

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*

<https://youtu.be/HMp0ccNeVQ>

You can see the YouTube of me singing Easter Sunrise at this service.  
*Just as the sun rose over the water*



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Sunrise service was great. All the set up and huddled figures in the dark just make my year. I was able to sing Easter Sunrise just exactly as the sun peeked out. Amazing.

Ok, my new t-shirt says, “Hug me, I’m vaccinated,” and I’ve been wearing it!! It is wonderful to see friends again in person. And, as you can see, I have given up learning how to do selfies and settled in to “too old to care & too glad to see people” mode 😊



From top left, Rev. David Smith, Floss and Kaye, and Mike Brill – and the person who can’t do selfies!

We’ve done a fair amount of catching up with friends and FINALLY places are starting to meet again. Don’t get me wrong. I think we were right to respect one another and care for each other by staying apart, but it does make hugs just that much better.

The United Church of Christ is having its Synod (don’t ask me – just a fancy word for “conference” as far as I can tell) online in July. It’s a world wide conference so in solidarity with those who could not come from various countries, it’s being held virtually for the first time. I was invited to sing in the virtual choir, so I’m getting that together. One of you DID see my post about being in Chicago in August and invited me to sing at a local church. They have not set their summer service time yet, so check back for that, but I will get to sing a mini-concert during the sermon time, thanks to a very generous pastor who gave me her time!

Some of you know that people sometimes describe me as a pioneer in different ways. (Troy Perry is quick to remind me that if you’re really a pioneer, no one is there to cheer for you when you arrive!) But an article that came out this month, pointed out once again, how I am sometimes remembered!

<https://wng.org/articles/a-jesus-music-pioneer-1618980042>

In the meantime, I always stay busy with people struggling their way around church and Jesus – which are sometimes separate things! There are a lot of people feeling very alone, as though life will never have friends in it again. One couple I spent some time with feel like it’s hard that one of them wants to be part of a church and the other just has too much PTSD from religion to even think about it again. Another just feels like he keeps on hitting the end of his rope and yet has a hard time reaching out when he does. I’m sure all of you have friends like this in your lives. I’m not special in that regard. But happily, I have the time right now to spend some time with people.

I do have a special request. I have a friend who lives out of state and has lost the copy of my hymn CD, For Those Who Know it Best. I do not have a CD burner in the trailer since everything is still packed up with the movers. If one of you can make a CD copy of that recording (all the songs are in the Public Domain, so it’s fine to copy it), please let me know so we can replace her CD. She’s pretty shut in and not especially computer savvy. (*And neither am I!*) so I’d love to get that to her.

*If you have a song request you’d like me to record or if you want a facebook live concert for your church, let me know [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com).*

*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. She has also worked on computer programs to help the various schools and missions. 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 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 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 all of our churches to remember that the News is GOOD!*
- ✦ *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 online.*
- ✦ *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**

*“Our church want(ed) to do an outdoor Easter service this year, so I have been preparing the sound system to transport. I told them send some high school kids to haul the stuff up from the basement and help set it up. Surprisingly, my back is not improving with age...”*

*I wanted to bring a couple CDs to use to check out the system and perhaps play prior to or after the service and thought of yours.*

*So I just put on 'You Called Us Good' for some ideas. Every time I hear you, I feel moved. Music is such an incredible gift (and not explainable in engineering terms!)”*

*“Thank you again for all these years of including [ChristianGays.com](http://ChristianGays.com) in your Newsletter. You have no idea how much that means to me, to feel so supported by you. THANK YOU!”*

*“It's awfully nice of you to add your voice when you are here. The day is coming, fast I hope, when we can all get close together and have a big hug and say, it's over. It's over!!!”*

*“I know we don't talk often, but I am glad I keep up with you by reading the newsletter. You mean so much to us and this year under quarantine we've been more grateful than ever to have your music to listen to. Please let us know if you are close by!”*

*“Thank you for making the road for the rest of us. There is so much disregarded due to ignorance. You are Fabulous, my dear.”*

*“Am I admitting my age by saying that I can't believe you are still at it? I feel like some people have fallen away and some have faded away, but you always seem to shine with the same faith you had when I first knew you. Please never stop.”*

**Upcoming ministry**

**May 30** Pass-A-Grille

Community Church special music at 10 am service

**June 26** 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Viera FL (private party)

**July 11-18** Marsha part of virtual choir for UCC General Synod

**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](http://www.fc.org)

**Please consider reaching me at [ssbalm@aol.com](mailto: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](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>*