

The Marshan Chronicles



It seems impossible to think about Easter this year without thinking about all the people we will be meeting here – just beyond the Eastern Gate...

April 2019, Volume 23, Number 4

The month when Easter falls is always my favorite! And, of course my favorite service of the entire year, is Easter Sunrise Service. It's been funny since we moved to Nashville how different that is. For one thing, no one here has sunrise service on the beach! (Those of you who are geographically challenged might want to know they have NO ocean in Tennessee 😞.) So each year here I have sung at our Methodist (UMC) church's sunrise service. This year is the same except that it is the first time ever they have actually "advertised" the sunrise service. So we made at least that much difference – they now list that service usually so caught up in that hushed time of morning that I forgot to include you!

I got to share a little at our Saturday night service at the UMC this month with Jamie Owens' song, "Seasons of the Soul." On one hand, this is definitely the place to sing a song like that – where there are actual "seasons" to sing about. (Jamie wrote it in Southern California where we all grew up.) On the other hand, there is a limited amount of personal sharing that happens here. I struggle with that, so both Cindy and I are involved in several "small groups" where they are slowly getting accustomed to our style of sharing the Gospel! The youth group here does eat it up and Cindy is a kid-magnet with the hundreds of kids who come here.

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.

Quote of the month:

"If you have a problem with who I am, your argument isn't with me. It's with my Creator." Pete Buttigieg

In June, Cindy will come with me to celebrate my 50th "born again" birthday. We will be at Suncoast Cathedral in Venice FL and have some new music, including one that Cindy does with me ☺. You can hear a version of it at the bottom of the first page of the BalmMinistries.net website. Later in June Connie Barker is setting up some concerts in Northern California to continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of "For Those Tears I Died" being written.

I'll end up the month of June back in Orlando celebrating the 50th anniversary of Metropolitan Community Churches. For those of you going to General Conference there, I'll be there June 30th and July 1st – as long as finances allow as I'm sure you know.

I do want to express my gratitude to those of you who are regular supporters. I was just watching a new show that explained that the Medical School at New York State University is now "tuition free" because Ken Langone, co-founder of Home Depot, donated and raised the money to make that happen, hoping that more young doctors will go into less lucrative specialties and into needy communities. You have all done a similar thing helping Cindy and me do two things – celebrate the 50th anniversary of For Those Tears, and going to minister in places that could not have otherwise afforded to have Balm Ministries come to their churches and meeting places. I can't tell you what it means to me to be able to celebrate this anniversary that is so important to me – especially to get to celebrate it WITH Cindy. You are an incredible blessing to us.

Cindy is working with the programmers at her work this week on a special project to get the computer programs for the 1300 kids at the school in Uganda where she has ministered. There is a geeky name for it, like "hackers day" or something, but they all have a blast getting the program ready to track each student's health, attendance, grades, progress, and to keep up with each sponsor and whether they are up to date on donations and other support. The first group of graduating students are doing well in their higher education.

Let us know if we can come to minister at your church. We'd love to see each of you.

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. Haiti was a wonderful success. In June she will head back to Uganda. 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 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>

In June she will be continuing to teach the computer labs. She is also working

on ways to make the computer programs she uses available to all the missions she travels to, particularly to those our church runs in South Africa.

The programs track everything from school attendance and performance to health and vaccination status to who is sponsoring that child or teacher and whether they are up to date on their donations.

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 www.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

- † *Prayers for my health. Sometimes it feels like a whack-a-mole game!*
- † *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, & the changes that need to be made.*
- † *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, especially Justin Ryan. He and his husband have moved to Kentucky to be closer to their birth families.*
- † *Please keep Mark Moseley in your prayers. He was able to get back in the studio with help from friends.*
- † *Praises for the songs I finished writing & the ones in progress. I did finish recording 4 of them you might like. I'll post the one I recorded with Cindy on her clarinet at THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE FIRST PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE www.balministries.net*
- † *Prayers for ChristianGays.com – the outreach they do which is so inclusive, and their gracious support of us.*
- † *Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts for the 50th anniversary of "For Those Tears I Died"*

What You Have to Say

"You've never "done" the culture war thing, so it's vile current manifestations don't cling to you. You've ALWAYS "done" healing, redemption, and regeneration in Christ -freely given and freely received - no strings attached; no qualifications offered, no restrictions demanded. And you've done it in the midst of this, the most divisive issue of our time... without yourself being divisive. There's SO much power in that simple FACT."

"Greatly do I hope; fervently do I pray" that all of us (you included) who know and treasure your work and your witness and YOU can better learn how to harness that power to the needs of this moment. Our intersecting subcultures and countries are SO in need of it!!

If I had just one wish for what this Anniversary year of yours could be about, it would be that."

"I first met Marsha about 10 years ago at the local MCC church named 'Free to Be'....in her own words no less. She is an inspirational example of STRENGTH, FAITH and A FIRM TRUST IN GOD'S INTENT FOR EACH OF US. Her life is truly a ministry..and she's not a bad singer either (lol)."

Upcoming travel

Apr 21 Easter Sunrise service – my favorite!! 6:30am with Chip Davis at BUMC

June 9 Marsha's 50th birthday as a Christian AND Sunday am concert Suncoast Cathedral MCC, Venice FL and Cindy will be there!
Info@suncoastcathedralmcc.org
www.suncoastcathedralmcc.org
941-484-7068

June 16 Haven Berkeley concert 10:30am www.havenberkeley.org

June 23 the 50th anniversary of "For Those Tears I Died" and a concert at 10 am at Oak Life Church, Oakland, CA www.oaklifechurch.com

June 30 MCC General Conf Orlando, FL www.mccchurch.org
(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>