

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



Singing with my daughter, Naomi at Church of the Trinity

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So...I am perfectly happy to have someone REMIND me to take pictures. SMH at myself! At least you can see I remembered to get some from my granddaughter that she took of my daughter and I singing. It was great to have them visit. My daughter and I do love singing together and (shocker, I know) we blend really well!

We also went kayaking – although I had to be in the double kayak so that one of them could boost my limited old-lady strength. Then Rev. Vickie Miller and her wife, Carol went WAY out of their way to take us out on a friend's boat. We motored around watching dolphins and manatees and Cindy picked up some especially weird looking crabs. Can you see the purple sheen?



Then on June 4th, Church of the Trinity hosted the “LEAD” team (Laitly Empowered for Active Leadership) so they asked Cindy to preach. I sang “If You Take Up Your Cross” because she was preaching from the Beatitude's scripture Matt 5:11-12 about being blessed when people persecute you and say all manner of evil about you because of Jesus... She talked about how we can't be “victims” because we need to expect that these gossips and lies will follow when we determine to do the right and just things. We shouldn't be surprised when that happens. She also talked about a time when we were back in Nashville and someone in the church there verbally assaulted Cindy. (Later they said that they were just “concerned for her eternal soul.”) Someone seeing how upset Cindy was that day told her, “You know, when someone throws those things at you, you don't have to take it. You can duck.” Cindy

immediately replied that she could NOT duck. “If I duck, then the teenager behind me gets hit with get it.” So that was her sermon. “Don't be surprised and don't duck.” It's fun to sing when it's Cindy's turn to shine. She is also the Keynote Speaker at the Evangelical's Concerned conference this summer. You can watch her Keynote Address at <https://ecinc.org/cindy-stevens-pino/>

The other high point of the month was doing a Pride concert at Church of the Trinity MCC. I was joined by Cindy on guitar, Oliver Dill, Richard Hajjar and Nancy Wilson. It's so much fun doing these local concerts where everyone gets to share stories and requests. Ollie always brings the house down, too.

I also have to share a disappointment with you. Since it involves your generosity, I feel like I have to fill you in. I was contacted a couple of months ago by someone who wanted to book a concert in Mexico. I didn't know him and I didn't know anyone who had worked with him before. I guess I feel like everyone who has been spoofed, that I should have easily seen the warning signs after all these years. In any case, I did try to work with him. He asked me to go ahead and make some of the reservations while I waited for the money he was sending me from Mexico to clear the bank. If I could have seen how he would benefit from this, I would have been more wary. Anyway, by the time there was no PayPal and no “payment from my tax return” and no check in the mail, it was too late to get a full refund on everything. Naturally I let him know that I would not do as he suggested and fly to Mexico anyway where he would “pay me in cash, no problem” for the \$1600 that BALM Ministries has paid out. Some of it can be used in the future for Cindy to travel with me, so that's a plus – but a limited one. Please do two things. Pray for the guy and situation, and pray for me to be wiser with your generous gifts! I've talked with BALM's board of directors to avoid those situations in the future.

If he had directly benefited by any of the money BALM spent, I would tell you more about his name and contacts. But as it is, I don't want to throw anyone under the bus and I don't see any benefit to saying more.

In the next couple of days, I'll be in concert at Suncoast MCC in Venice, FL. We'll be doing a lot of the same concert songs I did earlier this month in Sarasota. I'll try to remember to take pictures this time! I hope some of you can make it to these Florida concerts. See you soon.

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 this summer: <https://ecinc.org/cindy-stevens-pino/>)

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. Scott has started chemo this month.*

- ‡ *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

“Just know that you were a blessing to me and to many, MANY others. There is no greater joy than knowing that the Lord has used gifts with which He blessed you as you return them to Him and share them with His people. I have to tell you that as I am writing this, I think the Lord wants me to remind you that He said, “You will seek me and you will find me when you seek with all your heart.” Of course, I don't know what this might mean to you. But I have learned to step out in faith and follow these impulses. Shalom, sister!”

“Now I know who wrote For Those Tears! Haven't heard it in years. Bring back memories of my own salvation in the late 60s fresh out of high school. Absolutely beautiful and anointed. Thank you and BLESSINGS.”

“Hi Marsha. Just wanted to drop you a note to say I just finished your audio book, “For Those Tears I Died.” I can't read very well with my eyesight the way it is, so I get audio books instead. Wow! What a testimony you have. I want to thank you for being you. You have had a very positive influence on my life, since I met you at the

concert here in the 90s. Just wanted to let you know that, and that you are loved. I value your friendship on here. If I ever get to see you in person again, I'd love to get a signed book!”

Upcoming ministry opportunities

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

August 30th – Marsha and Cindy's 20th wedding anniversary
Sept 10 Covenant United Methodist Church, Montgomery Village, Maryland 10am special music, Concert/picnic after church

www.covenant-umc.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