

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



We said hi to Tinkerbell for Steve Pieters who actually DOES believe in fairies

How blessed am I to have a friend who would drop everything and take me to Disneyland before surgery? Love you Mark Hahn!



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I had surgery to replace my left knee scheduled on July 7th, so my friend Mark took me to the happiest place on earth on the 4th and 5th. Disneyland had *just* opened up to non-Californians (although I still have a hard time believing that describes me!), so on the only 2 days I could get reservations Mark just dropped his life and took me. To my great good fortune, we had almost the same stamina for the excursion, although I totally cheated by making him walk while I took a motorized wheelchair thingy 😊. I really was transported to happy parts of my childhood, and I had not seen Disney California Adventure (which the “cool” people call “DCA”) since just before it opened to the public in 2001.

At that time, I got to see the very merry-go-round horse I rode on at the Long Beach Nu Pike when I was 10, and the “Soaring” ride back then took you over California as it looked when I was born there in the 50s with orange and lemon groves everywhere. As much as I enjoyed it back then, I wondered who else would. Now you “Soar” over other countries, mountains, landmarks, and oceans, so more people enjoy the place – even the ones who aren’t native Californians.

Mark was the perfect host – up for anything but not pushy, filled with insider perspectives of everything Disney, and always accommodating to my little disabilities.

This turned out to be a good thing since, as most of you know, I had complications. Who’s surprised? For those of you who are not on Facebook or UCC/MCC prayer lists, I got home with my new knee after only a day in the hospital. One little glitch was that the anesthesiologist was concerned at my slow breathing, so the minute surgery was done, he gave me Narcan to wake me up. For those of you unfamiliar with that, it immediately blocks all the anesthesia and pain medicine you have in your body, so I woke up before I even got to the recovery room feeling like a hatchet had just been buried in my knee cap. They got my pain under control but if I have to have surgery ever again, I’m having a chat with anesthesia about the lungs and breathing rate of a *Singer*.

But two weeks later, I got frustrated that I would get out of breath with my physical therapy. Now, I can TOTALLY hear my wife and my sister saying, “Marsha!!! What would you tell one of your patients????” Instead, I grumpily agreed to let Cindy take me to a local walk-in clinic where they carefully did a once over before saying, “Should we call an ambulance for you, or can someone take you to the ER?” And, yes, once again, Cindy was right. I have several blood clots in both lungs; the largest in my right middle lobe. SO, pray-ers...pray.

I am home now, on blood thinners and breathing better. People prayed in almost every state, in Canada, UK, Australia and Iceland. I was stunned by the response. I so rarely feel comfortable sharing personal health stuff online, but I am grateful that I did and that so many of you responded. (Here’s the video from Iceland: <https://youtu.be/JMh2XbLSY0I>)

Now on to happier news: If you’re going to the TEN conference in Chicago (or to the UCC in Lombard) I’ll see you there the weekend of Aug 12-15th. You are all so good to me. You make every song possible – especially the air it takes to sing them!!

More concerts listed on the back – email me at ssbalm@aol.com. (Facebook Messenger and I don’t always get along.)

With Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

**Please note our new address
– it's too long to remember!**

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Unfortunately, as you know, the trips for the past year have been canceled. Cindy is sad about this since she feels that people need the mission teams more than ever. But she also respects the concerns of the mission leaders. It looks as though it might be January before she heads out again.

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

We will let you know when she can resume mission trips.

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. 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.)

(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.*
- † *Praises for Marsha's surgery on July 7th & for the prayers that got me through the complications!!*
- † *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.*
- † *Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts and special music IN REAL LIFE – hurray!*
- † *Prayers for our country & for all of us to find a way forward together.*
- † *Praises that some of our get togethers are getting scheduled in the fall. I will be there!!*

What You Have to Say

"You are important to many of us, and especially those you asked to pray for you want to know naturally how you are doing and if their prayers have been answered, but please don't feel overwhelmed with the possible questions that may naturally come as you recover. And don't feel like you have to explain yourself or make daily updates." (what sweet advice)

"Still praying for total healing and lungs to continue to sing praises to Jesus!!!"

"I wanted to share with you, we love your song For Those Tears!!! Is so beautiful! We perform it often at our "Church Without Walls". They are held outside in our backyard when weather permits. Everyone knows it! Thank you! May God spread your healing. So you can get back playing. If you ever to Michigan, we'd love to have you here."

"Awesome news Marsha! What you have gone through with knee surgery and blood clots may be a clue to slow down and take enough time to regain your strength. You need to take care of yourself first so you are alive to take care of others. So please give yourself time to heal. You are so loved by so many and there are still people who need to hear your message. Please take care Marsha."

"You are very much in my prayers and thoughts. I pray God's healing power over your body and your entire life!"

You are God's Blessed Expression of Grace! 🙏🙏🙏 And I love you dearly!"

"Thank you for letting us know so we can pray!!!!"

"Dear Heavenly Physician, We come together today lifting up your precious child in prayer. We ask for guidance and direction for her caretakers and peace and rest for Marsha. We believe in the power of healing and renewal and ask you to grant that gift to Marsha. Relieve her pain and sickness in her whole body. Give her the knowledge of your will. Wrap her in your healing arms for she is a good and faithful servant. In Jesus precious name and for your glory we pray. Amen"

Upcoming ministry

August 12-15 2021, The Evangelical Network (TEN) conference in Chicago.

August 15 (morning service time to be announced) Mini concert in sermon time, First Church of Lombard 220 S Main St, Lombard, IL www.fc.org

Sept 16-20 Portland OR area.

Dates are open this weekend!

Oct 1-3 Beersheba Springs

Brentwood UMC women's retreat

Oct 28-31 Reformation Project in Phoenix AZ *Dates are open this weekend!*

Nov 6-7 The Villages FL, United Church of Christ. Concert on the 6th at 3pm, service on the 7th at 10am www.villagesUCC.org

Please consider reaching me at ssbalm@aol.com to book something for your church!

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 us now at <https://ChristianGays.com>