

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*

<https://youtu.be/HMp0ccNeVQ>

You can see the YouTube of me singing Easter Sunrise



April 2021, Volume 25, Number 4

Oh hurray....Easter! And better yet...Sunrise Service. And best of all....singing at Sunrise service on the beach. Happy happy me. I will get this posted by Easter, but those of you with snail mail will have the YouTube later. Easter never gets old.

I was SO happy to be asked to sing for Sunrise service on the beach in Pass-a-Grille this year. Where we often had 2000-2500 people there in previous years, this year is limited to 500. Still, it's on the beach with real live people. That whole drama of sneaking out of the house quietly in the dark, trying not to wake neighbors on a Sunday morning, and making my way to a huddled group of believers (even here it is usually chilly at 6am) remembering with those long-ago women, waiting for the sun to rise on a whole new kind of existence, is so special to me. God's grace is new every morning, but this one will always mean the most to me. The YouTube recording is recorded in an empty church; somehow appropriate in this Easter when we are like the spring flowers, carefully peering out of the dark loneliness we have been in to see if there is enough sun to let us fully bloom. I am so praying that you can each find your own ways to rejoice.

I hope your worlds are starting to open up like ours are. We are finding other people who can safely get

together. Hugs came first – my favorite, of course. But we also got to actually eat out at an actual restaurant with an actual friend! Rev. Jean Simpson, who was the conference president for the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ when we lived in St. Petersburg. She was the one who asked Cindy and I if we could write the song you heard on the new CD called “The Silence of our Friends.” She went early to save us seats outdoors right on the beach at the restaurant. We don't eat out often, but this was our first restaurant meal in over a year and we could not have had a better friend to break our “fast” with. We got caught up on one another and on the United Church of Christ activities. (I will get to sing in their virtual choir at the general conference.)

Cindy, Marsha, Jean and Tote (and yes, that is my thumb in the right bottom corner) 



I was able to sing for Frank Zerilli's memorial service on March 20<sup>th</sup> – the one year anniversary of the day he went on to heaven. Even here on earth there was a great cloud of witnesses to remember him. His spouse of 47 years, Franklin, was gracious enough to include all of us.

I know you can see the address change on the bottom of each page, but we will have overlapping boxes for a couple of months. This month's envelopes still have the old address. Next month the envelopes will have the new one, but I know some of you have to notify your bank of the new PO Box, so we will be overlapping for 3 months and everything will be forwarded to us. We appreciate all of you very much.

*If you have a song request you'd like me to record or if you want a facebook live concert for your church, let me know on the BalmMinistries site or by emailing me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com)*

## ***With Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy***

### **Cindy's Mission Work**

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. 2021 missions trips were canceled due to COVID. But as vaccinations are rolling out to many places around the world, Cindy is looking forward to plans getting underway for 2022 missions trips with our church in Pass-A-Grille.

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

Right now, we are writing to the kids we support in Africa, and Cindy is on Habitat Builds and other mission work. We will let you know when we can travel again.

### **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](http://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](http://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**

- ‡ ***First of all, prayers for our family of color. For the lives taken and anger unabated, for justice to finally come – especially in the current court trials***
- ‡ ***Praises for all of our churches to remember that the News is GOOD!***

- ‡ ***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.***
- ‡ ***Praises for our move – safety, health, Both vaccine shots! & hearing God's voice***
- ‡ ***Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts and special music. We are both fully vaccinated, so if you have some in-person events, we're available!***
- ‡ ***Prayers for our new condo to be ready on time for move in! (You can follow Cindy on Facebook to see that.)***
- ‡ ***Praises that some of our get togethers are getting scheduled in the fall. I will be there!!***
- ‡ ***Prayers that our country can move forward with unity.***

### ***What You Have to Say***

*"I miss hugging. I feel like a hug is the arms of God reaching out for me!" (ahhh, woman after my own heart!)*

*"I want to thank you for writing back. I hope this goes to you as I want to say you inspire me more than with your music, but with your walk and claiming your relationship with God. I present myself as a man but for over sixty years also see myself as a transgender woman.*

*I am known by my family, and a former District Superintendent, and a Presbytery Executive, but I can't say that I am regularly accepted. I have a strong faith and have faithfully served as a pastor now over forty years. I rejoice for you, your love, and your ministry."*

*"Thank you, Marsha. I have been transported to the first moment I*

*heard you sing this song and my first experience of MCC as a community at General Conference.*

*Rev. Delores Berry turned to me, took my hand and said, "It's all going to be all right." And, as always, she was right. Here we are celebrating what is the very best of all of us, our love for the faithfulness of heart of Frank, something all of us can aspire to have."*

*"your song never loses its strength and sacred inspiration. What a perfect way to follow Troy's eulogy. And it's so wonderful to see you and hear you!"*

*"Watching (church) from home until the coast is a bit clearer, we can't tell you what joyful song you brought into our house almost two weeks ago. Come As You Are is a beautiful message, and in your beautiful voice it is all totally enhanced by the loving smile on your face. You remind us of why we can't wait to hug again!"*

### **Upcoming ministry**

**April 4** 7am and 8:30am Easter services at Passagrille Community Church [www.pagchurch.org](http://www.pagchurch.org)

**August 12-15** 2021, The Evangelical Network (TEN) conference in Chicago. If you go to church in the area, let me know. I'm available!

Please consider reaching me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com) to book something online for your church! A concert or a single song or two.

*A word from a longtime supporter of Balm ministries: [ChristianGays.com](http://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 us now at <https://ChristianGays.com>*