

# The Marshan Chronicles

*For regular supporters of BALM Ministries.*

Cindy and I pulling in to the RV park in Florida – worn out from the drive, but happy to be back.



## **March 2021, Volume 25, Number 3**

We are happily at “home” in our little trailer parked in Palmetto, FL right now. It’s a huge RV park filled with the kind of rigs I traveled in for decades – motor homes 40 feet long, fifth wheels even longer – and we are in our little 23 foot travel trailer in the middle of them. Happily, we like each other, so the one little room with the bed, the kitchen and Cindy’s work set up is fine for us. (I think it was Jason and DeMarco who once said they got to count double time in their relationship for the years when they were NEVER more than 20 feet apart – so to someone else it might be 20 years together, but we get a 10 year bump on that for being attached at the hip most of the time.)

The puppies are of course elated that everyone is in the same room at the same time. Doggy heaven.

I have told some of you that I would share Cindy’s elaborate get up for work-from-home in a little trailer. You know those sort of booth-type dining areas that trailers have? Well, she tore out the booth benches, put in an office chair and rigged up quite a station. One of the reasons we are at the RV park is that they have a fiber optic internet to each space. I’ll bet that is actually meaningful to one or two of you, but the bottom line is, she can keep her fulltime job here.

We decided to get a condo in Bradenton, FL which is a little south of St Petersburg (both in direction and in price!) and we expect to stay here.

Our mail will continue to go to PO Box 609, Nolensville TN 37135 for the next couple of months. We seem to be getting efficient mail forwarding here. We’ll give you plenty of warning when it changes.



Last but NOT LEAST, I got to sing again. In church. With people!! Last Sunday I sang 4 songs with my friend Brian Feist at Pass-agrille Community church. They did provide us with these “singer-friendly” masks. If you want to know how funny they look, you’ll have to search for them yourselves. Brian and I could not bear to post a pic!!

Some of you have been very kind to pray for a struggle I have had with a mega-church that used lyrics to my song, “For Those Tears I Died.” They changed it very little to “For Your Tears I Died” and copyrighted and recorded it as their own. I really have to say that 1Cor 6 is always meaningful to me and I would not take other believers to court. Some people thought my decision was based on whether it was financially “worth it” to sue someone. That is not at all the point. But I have really felt the part of that chapter that says “why would you not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded.” That feels like a good strong word for it. *Defrauded*. Very shortly after someone sent me the video of the “new” song, one of the international companies that distributes *my* songs happened to send me a list of countries where *my* songs have been played in the last 3 months. It was a very healing list. God is so good to me. There were over 25 countries, including several European Union countries, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Iceland, India and Romania. It was back to a new form of an old question for me: Do I want to be well-known, wealthy, celebrated and have millions of likes, or do I want to pursue the commandment of Jesus’ last seven words: “Unto the uttermost parts of the earth”?

*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 on the BalmMinistries site or by emailing me at*

[ssbalm@aol.com](mailto:ssbalm@aol.com).

*With 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.

Unfortunately, as you might guess, the trips for the past year have been canceled so far because of the concerns over COVID 19. 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.

*Please be assured that all of the donations you sent are in savings and waiting for her opportunities to travel again!*

Right now, we are writing to the kids we support in Africa, and Cindy is on Habitat Builds and other mission work. We will let you know when we 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, Both vaccine shots! & hearing God's voice*
- ‡ *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**

*"So very nice to think of your epic MCC music ministry—how many years, Marsha, has it been 37? What year did you come out (and shock the nation)? I've lived with that admiration and curiosity since the first time I heard of churches ripping out the page in their hymnal with their once-favorite "For Those Tears..." hymn, I have been reminded of you're role in our freedom and encouragement each time another great CCM artist has come out.*

*You've been a part of all of our healing, and I thank you."*

*"Best Wishes and Love as you've returned to Fla!!*

*Be well & happy! You don't know me but I first met you and your Ministry Music in 2000 when I arrived at Trinity, Sarasota!! Rev. Nancy's and your beautiful words began the major change to*

*my life, and I am forever grateful!  
Be well!*

*"I find it hard to believe you are moving again. Doesn't seem like you were in Tenn that long. As you have always travelled here, I feel bad I never took a trip there as you and Cindy, Justin, and Marcus Young are all in the area. I had to travel so much when I was working, I got rather burned out on it.*

*Most importantly, as I am sure I have told you before, you are a real gift to my life. As an engineer, I operate on logic and physical principles- I like to understand how things work. And music defies this logic. It has the power to evoke emotions unexpectedly, enrich our lives, and cause us to think more deeply.*

*Blessings to you and Cindy. I hope the move goes smoothly."*

### **Upcoming ministry**

**March 20** online memorial for Frank Zerilli, precious friend and amazing historian of MCC

**August 12-15** 2021, The Evangelical Network (TEN) conference in Chicago. If you go to church in the area, let me know. I'm available!

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>*