

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*



Me ministering online, Cindy ministering at Habitat for Humanity- mission is where you make it.

September of our new songs as well as some old favorites that we have redone. A few we have redone for a more modern sound, which seems like I am very cool to know what a modern sound even is! But mostly it's been because I had to lower the key (*insert eye roll*) to the key of 60-something lesbian 😊.

We have 5 new songs, 6 redeemed ones and if any of you want to make a request for a new version, now's the time. If I get more requests for it, I will put it on the new CD. I'll meet with our wonderful graphic artist when I'm out in FL this month to do a cover for us – she is so great with that stuff. It won't have video on it the way the last two have, but I'm hoping it will bless you.

As you can see above, Cindy has been losing her mind at home and really deeply missed her mission work, the friends she usually travels with and the wonderful friends she has made, especially in Uganda. So she has gone out a couple time in mask and helmet to do Habitat for Humanity builds. I've done some recordings for churches who just wanted a song here or there, but I'd love to do more online concerts if you have a group who would like it, especially groups who haven't heard any of our music and would have the chance to do that now.

At our own church, Brentwood United Methodist Church, our Draw the Circle Wide group took a hiatus in July to do some anti-racism classes. I think the hardest part of that is not the difficulty of admitting my own racism and the ways it shows itself, but in the whole idea that I want to DO something about it. It reminds me of the Old and New Testament rules of life. Some people criticize the "liberal" church for not having enough rules, but I feel just the opposite. I am fine with the 10 Commandments. I just love the idea of making a checklist and at the end of the day giving myself a gold star for keeping all 10. But the much harder thing for me is to do everything I do, speak every word, think every thought, with nothing but love for God and for loving my neighbor as myself. There's no checklist and gold star for that.

Send me your song requests, [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com)

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

## **August 2020, Volume 24, Number 8**

I am missing you. Some of you have picked this time to write me some very kind and encouraging words. That is so helpful to me – makes me feel connected. I am going to try to send this out early since we'll be traveling some this month.

The Lord has been speaking through lots of things that I usually don't have time to listen to. I'm always amazed with the people who listen to pod casts. For one thing, they just seem terribly old fashioned to me and seem just like radio shows from the 50s. But I also can't imagine sitting and listening to them in my usually busy life. Here we are sort of un-busy. Here's something thought provoking from my son, Johnny's, journal:

*“Imagine the outcry from the ancient Egyptians as their water was tainted and their food was destroyed! Imagine their distress as they gave away their wealth as reparation to the emancipated Israelite slaves. We white Evangelicals like to associate ourselves with Israel yet the hardness of our hearts against the oppressed exposes our inclination toward Pharaoh. We must decide if we are going to cry out against inconvenience or against injustice; for God only hears one of these.”*

That gave me a lot to think about! Recording again has made me want to get some of our new songs out to you, too. I am planning to release a CD in last

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

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. She is also working on ways to make the computer programs she uses available to all the missions she travels to, particularly to those our church runs in South Africa. The programs track everything from school attendance and performance to health and vaccination status to who is sponsoring that child or teacher and whether they are up to date on their donations. Unfortunately, as you might guess, the trips for this year have been canceled so far because of the concerns over COVID 19 (the new corona virus). 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. Right now, we are writing to the kids we support in Africa, and Cindy is on Habitat Builds and other fundraisers when they come up. 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.*

- ✦ *Praises for our church home in Brentwood United Methodist, & prayers for the changes that need to be made. Special prayers for guidance for us and our role/s here with "Draw the Circle Wide."*
- ✦ *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 wisdom as Cindy and I figure out our place in the middle of all this & for the great musicians getting some new recordings done for us.*
- ✦ *Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts online.*

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

*"This will undoubtedly be the coolest video I watch today! Thanks for posting."*

*"I wanted to share my story with you. Today I'm 61 years old, Openly Gay and live with my life partner (David who is 81). We have been together for over 27 years now. I'm Jewish by birth, Christian by choice. I became a born again Baptist when I was around 10 going to Bible Camp in Los Angeles, CA. I was kicked out twice from churches and once from Bible College. In 1986, I went in for counseling...I learned a lot about myself and forgiveness. Well, I CAME OUT on Easter Sunday 1989 and at that time, I was attending ex gay counseling, Gay Counseling, The Baptist Church and the MCC Church.*

*Well, I stopped everything but the gay counseling. I met my now life partner and we chose to leave Wisconsin and I ended up in a city and a state I had Never been in my entire life, St. Petersburg, Florida. Well, I had a job and I was there about three months and someone I had met told me that YOU were going to be at a MCC Church over in Tampa, FL. I thought ok, I knew your song "For Those Tears I Died", so I went and saw you. I still remember sitting there and as you were singing, I had to get up and leave, because I hurt so badly inside.*

*About one week later, a woman who interviewed me for a job, was standing at her window and she turned around and a miracle happened, she reminded me so much of YOU. It was as if God put you into my life to heal me of so much damage and pain that I was feeling from my past.*

*YOUR music has come to mean so much to me over the years. Thank you so much for your ministry."*

### **Upcoming travel**

**August 2020** Cindy and I will be in Florida, mostly for vacation and personal things, but we can do concerts from there, too.

Please consider reaching me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com) to book something online for your church!

*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>*