

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



Special videos of songs for online services.

October 2020, Volume 24, Number 10

Well, it seems like the new CD is being blessed by the Holy Spirit from the reports we've been getting from you. We still have over 80 of the new CDs that have been prepaid for by donors, so let me know if you want one. Email me at ssbalm@aol.com and tell me your mailing address for sending the CD. For those of you who are online music people, it should be available anywhere you get music. If it's not, let me know and I'll get it there.

The other thing I want to tell you about CDs is that, since we are going mostly online these days, we have hundreds of older CDs that we are giving away. If your church has a ministry or a "book" store where you would like CDs, please send me the number you can use. Hopefully it's numbers of 10 to 100!! Again, postage is already paid by donors, so email me and let me know. I understand that some of them will have to be thrown out, but I'd like to give away any that might be used.

Last but not least, one of the things that has been successful in the past month, is that I've done video recordings for 6 different services. While Zoom does not seem to do well with singing live on a Zoom connection, churches who are livestreaming or releasing services on Facebook, have asked for special music. This is easy for me to do. I have done some pieces just the way I would do them in a regular concert, with a story and a song sung to recorded accompaniment music. Others I have done with no speaking, just the song, or with my guitar and no

prerecorded accompaniment music. Whatever I do can be tailored to the church's service, message and needs.

Justin Ryan's music video of the song, Stand Closer, is going well. If you haven't seen it, you can see it on his Facebook Page or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/D9ep86Wx0co>. It should probably have "trigger" warnings since it shows some devastating things, but I agree with Justin who thinks that especially white people need to look racism in the face. As James Baldwin famously said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced." Still, I hope you all let us know how you like it.

Another concert/music opportunity was opened in the last few months by former upBeat! artist, Orgena Rose. It's called Rainbow Praise. Orgena organized the group on Facebook and you can join it. Every few weeks she assembles several music ministers from the LGBTQ+ community to stream a concert. Justin and I have been a part of several. Go to Facebook Rainbow Praise to join the group either as an artist or as a listener to get news about future dates and participants.

I think Cindy and I will be downsizing more things going forward, so do try to let us know if there are any of the music items you or your church would like. One last very cool thing is that we also have sheet music for Stand Closer. Let me know if any of you have a solo or choir that would like it, let me know and I'll get you a lead sheet or choir music. If you want to hear a more casual YouTube recording of Stand Closer, I have one at <https://youtu.be/rri9Tvkp2Q>

We are excited that our church, Brentwood United Methodist Church (BUMC), is hosting Jane Clementi for a Zoom class about being what she calls "An Upstander." As all of us have seen, bullying is found everywhere, among all groups, colors, places and ages. You might remember that Jane's son, Tyler Clementi, couldn't live with the bullying he experienced in college when someone live-streamed him in his dorm room with another young man. Jane started the Tyler Clementi Foundation to help make sense of a senseless loss and teach people how to stand up for others being bullied. I'll put the time and the Zoom link in my "Upcoming" section on the other side of the page.

So, one way or another, I hope I see you soon! Send requests and comments to 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. 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. 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. 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 our church home in Brentwood United Methodist, & prayers for the***

Upstander presentation with Jane Clementi.

- ✦ ***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 my daughter who will need surgery in the next couple of weeks***
- ✦ ***Prayers for the new CD/recording (what DO you call them anymore?) and blessings on Justin's music video of Stand Closer.***
- ✦ ***Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts and special music online.***

What You Have to Say

"I wasn't able to watch live, but just finished watching the online concert! Thanks Bobby Jo, Shelly, Marsha Stevens-Pino and Orgena Rose! Amazing, beautiful and uplifting music as always!

♥ *Marsha: I have your beautiful new song in my Apple Music library and Sam and I were just listening to it in the car yesterday!"*

"We are listening to the CD you sent us. What a wonderful surprise -- and on our anniversary. Our radio receiver got zapped when we had a power outage so I got a new one. I hadn't checked out the CD player so your CD was used to make sure I had everything wired correctly. Well, it works fine and the quality is better than the old one. It is so nice to have you with us in our living room."

"Thank you for (sending a live performance of The Real You) the beautiful story and song for our service, of course. Lots of folks loved it, and commented. . . But one was a guy named Bill, who found us when visiting friends here last winter, he lives in Colorado, and has a deep church background. . . was a chaplain at some point. . . he attends our Bible studies, dear, sweet person. He wrote to us yesterday that after listening to you, he was quite "salty", in a good way, with many tears - his first time to hear it. I found myself joyful and teary as well -- I love your gestures, even more dramatic, for some reason, on video, and

how you never tire of the punchline, in the story or the song."

"Thank you for the recording for my bedridden friend (in hospice care). She cried listening to your new song. She insisted on me playing them over and over again. Was good to see her smile. She truly loves your music.

I have a question:

I do live performances via online streaming Facebook - would you be open for me doing your song in one of my sets? Giving you props of course and shout out to your site etc.? Let me know if that is okay with you, if not I totally understand.

Your song is beautiful!

Hope your weekend was fabulous and you continue to stay safe. You are a beautiful vessel of God."

(My answer is always that you can use any song online to which I own the copyright. For Those Tears is owned by Capitol, so you'd have to get permission from them.)

"It has been far too long. I hope that you are both doing well and both safe. I heard your song Stand Closer, Marsha and it touched my heart. It was perfect. I heard it this morning and realized that I wanted to share it with my church this morning in light of some things that have happened locally and nationally. I used youtube. I wanted to reach out and let you know that I had done that and ask for your forgiveness for not asking you first if it was okay. The song is powerful. If you have a standard rate for folk using your songs in worship, I will happily pay."

Upcoming ministry

October 21, 7pm Central Time a presentation from Jane Clementi for the Tyler Clementi Foundation. Here is the Zoom link. Check online for updates.
<https://zoom.us/j/94805812620?pwd=OENVC2k3ZlFwUxIRkFwcHN0L3Azd02>

Please consider reaching me at 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 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>