

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*



Back to Rev. Nancy's church for my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Lord – great rejoicing!!

## June 2019, Volume 23, Number 6

Getting ready for the 50<sup>th</sup> year in ministry tour, that starts this month, has been an adventure in complications, blessings, and feeling overwhelmed at what God has done – and is doing – with a bunch of people who started out feeling so broken and left out. As I've been getting organized, I've also been getting and collecting heartrending stories of how Jesus uses us to heal one another. Cindy and I are so in the middle of this Methodist stuff right now – trying to help people understand that the two sides they see are not the only ones. They seem to generally feel it's the "Jesus-said-love-each-other-and-I-don't-care-what-else-the-Bible-says progressives" against the "I'm-so-sorry-but-the-Bible-says (sic) that-marriage-is-between-one-man-and-one-woman-so-I-have-to-believe-gay-marriage-is-wrong traditionalists." This, of course, is bizarre to me since I love the Bible, feel like my life every day is pretty darn traditional, and believe the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth. Still, this is the Methodist political season, so we're busy with that stuff that seems like it should have been resolved decades ago.

Then on the other hand, people have been so supportive and shared such great stories with me – and expressed appreciation and gratitude – that I'm in awe of all the God has already done. Sometimes I

really relate to the kids in our youth group. There's between 70-100 of them that show up to sing at the 8:15 am service every Sunday at our church...and most of them canNOT believe that we are still having this conversation about queers.

Quote of the month:

My camp counselor found me hiding behind the piano after I'd sobbed the truth to her that I was gay. She didn't say a word. She just sat down at the piano and started to play "For Those Tears I Died"

So this year is a time when I reflect on the many stories I've heard over the years. There was the MCC Elder who was sitting, outcast from his family, at his own mother's funeral. Just as he prayed and asked God that prayer so many of us have, "God, are You and I still ok?" the people he didn't know who were singing at his mom's funeral said, "And we know this was her favorite song so we're singing it for her today..." "You said You'd come and share all my sorrows..." "Yep, you and I are ok."

Or the woman who came out to her husband. He tied her to a bed, raped and beat her, and left her for dead. She was there for a day and half and although she healed physically, she felt like she would never sleep again. One night she was out wandering downtown, unable to stay alone in bed, when she heard music coming from a church building. Miraculously the door was open and she went in to find the pianist. She asked him, "Isn't there some church song about Jesus being with you when you cry in the night." He said there was and it was in their hymnal. He actually told her he couldn't copy it, but he could give her a hymnal. She took it home and played "For Those Tears I Died" every night until she went to sleep.

Or, the newspaper reported who heard I had a concert canceled at the last minute with the accusation that the church couldn't have me "recruiting" on their campus. The reporter attended the new concert venue and reported the next day, "As far as this reporter could tell, Stevens was not recruiting straight people to become gay. She was recruiting gay people to become Christian." There you go.

And we get to keep doing the same thing because of each of you. I am SO thankful.

*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 travel some with me and head back to Uganda in the fall. 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 develop curricula for 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](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

- ✠ *Prayers for my health. Sometimes it feels like a whack-a-mole game! This*

*month included a short but intense episode of "oh dear we found cancer and it might be bad come to the doctor's office immediately. Oh oops. Nevermind. We got it all on the first try."*

- ✠ *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, & prayers for the changes that need to be made. Special prayers for guidance for us and our role/s here.*
- ✠ *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 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.balmministries.net](http://www.balmministries.net)*
- ✠ *Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "For Those Tears I Died" Consider YOUR church. Please contact me. We have supporters helping with travel. Pray about it & write me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com)*

### What You Have to Say

*"I thought of you today and your 50th Anniversary of "For Those Tears I Died." I know I join the thousands who rejoice with you on this blessed milestone of your ministry. During my*

*time of meditation today I thought back of those years at MCC when we would run into each other at conferences and those many times I got to hear you in concert. The last being just over a year ago... God has blessed us in a long journey in ministry...I have put your cd that I purchased in the car and will be playing it on my drive to CT. What a joy that is going to be. You inspire me Marsha. You always have. You are a blessing to us all. Be blessed and again HAPPY ANNIVERSARY."*

### Upcoming travel

**June 8** Beyond These Walls MCC, Punta Gorda FL 6:30 concert with Cindy

[www.beyondthesewallsmcc.org](http://www.beyondthesewallsmcc.org)

**June 9** Marsha's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday as a Christian AND Sunday am concert Suncoast Cathedral MCC, Venice FL and Cindy will be there!

Info@suncoastcathedralmcc.org  
[www.suncoastcathedralmcc.org](http://www.suncoastcathedralmcc.org)  
941-484-7068

**June 14** Dapstep Ministries 7pm Martinez, CA [www.dapstep.org](http://www.dapstep.org)

**June 16** Haven Berkeley concert 10:30am [www.havenberkeley.org](http://www.havenberkeley.org)

**June 23** the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "For Those Tears I Died" and a concert at 10 am at Oak Life Church, Oakland, CA [www.oaklifechurch.com](http://www.oaklifechurch.com)

**July 2** MCC General Conf Orlando, FL [www.mcccchurch.org](http://www.mcccchurch.org) Just For Those Tears at the morning service as far as I know ☺

(I would love to see you. You can reach us through the website

[www.BalmMinistries.net](http://www.BalmMinistries.net) or at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto: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>*