

# The Marshan Chronicles

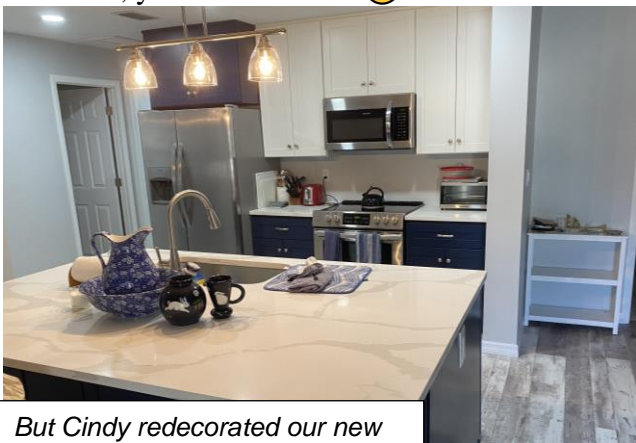
*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*

The trailer park was a wonderful place to stay while we found a new home. We said goodbye to our neighbors there.



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The trailer park we've been in has been very nice. Our little trailer was treated just as nicely as RVs that literally cost 100 times as much as our rig! If you saw Nomadland, you have an idea 😊.



*But Cindy redecorated our new condo SO beautifully that it was nice to move on in.*

People kept asking us if a condo that is less than 1000 square feet is going to be ok for our retirement life. So we tried to figure out the square footage of even our largest RV – a little over 300 square feet – and the trailer we've lived in since January – about 100 square feet – and we've decided it is palatial!!

Now, it's time to be singing again 🎵 and I'll start this Sunday at Pass -A-Grille Community Church. Our stupendous organist, Dale Williams, can sightread ANYthing including the most difficult Dvorak. But she does not "play by ear." So my wonderful Steven

Couch, who just finished his Masters in Music, wrote out a piano part to Stand Closer. This is huge since so many more formal churches really require live accompaniment but often can't provide it. Dale makes me sound good! And it is a powerful song to be singing to a congregation who is mostly white, not yet officially "open and affirming," and has members for whom "being woke" is ... a challenge to their politics. I am looking forward to the responses.

Speaking of which, you might think of having Cindy and me come to your church even if they are still in the searching mode regarding the LGBTQ community. (I am just fascinated by all the euphemisms different churches have – Open and Affirming, Reconciling, More Light, Welcoming – to be able to say "we like having queers in church.") But, Balm Ministries has had a lot of success in putting a face and a theology to the community in question and we love doing it, so think about that.

Cindy will be retiring from her main job in December which will leave more time than ever for travel and ministry – and of course, her mission trips.

I ended the last newsletter with a request for someone to get one of my CDs, For Those Who Know it Best, to a friend who is shut in. I couldn't do it because all my things were still packed up for the move. Mary Pearson, who started ChristianGays.com, immediately let me know she would take care of that for me. But she not only sent that one CD, which was a recording of hymns. She included many of my other CD's in the package. Here is the note I got back from the shut in friend, Sandie.

"My nurse's aide is here today and she went down to get my mail. When she brought it back I was so happy there was a package, but it was so much more than I expected. I was excited when I opened it and I told her about your song. I was witnessing to her about your ministry a week or two ago and told her I really wanted to be able to listen to the CD. So praise the Lord hallelujah thank you Jesus and thank you Marsha. I really appreciate it. I am highly favored and most richly blessed! Thanks for tracking down this CD and the FOUR more that came with it which I had not expected!" So I wanted to say a BIG thank you to Mary for stepping up and being such a blessing to someone who really needed it!!

*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 IN REAL LIFE – hurray!*
- ✦ *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**

*"I read the article about Children of the Day. I was at Calvary Chapel between 1970 and '73. Children of the Day was my favorite group. You had a unique sound and you were more polished and professional than most of the other groups. I still find myself singing All Breathing Life sometimes." (Children of the Day was our group in the 70's. My sister Wendy, me, and our friends Russ Stevens and Pete Jacobs. You can hear the 4 of us singing "All Breathing Life" at <https://youtu.be/pN1IVvjgZYk> )*

*"Thank you... I was part of early Calvary and saw you many times. The first night you guys played Come To The Water it really spoke to my Spirit and continues to do so after more than 50 years."*

*"Come to the Waters made me cry every single time we sang it in youth group. It really touched me. I'm in Australia & bought the Come to the Waters Album from the bargain bin at a Christian bookshop. Loved it*

*from the start. Did a duet of the song at a Lee Homoki revival meeting back in the 80's."*

*"I promoted a "Children of the Day" concert at a church in Livermore CA in 1976 or 77 and it was my first... still shocked they agreed to come to our little church and do a show... 45 years later I'm still working as a promoter, although no longer with just Christian artists. You guys were so easy to work with and friendly beyond words. Set a great example for a teenage kid."*

*"Marsha, I truly appreciate your story 🙏 You've brightened lights for me and many others with little hope 🙏 My life and Faith changed 18 yrs ago at age 60! My double life was worth it but I feel at peace with God 🙏 I continue to play your CD's and love every song, and You for making it possible 🙏 Hugs."*

**Upcoming ministry**

**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.fcio.org](http://www.fcio.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 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>*