

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



With my VERY tall grandson, JJ. He just turned 15 in this photo.

June 2018, Volume 21, Number 6

May was Mother's Day – so happy belated Mommy day for all of you Moms and surrogates. I got away with my son, John, his wife, Rachael, and his two boys, JJ (John Jr.) and Caleb. We spent a few days in Washington DC and it was a lot of fun seeing things through the boy's eyes (they're 12 and 15). Of course, I couldn't quite see it through their eyes since Caleb is about 6'2" and JJ is 6'5", but seriously I've never spent a day in DC seeing the dinosaur exhibits at the Natural Science Museum.

Johnny was at a business conference and of course, had the chance to talk about Jesus to a lot of computer nerds. But it was extra fun when he did the same thing at the hotel where we were staying. Nothing like knowing your kids know Jesus. They say that of all the things you know in this world that you can't take with you, it's good know that you CAN take your kids with you. There were a couple of guys hanging out at the coffee bar in the hotel, complaining about their wives. One of them nodded at him and said, "Am I right?" Which gave him an opening to talk about what a blessing he feels his wife is and how important it is to care about the people God has given us to love. Sweet.

Later in the month Cindy and I got away to a beach in Mexico. Wow, I miss the beach. I don't know if all my friends in Florida and California are aware that Tennessee is completely missing an ocean. Cindy is doing so much mission traveling that we were glad to have a chance to get away together. As usual, my sweet wife made friends with everyone around us and we spent a lot of time with a mother and son who were there on vacation. The mother is

finding her way back to the Lord, and the son is just coming out of the closet at age 19. As Cindy would say, "Clever God!" You can imagine that we had some great talks along the way.

Later this month we have a prayer request for you. Cindy and I are supposed to minister to a group at a campground. I just heard from a sweet friend that the campground has people sign contracts. When her church tried to hold a retreat at that campground, they were told they had to sign a contract that said all participants would "either be in a Biblical marriage (sic) of one man and one woman or be celibately single." On their website, it only says "practice Biblical morality regarding sexual relations." SO you can imagine our struggle about whether to go with what WE believe is Biblical morality, or wait to find out if they have a problem with us. Some of you know that when my health issues flare up, I can't play guitar well so Cindy has taken guitar lessons and practices every day to be able to minister with me. Please pray that we can peaceably continue to minister there.

July should bring some studio time at long last. My producer, Mark (for whom you've been praying) is able to go back to the studio for short periods of time so we'll try to get at least a few songs recorded. Mark continues to be paralyzed on one side, but he is excited to be back recording and I'm blessed to be back with him. Please pray for us to have wisdom regarding the songs we record and pray for the funds to accomplish all God wants us to do. There is nothing I love more than singing about Jesus.

August brings one of my favorite conferences of the year, the TEN conference (The Evangelical Network) where one can raise one's hands and say, "Hallelujah," and not seem excessively loud! (Can you tell I miss this in my United Methodist Church??? Once I lifted my hand and waved it when someone said something especially great in Bible study. They stopped and said, "Marsha. I see your hand up. Did you have a question?" I had to explain the import of raising one's hand to signify, "*I agree – preach on.*") I'm excited about being among a few noisier Christians 😊.

Later in August I'll be taking some downtime for a surgery. Suffice it to say "female stuff." I know friends from my (quiet) Methodist Church will keep a close eye on me. Cindy's mission trips include one later this month to Uganda, one in August (after my surgery) to Honduras, and one in January to Haiti. Please ALWAYS remember to keep her mission work in your prayers. Any donations to BALM noted for her go entirely to her mission work. Thank you for all you make possible!!

Love and Gratitude, Marsha & Cindy

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. Next is Uganda in June 27- July 10th. Then Honduras August 31st – August 7th. Haiti will be in January, but I don't have dates yet.

Keep her in prayer. Any gifts to BALM noted to Cindy (continue to be tax deductible) will be used for her 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

- ✦ ***Pray for more concerts-starting with YOUR church! And for all the concerts that are in the works right now.***
- ✦ ***Gratitude for your prayers 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 Methodist Council of Bishops who are currently meeting to help prepare a suggested "way forward" for the United Methodist church and the LGBTQ community.***

✦ ***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***

✦ ***Please keep sweet Mark Moseley & his wife Donna K in your prayers for God's healing from his stroke. He will be able to help on a new recording for at least 4 or 5 songs. He wants so badly to be included!***

✦ ***Praises for the songs I finished writing & the ones in progress. Prayers that I tune in on writing the things God wants to say today.***

What You Have to Say

"I still think you are awesome after all these years. Since I have met more than once at TEN conferences, I consider you my TEN Buddy. But most of all, I remember when I was first a Christian, trying to understand myself as being gay...your song "For those tears I died" spoke volumes to me." (Hmmm, all these years, huh? I really am old!!)

(This next one is from a pastor who disagrees with me, but...) "Of course, since everyone on (this website) knows I'm a pastor, saying anything about you gave them a chance to "boldly proclaim" that you are going to hell, and they took turns kicking you. I finally posted again and told them that they are cowards, and that you are the brave one. I said that I hadn't come on to argue about homosexuality; but I saw they were talking about a friend of mine and I just wanted to weigh in and say that I love her. I told them that I believe that practicing homosexuality is wrong too, but that I wondered why other sins that are talked about a lot more, like

pride, idolatry, and ungratefulness seem to qualify someone to stand on a stage while homosexuality disqualifies someone from the same stage. Just in those couple of days on the internet I saw a little picture of what you must have endured for the last 20 years or so, and I am so sorry But I am also proud of you that you haven't let this kind of stuff break you, and that you are still loving and serving God."

Upcoming travel

June 21-23 Sandy Cove Ministries North East, MD. Cindy & I will do a concert and special music for the camp. Info@SandyCove.org

June 24 The Green Church, Glen Mills, PA 11am mini-concert with Cindy. 610-459-5050

June 29-July 10 Cindy at Raise the Roof ministry in Uganda

Aug 9-12 The Evangelical Network ministry conference in Chicago. Get more details at www.TheEvangelicalNetwork.net

(I would love to see you. You can reach us through the website or at ssbalm@aol.com – I know, I'm old, I still use aol!) Check the website for booking openings. www.BalmMinistries.net and re-check the website for updates!

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>