

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



I knew Santa liked me best 😊

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I have so much to be grateful for – and we always start with you, since you have enabled us to minister all these years. What a blessing!

Most of you have heard by now the hard news that my friend Donna Kay Moseley died on November 14th. I think the loss was hardest for her husband (of course), Mark, who is not only sad, but disabled. Besides his feelings of loss, he has to find out who can care for him. Donna Kay did that for over a year after his stroke. His left sided hemiparesis (paralyzed left side) is complete. He has no use at all of his left arm or leg. Please do pray for him and how we can help him prepare for his future.

The other person struggling is Justin Ryan. He was the kid that Donna Kay never had and she was the mom he didn't have for many years. His own mom thanked Donna Kay for caring for him all the time she was separated from Justin by the family's beliefs about homosexuality. When his mom, Laurie, did come around, she was very generous in expressing her gratitude that Donna Kay had been there for him. Justin's eulogy for Donna Kay was amazing and everyone was hugging each other and in tears when he closed with the song "Good." You can read it, if you want to, on Justin's FaceBook page.



Justin and his moms – it took a village!

We appreciate all your prayers!

Toward the end of November, I had a new experience –

imagine that, at 66 years old 😊. A friend asked me to sing for a Healing Housing dinner. Healing Housing is for women who have been through an alcohol/drug abuse rehab and need a place to live while they get on their feet. I'm thinking bring my guitar and sing some songs with the young women. My biggest concern was knowing songs that young people know. Instead it turned out I was billed as "the entertainment" for the fundraiser for Healing Housing. They had previously booked someone who was on The Voice, but since I said I would do it without charge, they had me. This was held at the very grandest home of all the grand homes in Brentwood, Tennessee. In attendance were just 40 people, but...let's just say they raised \$68K at the dinner, so they were people who were able to give that much. The main thing was, that I was not the "music minister," or "the worship leader," or "the songwriter." I was "the entertainment" for people accustomed to a fairly high level of entertainment.

Of course, what really happened was that the Holy Spirit moved as always and people ended up with tears in their eyes and hugging each other and praying together...and raising a lot of support for the women in Healing Housing. Am I weird to do ministry all this time and still be surprised when God just decided to take over???

Cindy is back in Uganda for a couple of weeks. She talked her employer into donating laptops to the school she works at in Uganda (1300 students). It was important to have the same computers with the same version of Microsoft Office on them so that when she was teaching the teachers, many of whom have not used computers, all the instructions were the same. (It's too hard to do the "for those of you who have version 7A use the dropdown menu on the left, but if you have 7B use the one on the right" kind of thing.) She was able to message me last night and let me know that they all came to her first class as soon as they were done with their days. This meant that she *started* the first class at 9pm their time! They really are such dedicated and loving teachers and classroom workers.

Cindy heads to Haiti in January, and some of you have already donated to her trip there and we appreciate it! I'll head to the Q Christian conference in Chicago and to another meeting of the "evangelical Christian" group organized by Union Seminary.

Booking is open for next year. Let's fill up some dates! Also please remember that our bookkeeping for year end notes your year-end donations by the date YOU put on your donation (NOT the date we deposit it). See you soon!

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!

Cindy's Mission Work

Many thanks for those of you who have chosen to support Cindy on her mission trips. She is in Uganda still this year, Dec. 2-14. 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 over the death of his wife. Since she was his sole caregiver after his stroke in June 2017, 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.*

What You Have to Say

"Your 'entertainment' the other night was my very best Christmas present."

"Every time I hear you, you surprise me again. The Lord really speaks to hearts through your music."

"I'm only now coming to understand why I just sat stonefaced through your last few concerts and yet I read your memoir with rapt attention when it came out. I wanted to thank you for courageously and steadfastly sharing your story. It has allowed me to begin to accept those traumatic experiences from early childhood that my conscience mind would not allow me to recognize before. As I begin integrating those fragmented pieces, I am able to see how pivotal your stories and the times we have shared have been in my life. For that and your persistent march forward, I am profoundly grateful."

Someone reposted this article recently. Different insights!

<https://uncpressblog.com/2011/03/24/david-w-stowe-coming-out-of-the-jesus-movement/>

Upcoming travel

Dec 2-12 Cindy returns to Uganda to install computers and teach the teachers for these 1300 students how to use them.

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>