SHOCKED that I have never heard your name until today! I got saved in

June of 1981(I was 16) at a Youth for Christ camp. I grew up in Spokane WA. Just about the time I got saved this guy from Costa Mesa moved to Spokane to plant a church. His name might be familiar, Jimmy Kempner. Under Jimmy grew my love of CCM and of Jesus. I thought I knew more than most people about the history of Christian music. I was wrong. I skimmed through your site and got very excited. I had to write you for two reasons. I'd love to have a conversation with you as I am doing a small group study on the history of Jesus Movement."

"Like everyone in the Jesus Movement, I loved Children of the Day and For Those Tears I Died."

Upcoming travel

June 29-July 10 Cindy at Raise the Roof ministry in Uganda

Aug 9-12 The Evangelical Network ministry conference in Chicago. Get more details at www.TheEvangelicalNetwork.net

Watch for Boston area concerts in the fall!

(I would love to see you. You can reach us through the website or at ssbalm@aol.com – I know, I'm old, I still use aol!) Check the website for booking openings. www.BalmMinistries.net and re-check the website for updates!

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>