

The Marshan Chronicles

For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.



Ministering with Cindy at Beyond These Walls MCC with Rev. Suzie and Linda

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So the first of the 50th anniversary tour year started in FL the night before I turned 50 years old in Christ at Beyond These Walls MCC where I got to minister with Cindy – always my favorite thing to do. That was followed by the Sunday morning service, on my exact re-birthday, at Suncoast Cathedral MCC in Venice Florida where pastors Nancy Wilson and Vickie Miller gave Cindy and me the whole morning service. Any time I'm with Nancy is a sort of homecoming for me, to the first person who made me believe that a gay woman could be a powerful minister in Christ.

The very next thing was preparation to head to northern California for a week and a half where Connie Barker did an amazing job at making ministry possible. I flew in Friday morning and immediately went to Dapstep ministries where Pastor David Medina was having an intimate gathering for pray and praise in English and en español. Wonderful quiet start to the tour with especially gracious people.

By Sunday morning I was ministering at Connie's home church, Haven Church in Berkeley. This was fun – a very informal church where Sunday School for kids basically happens right in the "sanctuary" with the regular service. They have breakout groups during church at times to discuss with the Scripture or message means to each one; a sort of adventurous service. They were very welcoming and my story was new for most of them. Rev. Leah is always a great host.

The next night, we went "into the city" (San Francisco) for an interfaith night at a place called Manny's. There were people from Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, along with a gay Catholic deacon, a transgender Episcopal priest and a Gay United Methodist pastor (my friend, Izzy Alvaran). What a fun interchange with some surprising sharing. We talked about how Jewish tradition is to use every Scripture and

fight out long discussions (midrash) about what it all means, but the Muslim believer there (truly dedicated to the prophet and full of awe for the practice of Islam) talked about how that kind of discussion would not be possible for him in his faith. We also talked about how Christians *say* they believe Jesus and follow Him and His teachings, but in fact fail to do that way too often.

My next stop was Wednesday night with sweet Ed Ness to record the blog he is doing with Charlotte Ashlock which was hysterical fun. I can't wait till they launch it. Then it was off to the Ralston White Memorial retreat with Connie, Sylvia, Rev. Leah and a new friend, Matt Nightingale, for singing and an amazing adventure. It turns out this retreat was the setting for the first-time-anyone-knows-of that religious leaders and the gay community got together to figure out how to interact with one another. The amazing Kathy Baldock, whose books you **MUST** read and whose publishing company published my book, Skyped in to tell us the story. It seems that in 1964 a United Methodist Church (UMC) and clergy from a few other churches met with members of the gay community, including the legendary Del Martin and Phyllis Martin. The religious leaders were taken to gay bars, a gay picnic area – other places where people were hanging out – to make the community real to the church. The upshot was that Glide Memorial started the Council of Religion and the Homosexual where ministers acknowledged "the role that religion played in the persecution of gays and promised to initiate dialogue in their denominations on the churches' stand toward same-gender sexuality." Wow, 55 years later.

My final CA stop was Oak Life church in Oakland. Ed Ness made a short video of what "church music" used to be like, and then video of Lonnie Frisbee and of me in 1971 and told how this changed the face of Christian Music – and created CCM (Contemporary Christian Music). SO that was the set up for my concert in their Sunday morning service. This was so much fun. I was probably the oldest person there by 15 years, so they all needed the intro! The theater was full and I shared my story and music. I know people think I should be accustomed to seeing God move – heaven knows after 50 years; you think I'd be better at trust than this. But watching people get the message, cry through it, hang on to it, pray and talk afterward, was great. We're still wounded. Jesus is still healing. Fabulous tour. MANY thanks to those of you who made it possible for me to book these places! It was priceless.

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 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. Next is back to Uganda for more computer training for teachers, then she'll be in Vietnam and Cambodia in January!

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

- ‡ *Prayers for my health. Sometimes it feels like a whack-a-mole game!*
- ‡ *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, & prayers for the changes that need to be*

made. Special prayers for guidance for us and our role/s here.

‡ *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.*

‡ *Please keep Mark Moseley in your prayers. He was able to get back in the studio with help from friends.*

‡ *Praises for the songs I finished writing & the ones in progress. I did finish recording 4 of them you might like. One is posted at the bottom of the 1st page.*

‡ *Prayers for me to be able to set up more concerts for the 50th anniversary of "For Those Tears I Died" Consider YOUR church. Please contact me. We have supporters helping with travel. Pray about it & write me at ssbalm@aol.com*

What You Have to Say

"Extra special - to be blessed by the ministry of Marsha Stevens-Pino! My life is changed because of Marsha and her ministry. My very first time attending an MCC service was to attend a Marsha ministry concert (late 90s). I had just left pastoring in the Assemblies of God and thought life in ministry was over, but God's message through Marsha said differently. Thank you Marsha, it was great to see you and Cindy today...as others were served, it occurred to me that the two people who have had the greatest spiritual impact in my life are strong spiritual women: Rev. Nancy and Marsha! I thank God for them."
"Marsha, thank you, thank you, thank you for sharing your story and this song with the world. Thank you for

trusting the Spirit's leading in your life.

I'm a trans & queer pastor of an affirming church in rural Arkansas (we just got started having worship services earlier this year!) I grew up singing this song and always felt a connection to it. Now I'm so excited to add it to our worship set list at our inclusive church. Bless you."

"...I immediately ran over and purchased the book about Marsha Stevens Pino. I had NO idea about her life. Odd how we can love a song, but not know the person or the story within the song. I will definitely enjoy this read! Blessings to you and this work you are doing!"

Upcoming travel

July 1 MCC General conf opening service with Troy Perry

July 2 MCC General Conf Orlando, FL www.mcccchurch.org Just For Those Tears at the morning service as far as I know ☺

July 14 & Aug 4 an hour of special music, 3pm at Somerby Senior Living, Franklin TN

Aug 8-10 The Evangelical Network conference in Holiday Inn Elk Grove, IL <https://www.ten.lgbt/>

Aug 16-18 CenterPeace Retreat, Beaverton OR

Aug 23-25 Tallahassee area, check back for times and locations

Sept 4-9 I'll be in Southern Calif area – email to be scheduled in.

(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>