

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.

back then – and was rejected by the same people. There were a couple other local pastors who came to the Saturday night concert and Robert and Dale did a great job with the sound. I didn't have to worry at all.



I loved being part of the 50th anniversary celebration with Rev. Curtis Smith at Trinity MCC in Arlington, TX



Cindy and I with some of the Brentwood United Methodist women at Beersheba Springs Retreat

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Another month of singing and praying. So many of you have been great about praying for my friend Donna Kay and her record producer husband Mark Moseley. Mark is in a good living situation now in assisted living. He could use an electric wheel chair, but he says he wants the manual one to keep the strength in his right arm since the left is completely immobile.

Donna Kay is another story. I went to all the doctors' appointments with her in planning her treatments. Then she had chemotherapy and radiation 5 days a week for 6 weeks. Then there was no more they could do. She has gotten weaker, more tired, unable to care for herself, and gotten that terrible kind of confusion where she doesn't know she's confused. She's sure that there's work she should be doing, somewhere she should be, something everyone else knows that she doesn't know. She started hospice care yesterday. All of us are heartbroken. Thank you for your many prayers.

Getting to travel and sing in the middle of this has been so healing for me and of course, makes me even more grateful for being able to do the things I can do. Since MCC is celebrating its 50th anniversary through this year, Rev. Curtis Smith was kind enough to include me in the celebration at Trinity MCC in Arlington, TX.

I was totally treated like royalty. They flew me in and put me up in a lovely hotel. But the ministry time was so fruitful that you could tell how much healing and teaching has already gone on, so the field was ready for harvest. I had some wonderful time sharing with a counselor at a local AIDS clinic, a man whose husband has recently died, and one who came to the Lord at Calvary Chapel close to the time that I did and knew some of the same people from

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The next weekend had to have been the most booked weekend of the season since I had to turn down two other wonderful opportunities to be where I felt led to be; at the Brentwood United Methodist Women's retreat at Beersheba Springs TN.

There's been some online discussions recently about whether Christian members of the LGBTQ community should be attending or supporting churches where our community is not fully welcomed and included. Cindy and I have a little different take on that. I do tithe to fully inclusive Christian ministries, like Encounter Missions International and The Reformation Project, and Brentwood United Methodist church knew that before I we joined there. But, like Romans 10:14 says (in the Message), "How can they hear if nobody tells them?" And sometimes, you know, SHOW them. So, when they asked Cindy and me to do all the music for the women's retreat we prayed about it and felt it was where we should be.

Some of you remember that Cindy dusted off her guitar and took some lessons when I was struggling with playing, so we were ready to lead some singalongs and share some songs we've written together. And at the Bible study I attend, they announced that "Marsha and her wife" would be doing the music, and friends from Cindy's mission trips told others that "CJ and her wife" (that's what they call her at church) would be there. All in all, we had a wonderful time and I have to feel we were right where we were supposed to be. The big worldwide United Methodist conference is coming in February. I have been to all the meetings to speak on behalf of our community, but only your prayers will ultimately change their hearts.

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 returned safely from Honduras. She has one more trip to Uganda still this year, Dec. 2-14. Haiti will be January 20-26th. Keep her in prayer. Any gifts to BALM noted to Cindy (continue to be tax deductible) will be used for her mission trips. She has gotten her employer, HCA, to donate 20 computers & appropriate software to the school in Uganda, Raise the Roof Academy. She has some pictures posted on her Facebook page and you can link to video of her most recent trip on BalmMinistries.net or by going to the link on YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I89AAhnZ4R0&feature=share>

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

- ‡ *Praises for my healing and that I could return to work two days a week with no problems – hallelujah.*
- ‡ *Gratitude for your 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 United Methodist conference on a Way Forward coming in February.*
- ‡ *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. Mark feels terrible that he cannot be there for Donna K. Donna K is home on hospice care (nothing else is covered on her Medicare) with friends who can barely lift her in and out of bed to the bathroom. She is just heartbreakingly confused.*
- ‡ *Praises for the songs I finished writing & the ones in progress. Prayers I can get at least this short recording done and ready for you to hear.*
- ‡ *Prayers for ChristianGays.com – the outreach they do which is so inclusive, and their gracious support of us.*

What You Have to Say

"It meant a lot to me to be on retreat with you two. I don't know what I expected a gay relationship to look like, but you two clearly respect each other so much. You love the Lord and put other people's needs ahead of your own. CJ is just a natural missionary. I'm honored to call you friends."

"I know you kind of shrug it off and say that Nashville is full of songwriters, but not everyone has written an iconic song that still touches everyone who hears it. We're just trying to remind you that God chose you for a reason."

"We could not have had any better ministry for our 50th anniversary. You really brought me from where I started to where we are today. There have been times that it would have scared me to look back. I think I was afraid that I missed something from the past. But you tied everything together so that I could see how we came this far, and see how clearly Jesus is still alive and working in our hearts. When my spouse died I felt like I'd lost everything. Your music and message were so comforting."

Upcoming travel

Nov 29 6:30 Faith in action Dinner Fundraiser for Healing Housing (go to HealingHousing.org for more information)

Dec 2-12 Cindy to return to Uganda to install computers and teach the teachers for these 1200 students how to use them.

Jan 20-26 Cindy in Haiti (I would love to see you. You can reach us through the website www.BalmMinistries.net or at ssbalm@aol.com – I know, I'm old I still use aol.)

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>