

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



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Wow. 2019. The year I'll celebrate fifty years of ministry in June. I remember years ago talking to someone who seemed to me to have it all together; a well-respected attorney with a beautiful home, who was tall and slender; well-liked. She was putting me up in her home while I sang at the church she attended. We were sharing stories when she paused for a moment and said, "At least you KNOW what you're supposed to do with your life." Until that moment I had never considered that particular blessing. By the time I was two hours old in the Lord, I was consciously engaged in "ministry;" in looking for every way I could to share the Good News of Christ's love in ways people around me could understand. And by the time I was two weeks old in the Lord, I was writing music to share the Word. So, yes. I haven't always known exactly *how* to be out ministering. Should I go to college? Should I only minister in a group? Should I try to "crossover" into mainstream music? But I never considered doing anything else. (Most of you know that Rev. Elder Freda Smith and Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey insisted that I finish my nursing degree so that I always had a "tentmaking" job.) I could not imagine my life doing anything else.

Please remember some of the big prayer requests for the next month or two. Cindy will be in Haiti later this month and besides prayer for the work she'll be doing there to be fruitful, we'd love prayers for her health and physical safety in all her work.

The Union Seminary group of evangelicals is meeting next week. All of us need your prayers as we continue our efforts to build bridges to the rest of the evangelical church. There are some hopeful signs. I put a link on my Facebook page: https://baptistnews.com/article/3-words-for-the-church-in-2019-we-were-wrong/?fbclid=IwAR1oWpi-FrGFjGiMLxMQg2SUYGiEpg_b_eoRMdfXOhFgfT7F5cYwFWYICFE#.XC_iL1xKjIV

Or you can go to the BalmMinistries.net website and find the link here on the online page. It's an article by the associate pastor of the Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, TX. It's titled: Three Words for the Church in 2019; We Were Wrong.

Continue to pray for the Methodist conference. I have been discouraged by the huge middle of the road majority of Methodists with whom I speak who have no idea that this enormous world-wide conference (solely for the purpose of deciding what to do with queers) is even happening. So that means that the polarized groups of people are the only ones really participating. There are the "you must all accept the entire LGBTQ groups immediately" and "the *entire* church has *all* agreed for 2000 years that LGBTQ people are living *entirely* outside of God's will." I keep meeting with people. I actually had a conversation with two Methodist business men two nights ago. These are very conservative gentlemen and I have to tread carefully to stay off of politics, but they were both horrified to hear that I get hate mail. The love me. They know how I love the Word and love serving God. They respect me. How is that possible? So, I shared some of it with them. Like, "Marsha you will not pass Go, you will not collect \$200, you will go straight to hell and we will be dancing and rejoicing in heaven to see you burn." They were stunned. I really don't think they had any idea of the way the LGBTQ community is treated, particularly in the church. One by one, right?

And, of course, prayers for our dear friend Mark, who has still not found a way to move forward with his life with the care he needs without his sweet wife. All of us miss Donna Kay so deeply.

We appreciate your love and prayers and we feel the support that comes with your gifts. Can't wait to see you on the road. Book a concert!

Love and Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

IMPORTANT!! YEAR END info

We date your year-end giving by the date YOU put on your check, NOT by the date we receive your donation!

Receipts for 2018 go out before
January 31st

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Haiti will be January 20-26th. Keep her in prayer. Any gifts to BALM noted to Cindy (continue to be tax deductible) will be used for her mission trips. She has gotten her employer, HCA, to donate 20 computers & appropriate software to the school in Uganda, Raise the Roof Academy. She has some pictures posted on her Facebook page and you can link to video of her most recent trip on BalmMinistries.net or by going to the link on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I89AAhnZ4R0&feature=share>

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

- † *Praises for my healing and that I could return to work two days a week with no problems – hallelujah.*
- † *Gratitude for your prayers for Cindy on all her mission*

trips & the teaching she does to help them.

- † *Praises for our church home in Brentwood United Methodist, & MANY prayers for the United Methodist conference on a Way Forward coming in February. Don't forget to pray for this. It's important to so many people.*
- † *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.*
- † *Prayers for upBeat! artists, especially Justin Ryan. He and his husband have moved to Kentucky to be closer to their birth families.*
- † *Please keep sweet Mark Moseley in your prayers. He is, of course, heartbroken and he has to find a whole new way to live with his paralysis.*
- † *Praises for the songs I finished writing & the ones in progress. I did finish recording 4 of them you might like. I'll post the one I recorded with Cindy on her clarinet at THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE FIRST PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE www.balmministries.net*
- † *Prayers for ChristianGays.com – the outreach they do which is so inclusive, and their gracious support of us.*
- † *Prayers for the Q Christian Conference next week.*

What You Have to Say

"On a personal note: Marsha, Children of the Day was the first group I

encountered after being saved in 1972, and "For Those Tears I Died" has been a song of promise for me for almost half a century. Thank you for giving your talent to the Lord, because He has surely blessed me with it. God bless your continued ministry."

"God bless you! I so love your music. I was disciplined and baptized in Mission Bay in San Diego. I so wanted to meet you and hug you and I did. I was full of tears while you sang. You and I came from the same fountain, I hid my real self for so many years! So...many tears and years later. How I love your songs. Thank you and God Bless."

"Wow, you've been through so much. I can only read your book in small doses. I'm sorry for all the pain you've endured. It's remarkable what a strong and resilient spirit you have and that you have maintained faith through it all. Simply remarkable."

Romans 10:17

(And I always remind people that faith is a gift, but it 'comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.'

Upcoming travel

Jan 10 Union of Affirming Christians La Salle St Church, Chicago

Jan 10-13 Q Christian Fellowship conference and Union of Affirming Christians in Chicago

Jan 20-26 Cindy in Haiti (I would love to see you. You can reach us through the website www.BalmMinistries.net or at ssbalm@aol.com – I know, I'm old I still use aol.)

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