

Concert Presentations: Family Missions



2020: Issue 1

"I will praise the Lord at all times; praise shall be always in my mouth.
My soul will glory in the Lord that the poor may hear and be glad.
Magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together." Psalm 34:2-4

Pratt Family Update:

Elijah and Bruce have been hard at work for the new program. Dispersed among the day to day of music, business, and academics, are the plethora of other activities that come with this season. As I type this, Bruce is splitting wood while Marietta is dragging over the big, black plastic sled to help him stack wood. It is warm out; 45 degrees. Bruce and I (Jessie) took a walk this morning, trampling the snow into slush, in order to gather pine needles. We just heard about pine needle tea, and all of the health benefits it offers. Lots of vitamin C and A! We are eager to try all of the varieties! Right now, a big pot is on the woodstove, and pine fragrance is filling the entire downstairs as the steam wafts throughout.

We were curious what our guests the previous night would think of our little homestead, as I drove them for the first time down our incredibly steep hill in our aging Subaru. I do caution our guests, and implore them to allow me to drive them, unless, "you have a high under-carriage, studded snow-tires or chains, and all-wheel drive." Thankfully, our guests seemed to appreciate both the ride and the ambiance! These guests have been the most recent in a rather amazing beginning of a new venture: music lessons.

Those interested have been found at the Home-school Group, the Christian Mother's Group, the local store....all curious about the same thing: music. And so, Bruce has begun a "give back" project, which of course involves our entire family.

Wednesdays, we make sure that the upstairs is heated, with the woodstove blazing to take out the chill for Thursdays. Thursdays arrive, and so do the students. So far, the interest has been among children, ages 5-12, along with their mothers!! However, we do have one dad who seems just as enthusiastic, if not more! As Marietta and Elijah entertain those who came with 15 month old babies, of which there are two, Bruce

teaches piano and music theory. These lessons can be a half-hour, or can last as long as two hours, depending on the enthusiasm of the student. Bruce is often only halted by the insistent wailing of the younger sibling, who finally decides they have had enough, and need a snack and bedtime....

We find this incredibly rewarding, as Bruce, and the rest of us, feel so grateful to be able to offer such a rewarding gift as music to those who truly enjoy it. A final icing on the cake: the majority of those who want to learn desire to do so for the purpose of playing hymns, worshiping and praising God!

In other news:



Bruce used his rock-climbing experience from days gone by, as well as his incredible ability to read and apply knowledge, from wiring to welding, to install our brand new solar panels! Being off-grid just became much more convenient! Thank you, God, for the sun!!

Elijah and **Marietta** had a fun time participating in choral for home-schoolers through Plymouth State University. The final concert was wonderful, and included the song, "*Angels Watching Over Me*." This season offers so many fun activities!



This picture is at the top of our drive-way!!

Elijah auditioned for the New Hampshire All-State, which is a student orchestra that gets together for one weekend in April for one large performance. He auditioned along with other students from all across New Hampshire. This was his first audition.

He came out saying that it was fun, and a good experience, but that he had done terribly! Imagine our surprise, therefore, when we learned, late that night, that he had been accepted! And, although we did need to decline the offer, that he had also qualified for the chamber orchestra! Indeed, praise and glory be to God, whose hand was in this every step of the way. While Elijah does, of course, put in the effort and time, we never lose sight of the fact that these are gifts from God!

-Elijah turned 16 years old this fall. For his big birthday, while it wasn't exactly a car....



...it's what he wanted! And it even is one of those new "bigger wheel" bikes that can go in snow :)

Elijah has also been cooking! Much to the family's delight....pizza, home made lasagna...everything possible to thwart Jessie's diet...His own recipe, of course!!

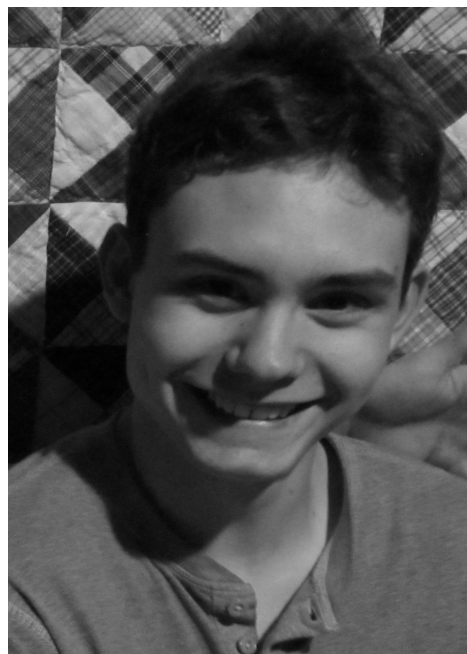


Marietta just finished reading Psalms in the Old Testament and the Gospel of John in the New Testament. This has prompted wonderful conversation and exploration.



She also just had her eye examination. She jumped from -2.75 to -4.25 in her vision, in under a year! The silver lining is.... new glasses!! You will be seeing a “new Marietta” in 2020!

Molshky also had a birthday (as we all do...) He is now 10 years old. He likes to spend his golden years sleeping, or protecting us from the attacking, ferocious, and all-together terrifying...squirrels.



Christopher is Bruce's oldest son, whom is seldom seen on tour, as his primary residence is in Colorado with his Mom and family, however we LOVE to talk about him! He did stay with us this last December, and the exciting news is that he was accepted into his first college choice in Nebraska, for the fall. He is coming ever closer to his dream of becoming a pilot!

Christopher went on a mission trip in April 2019 to Puerto Rico. We are excited to see where 2020 takes him!

Jessie has so much enjoyed supporting her family in all they do. Special walks with her husband, Bruce, driving Elijah to and from Youth Group (or relaxing as Elijah now drives *her!*), finishing the book Heidi, and beginning Little Women with Marietta. Jessie feels pretty blessed and thankful to live this life!!



Glasses are a family trait; Chris has contact lenses!

We love mail!

Email us: ConcertPresentations@yahoo.com
or snail: The Pratts P.O. Box 487 Rumney, NH 03266



We said farewell to ***Jingle Joy Spirit Truth Love Angel Heart (Jingle Joy, for short)*** this past fall. We know she is somewhere happy, chasing leaves and shadows, dozing in the sun, and hopefully befriending her previous adversaries, the chipmunks of the woodpile...

All in all, our family is so happy, and we owe it all to God and his saving Grace, through his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. We are so happy to be able to share a small portion of our lives with you. We feel God's love daily, in every second that we are together. Every moment is truly a gift, and we are honored to be able to share this time with you!!



Pratt Fun Facts:

- The inspiration for Marietta's name came from Bruce's grandmother, his first piano teacher.
- Marietta's favorite animal is the horse, and her favorite color is blue.
- Elijah loves astronomy, and has an 8' telescope with which we could see the rings of Saturn.
- Jessie grew up on The Eastern Shore of Maryland, where she rode horses and frequented the ocean.

Next Issue Available in April 2020

A Moral Consideration

As was explained earlier, Elijah auditioned for the NH All-State, and was accepted, both into the April experience, and the chamber orchestra, which was to perform January 11, 2020. We were so excited! And therefore, perhaps a bit more perplexed by the situation which came before us, where we felt we had to make a very difficult choice.

When the student auditions, he/she does not know what music they might be responsible for, if accepted. We were emailed the music at 10:15 PM on December 15, 2019 for January. The music was by a musician whom (surprisingly!) we had never heard of: Peter Warlock. On listening to the piece, we found it rather catchy; just what Elijah would love! As we listened, we researched Peter, at which point I abruptly halted the music.

The next day, at our insistence that Elijah do his own research, we found that Peter was involved in the occult. Heavily. To the point he changed his name. As a person, he was interested in money, for the purpose of drinking and engaging in some pretty immoral pursuits. As a musician, by his own words, he tried to use music to summon demons. He came to a sad end.

Now, are we being silly? So many famous musicians were of questionable character, and participated in questionable groups and activities. Yet none had been so blatantly opposed, in all ways, to Biblical teaching. Never had we, or really, Elijah, been faced with such a hard choice.

Scripture Says:

*Galatians 5:19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

*Revelation 21:8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

There are, of course, boundless Old Testament Scriptures in regards to this topic.

I'm sure you have guessed Elijah's decision. As this is something we were all excited about, it was not a fun situation, as it seems so harmless, and Elijah's decision, potentially unpopular! And yet, when viewed with obedience to God, so simple....