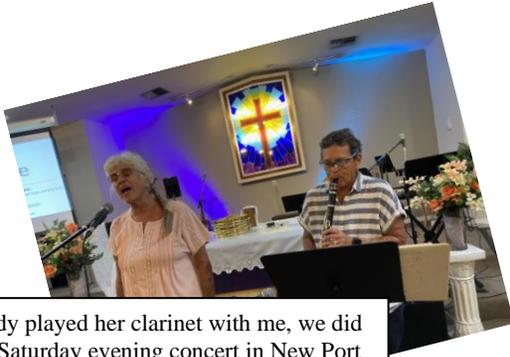


The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



Cindy played her clarinet with me, we did the Saturday evening concert in New Port Richey, and below Rev. Ronnie, Gary, me, Rev. Samuel and Cindy on Sunday morning in New Port Richey. Below, Ollie and me singing at Trinity MCC



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Four chances to sing & all of them within a couple of hours from home! This was a good month 😊. I started at our own Church of the Trinity's "Artist in Residence" concert. This is such a blessing to me. Very low key. Small enough attendance that people can make requests for certain songs or stories. Since we didn't originally have one planned for December (we do have one now), Ollie Dill & I did Christmas music complete with some of our own funny or meaningful stories. Ollie is always a showstopper!

Many of you have now read on Facebook about our adventures the second week of November. Cindy & I were headed up to New Port Richey, Florida, to sing at New Life Community Gospel Church where my lovely friend, Rev. Samuel Kader, is pastor. Their church had booked me for a Saturday night concert &

a sermon time for Sunday morning service. When they read about Cindy's battles with breast cancer & all the follow up problems, they wrote to me & said they didn't want us to have to drive up there twice, so they offered to get us a lovely hotel room in town for the night. What a gracious offer!

So we headed up there – early, like we always try to be. But on the drive on the interstate through St. Pete we were in an accident. A business pick up truck pulled over & stopped in front of us. You know how a million things go through your mind in just one second? I thought, "Is he sick? Did he think he was on the shoulder & that's why he stopped? Was there a person or an animal that ran into the freeway in front of him?" As far as we could tell, none of that was true. In any case we hit him & the people behind us hit us & so on. We were in our Nissan SUV & it was totaled. (Between our guardian angels & our car's safety features, we were not hurt.) There were two fire trucks, two ambulances & a highway patrol vehicle there quickly. I called Pastor Samuel & he & his hubby drove down to pick us up. They had the forethought to bring a van so that we could entirely empty all we could from our wrecked car.

The concert went wonderfully. I sang & Cindy shared at the morning service. The church was a wonderful support for us & everyone gathered us in for the weekend. I'm always happy when people I would call "youngsters" enjoy the music. Astounding! Two women who came to the concert weekend were kind enough to drive us home with all of our detritus from our car. I had no idea how much stuff accumulates in various parts of a car!

I'm going to hazard a guess & say that God is not done with us yet. Whaddya think? Back at home I did special music with Ollie. It was Thanksgiving week & it was also our generosity month, so we sang Ray Boltz' "Thank You for Giving to the Lord." And we do thank God for all of you!

Please don't forget to follow Justin Ryan & his Southern Gospel Sissy series. It is SO good.



Blessings and Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

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. And please remember to pray for Justin, too, as he battles fears for another loved one with cancer.

- ✦ 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=QIAIUC43heflrGx>)
- ✦ Prayers that we can get back out singing and sharing the Good News. You have all been amazingly generous.

What You Have to Say

"Gracias, Marsha, por esta gran composición. Dios le siga bendiciendo en su ministerio."

"Anyway, I thought the song was an old classic church hymn until today, when I decided to look up who wrote it. The song was four years old when I was born, and it was sung as a hymn in my church growing up, so in that sense I guess it is classic church hymn to me. I'm not trans in the common sense but I also definitely do not fit the gender binary, not uncommon with autism, so today when I saw you specifically minister to the LGBT community that I am a part of—it made that song even more special to me. Thank you."

"Okay, we need you two in our community. For the rest of the year you two need to be bubble wrapped and bottle fed!"

"You two are so loved and I am relieved this tough year is almost over!"

"We are grateful for the true friends who were there for you when you needed them!"

"I know some people are struggling with the holidays and I am grateful for the Blue Christmas services. But listening to your music (and knowing how angels are watching over you) just lifts my heart all season."

Upcoming ministry opportunities

Dec. 8 at 6:30 Church of the Trinity MCC in the chapel. Marsha and Cindy in artist-in-residence concert...again! www.trinitymcc.com

Dec 16 Christmas choir concert at King of Peace MCC in St. Pete. FL www.churchstpetersburg.org

Dec 17 Christmas choir concert at Church of the Trinity in Sarasota FL (Please be aware that there is an entrance fee for the choir concerts. My only part is a duet with Ollie) www.trinitymcc.com

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

Watch for Christmas concerts in our area of Florida! We can't wait to see you.

(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