

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



Cindy & I with Jim and Mary making "Blessing Bags" at Sarasota MCC

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May was a lot of fun. One of the things we started is something that we've talked to you about before at various concerts. Cindy said that during the eight or nine years that she lived on the streets, getting a bag that had some of the "luxuries" others take for granted was a huge blessing. So we got together with people at our church, Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota Florida, and put some together. We did choose plastic so that people (who may be hesitant to take something unknown) can see what we're offering. These bags contained some food with a drink and various extras like handwipes, chapstick, a few bandaids and most importantly, a prayer request. I can't tell you how often the people I hand a bag to are thrilled to have a way they can contribute.

Another uplifting endeavor was actually organized by David Katz, the music director at Suncoast MCC in Venice FL. Dr. April Glasco runs an amazing organization called Second Chance Last Opportunity (SCLO) in our area of Florida. This intervention center has grown to include life-management, parenting skills, counseling, HIV/AIDS education, after school youth programs, shelter referrals and distribution of food and child care items (like diapers and infant clothing). David organized a fundraiser for SCLO and invited me to participate. I was a little nervous since the others involved were all classical (and fabulous) musicians. I'm never very at-ease with "performance". Nothing in the world wrong with it, and I enjoy watching others, but I'm at ease with "sharing." I mean, if I'm just sharing my thoughts and songs with you, then if I lose my place or can't hit a note – no big deal, right? The rest of them read music with ease and didn't really even need a rehearsal! Fortunately for me, several things came along to ease my anxiety. Collis, from our own church, came to the only rehearsal with me. Nancy Wilson offered to sing harmony with me on one of the songs. And Cindy

(who had been out of town until the concert) reminded me to just be myself. I didn't need to hold the music or stay "professional" all through the concert. I could make eye contact and joke along like I usually do. Whew! It takes a village to get me through stuff sometimes. Anyway, it was a big success and we raised over \$1000 for SCLO.

Carole Fetterman, the incredible operatic soprano, singing with me at the SCLO fundraiser.



The other wonderful concert time in the past month was at our home church, Church of the Trinity, where they host my concert every 6 weeks. This particular month, with Pride month coming up in June, we decided to go back to some of the songs that I wrote between 1985 and 1995 which were almost all related to AIDS and our losses. Now my voice was a little different when I was in my 30s than it is in my 70s, but the charm of the local concerts is that it's all about the message. As it turned out, I managed to hit all the notes until the last song. But by then, we were all crying over memories and wonderful people we lost and courageous miraculous people who are still with us.

Last week, sweet Azariah Southworth and his buddy Danny Franzese asked me to be on their podcast "Yass, Jesus!" I was honored. It was a fun and VERY well thought out interview. Because Capitol manages the copyrights for "For Those Tears I Died (Come to the Water)" they had to pay to allow me to sing on the podcast. My friends Ed Ness and Connie Barker did fundraising to pay for that. You can hear it by going to Apple Podcasts and looking up "Yass, Jesus!" (<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/yass-jesus/id1506093101?i=1000613843437>) or by finding the link on my webpage at www.BalmMinistries.net.

With great thanks, Marsha & Cindy

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Once we learn more about the political problems in Peru I'll be able to update you.

Please be assured that all of the donations you sent are in savings for her opportunities to travel!

We will let you know when she schedules more trips.

(Cindy will also be a keynote speaker at Evangelicals Concerned later this year – more on that later)

You can support BALM when you shop online

You can go through Amazon Smile and support Balm from there through your amazon orders. It's very easy. No charge to you, but every Amazon order will donate a small portion to Balm Ministries

<https://Smile.amazon.com>

Amazon Smile is changing soon, so watch for new instructions on this.

ALSO, You can read the instructions for igive.com, 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.

Prayer List & Ministry Opportunities

† *Prayers for Justin's husband, Scott, who has been diagnosed with an especially aggressive form of colon cancer. And please remember to pray for Justin, too, as he battles fears for another loved one with cancer.*

† *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

- † *Prayers for our continued ability to travel...together!*
- † *Praises for our safety and for the safety of those with whom we minister. God please keep us in the palm of Your hand.*
- † *Prayers for Cindy who will have special ministry opportunities this year.*

What You Have to Say

"Thank you, Marsha, for accepting my friend request and for all the gifts you have given us from the Jesus Movement on. For Those Tears was an anthem from my youth (that, and Pass it On). We sang it in youth group, learned to sing it in Spanish, and I learned how to sign it in ASL. Truth be told, this song helped me survive many years of childhood sexual abuse by being an emotional release in singing it and a reminder that Someone was with me through it all. Some who cared, and Someone who promised they came here to stay."

"I love the whole story about the Jesus People. I'm not in that era, but I love to hear all of the testimonies. Lonnie Frisbee must have been so cool. God really uses ordinary, unwanted, hippy people to bring revival of a generation.

The fruits are still here even in this era. Very nice song, btw. I researched this song after I watched about Lonnie's life story.

That Hippy Guy is now in heaven!"

"I remember standing on the cliffs of Pirate's Cove in 1970 with a thousand other hippies all singing this song as Pastor Chuck and others baptized dozens of us. It was something of an anthem of the

Jesus Movement and I cannot listen to it without it bringing me to tears of remembered confession, and joy looking forward. I only wish that more people could know it, sing it, and love it."

Upcoming ministry opportunities

May 28 & June 4 Special Music at Church of the Trinity MCC. The 28th is with my daughter, Naomi. On the 4th Cindy is preaching!

June 16 Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota FL 6:30pm concert www.TrinityMCC.com

June 23-24 MCC Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (address to be determined)

June 30 Pride concert 6:30pm at Suncoast MCC Venice FL www.suncoastmcc.com

Starting in June: Cindy will be the Keynote Speaker at the 2023 Connection website of Evangelicals Concerned. You can watch her loving words at www.ecinc.org

August 12-13 MCC Gainesville's 40th anniversary celebration. Times to be determined.

www.mccgainesville.org

Oct 26-28 Reconcile and Reform in Nashville, TN

www.reformationproject.org

(watch the website for updates)

Please consider reaching me at ssbalm@aol.com to book something for your church! We have no fees required at this time!!

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. WE need this now more than ever! Join at www.ChristianGays.com