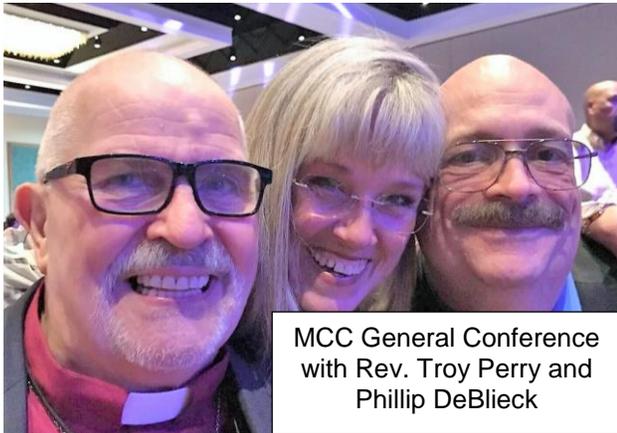


The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



MCC General Conference
with Rev. Troy Perry and
Phillip DeBlicek

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The big celebration in July was, of course, the General Conference of Metropolitan Community Churches in Orlando. Since Troy Perry started the first MCC church in 1968, but they only have a General Conference every three years, they essentially celebrated their own 50th anniversary at the General Conference this year. This had the happy effect of letting me celebrate my 50 years in ministry right along with them. They were very happy to share that with me. My sweet friend, Chad, made sure I was included and lots of people made it possible for me to go. Some of you paid for my airline tickets. Someone from Suncoast Cathedral in Venice paid for my shared hotel room. I brought most of my own food, except the peanut butter packets provided by Connie ☺.

The first day was just filled with seeing ~~old~~, I mean, long-time friends, some of whom I had not seen in many years. It was amazing and sweet. The first night there was a “Gayla” that had everything from pastors in drag to some great live jazz. The next day Jane and Peter worked on a great arrangement of “Free to Be” for me to sing before Troy peached at the opening service. Wow. Old time. SO much fun. The next morning, they had some time in service to celebrate the 50th anniversary of “For Those Tears I Died,” and of course everyone sang it with me. What an amazing moment.

The theme of the conference was “Celebrate” and I’ve had a chance at other concerts to sing the song that Danny Ray and I wrote thirty years ago. I was surprised to review and it and see how appropriate the lyrics still are:

Celebrate the Vision, celebrate the Dream, celebrate the Promise,
Celebrate redeeming all those lonely angry years,
The anguish and the fears,
A hunger for the Word that hid behind a veil of tears,
Celebrate our Freedom, celebrate our Joy, celebrate Forgiveness,
Celebrate employing every Gift we had inside,
The child we could not hide,
The call of God upon a life the world believed had died,

We celebrate, celebrate!
Celebrate our Future, celebrate our Past, celebrate Believing,
Celebrate outlasting those who said we can't belong,
We'd never sing this song,
The face of death has given Life, abundant, full and strong,
Celebrate our Maker, shatterer of lies, who in fierce compassion
Brings into our lives a strength we never had before,
Fling wide the closet door,
We know for such a time as this God's people are called forth,
Come celebrate, celebrate! We celebrate, celebrate!

We feel each one in heaven before us, joining us in mighty
chorus,
Stand as one with absent friends, knowing life that never ends,
With the vision we create,
In the love we consecrate,
For the Savior we await
With our heads upturned to Heaven's Gate
We Celebrate!



You have made so many wonderful things possible. Please let us know when we can come to your church!

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 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. Next is back to Uganda for more computer training for teachers, then she'll be in Vietnam and Cambodia in January!

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

- † *Special prayers for my sweet friend (and co-writer) Danny Ray who is in rehab after a serious brain infection.*
- † *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, who produced my recordings, in your prayers. He's been back in the hospital too.*
- † *Praises for the songs I finished writing & the ones in progress. I did finish recording 4 of them you might like. They are posted FREE on the website: <https://balmministries.net/store>*
- † *Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts for the 50th 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*

What You Have to Say

"There is nothing like seeing Marsha LIVE in concert!!!! She travels all over the U.S. and Canada doing concerts and special music for anyone who invites her. Her music comes with a compassionate message of love and acceptance for all, so I would invite you to approach your church or organization and ask if they would like Marsha to come to your city. If you're lucky, you might also get her wife Cindy, who also has so many great stories to share.

Help Marsha to help change lives, like she changed mine! People need The Message, and Marsha knows just how to deliver it"

"I grew up listening to this song. It was basically a standard in my family and in the churches in which I grew up. "For Those Tears I Died" was written 50 years ago, a mere five days before the Stonewall riots began.

The fact that Contemporary Christian music, and modern worship, were both more or less invented by hippie kids at Calvary Chapel in that summer of 1969, and that that happened at a bible study led by one gay teen (Lonnie Frisbee) with the worship led by another (Marsha Stevens), and that all that occurred literally just days before Stonewall... well that seems both spiritually and historically significant to me."

Upcoming travel

Aug 4 an hour of special music, 3pm at Somerby Senior Living, Franklin TN
Aug 8-10 The Evangelical Network conference in Holiday Inn Elk Grove, IL <https://www.ten.lgbt/>
Aug 16-18 CenterPeace Retreat, Beaverton OR
Aug 24 Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Tallahassee FL 6pm concert WITH CINDY followed by reception www.goodsamtally.org
Aug 25 United Church of Tallahassee Special music for 10 am morning worship www.uctonline.org
Sept 4-9 I'll be in Southern Calif area – email to be scheduled in.
I will be there a week, but have not had any So Cal churches contact me. I'll be there anyway – CALL ☎!
Oct 4-6 Special music for BUMC women's retreat in Beersheba Springs TN www.BUMC.net
Oct 20 MCC Windsor Canada 2pm concert www.MCCWindsor.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>