

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



Donna Kay and Mark Moseley with me a few years ago

August 2018, Volume 21, Number 8

I am so grateful that all of you hold us in your prayers. This has been a very emotional month and we need you!

Most of you remember that I wrote you last year about Mark Moseley, the engineer and producer of most of my recordings – all of the ones in Nashville. He had a debilitating stroke last year causing paralysis on his entire life side and it's confined him to a wheelchair and affected his speech and some mentation. His was the only studio recording openly gay Christian music for many years and he did it all because (you'll have to imagine the southern accent) he said, "Well, last I heard Christianity was about lovin' one another, so..." He put up with a fair amount of razzing – both good natured and otherwise – from his cronies at other studios.

Just 10 days ago, his wife Donna Kay told me she had what she thought was vertigo and it was making her eyes feel blurry. Since she has been Mark's sole caregiver, she had Mark go to a rehab facility for a short time. Then in very short order she saw her family doctor when sent her to a neurologist who sent her to a neurosurgeon who said she had a brain tumor. Within two days they sent her through ER to surgery to get a biopsy. Just before they went into surgery, Donna Kay gave me power of attorney for health care and had them show me her chart. I could see immediately that she had a GBM or a glioblastoma multiforme. Justin Ryan was with me all day in the waiting room and I explained it to him and we tried to prepare each other for the outcome. It took several hours longer than they thought it would, because each time they went into her brain for a sample, they kept just getting dead tissue – none of the tumor. It has done so much damage already that it is inoperable. It is all through the left hemisphere of her brain.

By the time she came home the next day, she was already blind in the left hemisphere – so blind in the left half of each eye; something that is much harder to navigate than losing one eye. So she has gone from being entirely independent and the caregiver for her husband, to being completely dependent in just about every area of life. And

finding she has a very short time to get her affairs and her heart and her life together.

Our church here, Brentwood United Methodist Church, has been great. Even though Donna Kay lives almost an hour from there (depending on Nashville's terrible traffic), they've been out to pray with her, put her in our bulletin for over 7500 people to be praying for and made her a prayer "shawl". Several of the ministers and staff contact us regularly to check in on how she's doing.

To so many people in Nashville, Cindy and I are their "gay friends." To Mark and Donna Kay, we've always been their "Christian friends," and I've always been their nurse, so a lot of Donna Kay's care and questions are coming through us. Cindy has organized the MANY people who want to help into teams to cover everything we can think so that Donna Kay can concentrate on her medical care. But she's told me more than once that she just hasn't been a good enough Christian. I finally said, "Right. I know that...because none of us are. That's the WHOLE thing. As Christians we rely on Jesus' forgiveness, that what he did on the cross and in his life was *enough* for us and we trust that." I'm not usually so direct with people as you all know. But I had to be very clear that every single one of us has that option – to trust God. The ONLY thing we are responsible for is passing that good news along.

She did that yesterday when we finally got in to the oncologist who will direct the rest of her medical care. He gave her an elaborate combination of radiation, chemotherapy and a brand new electrical therapy and said if she wanted to try ALL of those things every day, it had the potential to extend her life by 3 months. She immediately looked at this kind and honest doctor and said, "I'm so sorry. It must hurt your young heart to have to give people this kind of news day after day. I can't imagine how hard this must be for you." Well, there she was. Back to her old self and passing along the grace she has been given. He was very surprised and just stopped to hug her for several seconds.

All that to say that I am SO so sorry to be out of commission for a few weeks. I have a surgery of my own coming up on August 16th, so we need prayer all around. I am devastated to be missing the TEN conference (The Evangelical Network) since Balm Ministries is a part of TEN and I am always incredibly blessed by my time there. I hope to be able to travel some after a few weeks of my own recovery. I also got into the studio to record 4 new songs yesterday, which some of YOU made possible, so I'll be finishing those sometime in September and let you know when I can be back out and about. Please hold us before the throne every time you think of it!

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. She is Uganda right now. 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. She has some picture posted on her Facebook page and they've made a video we'll try to get up on the BALM website soon.

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 my surgery and my healing and complete recovery.*
- † *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 & of course Donna K's brain tumor, treatment, & peace.*
- † *Praises for the songs I finished writing & the ones in progress. Prayers I can get at least this short recording done and ready for your to hear.*
- † *Prayers for wisdom for me when I'm bridging gaps. Peggy Campolo says the only bad thing about being a bridge is that you get walked on by both sides!*
- † *Prayers for ChristianGays.com – the outreach they do which is so inclusive, and their gracious support of us.*

What You Have to Say

"Who knew that when you came to Nashville in the 80s to record the first openly LGBTQ Christian music, that God would have you here when the owners of that studio need you so badly over 30 years later? I'm honored to be your friend and someone who has played on so many of your CDs."

"It's amazing to know people like you and CJ (that's Cindy) in Nashville. So much music here is just to make people feel like they're famous or important. Playing on the songs you write makes me feel like I'm a part of something bigger than fame or

fortune. I may not be gay, but I know Christian love when I see it and I can hear the beauty in your music and see the Truth in you. I'm not trying to just polish up ____ (I can't use the word he used here, but it refers to trying to made a crummy song sound good by playing good guitar/bass/drums etc on it), with your music I'm just getting to be a part of making an already great songwriter sound your best."

Upcoming travel

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
Watch for Boston area concerts in the fall!

Oct 18-20 Beersheba Springs, TN campground women's retreat – everyone is welcome. Go to BUMC.net and search for Breathing Space or Women's Retreat to register, or call the church for information.

(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>