

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.

Marsha and Cindy by the tree, Cindy at Church of the Trinity's 40th anniversary gala, and Cindy signing ASL for Ollie and Marsha at a Christmas concert.



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Hurray! A whole month without hazards, hospitalizations, infections or car accidents. Whew. May it be a portent of the next year!

Cindy's birthday is the first of December and I got her a custom made bathing suit. Now, she would never let me post a picture of her in her made-for-a-flat-chest bathing suit, but trust me; it's very cute 😊.

That first weekend was also the day that video and film producer Ry Levey brought videographer Hunter Pendleton to video parts of my story. They were very professional and asked great questions. Ry is doing a video about Jesus Music and those who came out as LGBTQ. I'll let you know what comes of that.

The very next weekend was our own Church of the Trinity MCC's 40th anniversary gala. As you can see, Cindy dressed with great panache and had a great time. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson was speaker for this sold-out party. Nancy's wife, Paula, had a back injury so I stayed home with her. I was feeling like I was doing such a nice thing until one of the planners of the gala said, "Well of course you have to stay with her. Nancy is our MAIN speaker!" That put me right back in my place 😊.

I was able to do another "Artist in Residence" concert at our church in December. These are so fun; informal, taking requests, telling stories. Oliver Dill was willing to join me again. He is SO good. I can pick songs that I love but can no longer sing (my range has definitely aged from soprano to alto) and he can hit all the notes that I can't. So fun. Cindy has started signing ASL for the deaf and hearing impaired people who come to services and concerts. Our most active church member who is deaf, Michael, is wonderfully patient with her re-learning ASL. I can see the two of them laughing at some of the mistakes. Plus, it's always interesting to try to interpret archaic language like the lyrics to Christmas carols. If any of you speak another language, think about how to translate "was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay". "Was to specific people who watch sheep who were laying (sic) in a field?" But for Cindy it is a labor of love and she's started doing it for all of our services.

Our church choir did combined concerts with King of Peace MCC in St Pete Florida. Cindy signed for them and sweet Ollie sang Gesu Bambino with me for both of them.



Please don't forget to follow Justin Ryan & his Southern Gospel Sissy series. It is SO good. (And many of you have asked about Justin's husband, Scott, and his cancer battle. He is doing very well, done with chemo, and waiting to see the next steps.)



Blessings and Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

BALM Ministries P.O. Box 14937, Bradenton FL 34280-4937 www.BalmMinistries.net

Our bookkeeping practice for year end giving!

We always go by the date on your check up until Jan. 15th. So, if we get a check on Jan. 14th but the date on your check is Dec. 30th, then we enter it as a 2023 donation.

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. She is working with a ministry centered in St Petersburg that plans to have more in the future.

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 was also a keynote speaker at Evangelicals Concerned this summer:

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

In the meantime, she is doing work with our own Church of the Trinity MCC teaching ASL, leading book studies and more.

You can support BALM when you shop online

You probably know that Amazon has stopped its auto-donations through AmazonSmile. This is a loss for Balm Ministries. Amazon made it very easy to support us online. Igive.com is a good substitute for us, but more work for you.

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. He is awaiting updates from doctors now that his chemo has been completed.

- ✦ Praises for all the wonderful prayers you sent up for Cindy. She is finally getting back out into ministry opportunities and...yes, on her bicycle, but with a special vest.
- ✦ Prayers for Justin's new weekly recording called Southern Gospel Sissy. Every week he covers the history and make up of another gospel group or song, with clips of their previous concerts, and then sings his own version of the song. Look on YouTube under "Justin Ryan Southern Gospel" (my favorite is <https://youtu.be/xOK2lXx2JjE?si=QIA1UC43hefl1rGx>)
- ✦ Prayers that we can get back out singing and sharing the Good News. You have all been amazingly generous.

What You Have to Say

"I adored your song in the 70s as a teen. To find out that you are a member of a community I identify with brought mt to my knees in tears."

"We sang this every week in Sunday school when I was a kid. I have been singing it for decades to myself since then and I'm 59 now. Thank you for your story and for writing this song."

"I praise the Lord for you and the rest of Children of the Day since the day I met you in Soledad state prison in the early 70s, and I've come to thank the Lord for prison since then. I was sent to maximum security and someone slid the book The Jesus Generation under my cell door and I read it out of

boredom. I prayed and fell asleep for the first time in months...I knew the Lord was real and loved me.

When I got back into the main population I heard music and thought "why is there music in this hellhole?" I went to check it out and Children of the Day were there singing your song. I went forward and fell to my knees and you, Marsha, care to me and put your hand on my shoulder and said nothing, just loved me. I am now 73 years old and once again praising my Lord that I found you on YouTube. Thank you so so much."

Upcoming ministry opportunities

Jan 21 MCC Portland Oregon, Sunday morning service 11am
www.MCCPortland.com

Feb 2 Church of the Trinity MCC Pierce Hall artist-in-residence concert 6:30pm concert with Marsha, Cindy and a friend or two!

www.TrinityMCC.com

Mar 15 Church of the Trinity MCC Pierce Hall artist-in-residence concert with Marsha, Cindy and other local artists. 6:30pm

www.TrinityMCC.com

Watch our website for updates:
www.BalmMinistries.net

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