

Concert Presentations: Family Missions



2020: Issue 3

“put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.”

-Colossians 3:10-11

Pratt Family Update:

The luna moth lives for, at most, a week, neither eating nor sleeping. It's purpose: to renew the next generation. This little moth was found by Marietta beside the goat pen in the woods. We brought it over to our outdoor swing to take in its full beauty. Then, we released it into the air and watched it soar through the woods, over the trees till it disappeared out of sight. It served as a sweet reminder about the preciousness of life, and the beautiful, gracious love which the Lord has for all of us.

Today, we roused ourselves somewhere between 6 and 7am. It was a bit humid and misty outside, yet still cool, as Elijah put the kettle on to make oatmeal, grape-nuts, and tea. Our world has indeed changed, and a number of chores need to be done first thing. Before breakfast, the goats had to be given their grain, fresh-water, hay, and then let out to greet the day. We also let out the chickens and ducks. Grey, who has indeed shown himself to be a rooster, let out his triumphant, and much practiced, cock-a-doodle-doo! One by one, they hopped out, while beneath, Mr. Quack and Mrs. Peep waddled out of their duck house, exclaiming loudly over their freshly filled kiddie pool.

Returning inside, I met a joyful Pony. This may be confusing, but it will be explained later. After doing my commitments with Pony, walking Molshky, our old Shepherd dog, and making sure the inside was acceptable, it was back outside to weed five of the twenty raised beds. Today, we weeded

carrots, zucchini, cucumbers, squash, onions and tomatoes. We are very excited, as our very first "first fruits" finally came in the form of a zucchini. We gave thanks and praise to God, and in His Name, gifted it to a neighbor!

Finally, we headed inside, where breakfast awaited. Marietta had fed Wish of Colors, a very loved betta fish, and Tobit the cat.



Tobit, in one of his favorite bug pursuits

And so here we are, all members of the family (minus the typer) hard at work practicing their instruments. Marietta will practice an hour and a half before her hour lesson/fun time with Daddy (Bruce). Bruce is in the neighboring room, fingers flying up and down the keyboard. Elijah, our teenager extraordinaire, is upstairs away from the more active downstairs. He is either reading his Bible or praying, before the 4-5 hours he will put into the violin.

Following music, after lunch, will be school time! And finally, we will end with where we feel led. This might be a walk down to the river for a dip, or an outside house project. We shall see....

And where do we go from here? Will bringing our music to residents through our Concert Presentations resume in September, as we hope? Or are we on a more permanent hold? God knows. And THAT is a comforting thought!! For now, we are hard at work, in all areas, content on our little Homestead.

A Path of Truth, A Life of Love Homestead

Potatoes, Carrots, Sweet Potatoes, Onions, Garlic, Beets, Radishes, Corn, Chard, Zucchini, Butternut Squash, Cucumbers, Lettuce, Asparagus, Kidney Beans, Pinto Beans, Lima Beans, Pole Beans, Tomatoes, Peas, Peppers, Chili Peppers, Peppermint, Spearmint, Oregano, Basil, Dill, Chives, Sunflowers, Chamomile, Lemon balm, Blueberries, Strawberries, Apples, Grapes, Pears, Olives, Figs, Elderberries, Chestnuts, Hazelnuts, Maple Sugar, Pine Needles, Chaga, Dandelions, Blackberries.....Chickens, Ducks, Goats, Dogs, Cat, andBees????? Maybe someday!!!!

Bruce: After so many construction projects, poor Bruce's hands needed a bit of a rest. However, much to the joy of the entire family, he is now back fully at the piano. He is so enjoying his daily lesson time with Marietta, his duet time with Elijah on violin, and acquiescing to his wife's (that's me) plea to learn a hymn, which he and she can harmonize together in song. He is also back to composing, which is truly a wonderful gift. Bruce is also the champion of never-ending patience when his wife lets him know of another area of the fence to be fixed, or a part of the barn that needs fine-tuning, or wasps that need to be taken care of. He is also still giving his phone piano lessons, which are a highlight to his week. I often can't pull Bruce away from the lesson until dinner, at which time I have to whisper that his food will be getting cold....



~A prayer by Marietta, being put to song with Daddy~
I put my worries in Your hands,
And pray that You fill me with peace
And make strong my faith in You.
And please help me love and forgive.

Marietta visits some of the beloved horses in town



Marietta: has finally gotten to experience life as a “farmer.” She loves it! Her hardest challenge: Accepting help from Mommy when she can’t reach the hay. Right now, she is exclaiming over the tad poles and minnows she gathered from the creek while she awaits her piano lesson with Daddy. Schoolwork is this afternoon, and I know she is looking forward to more fractions....

Horsing around with Elijah



Elijah: is following in the footsteps of his dad. If Bruce is not around, Elijah can be counted on to meet all requests competently and patiently. He is truly the force behind our massive garden, and we are so impressed with the time, research, and energy that went into producing it.

Elijah is still pouring his passion into his music; first and foremost violin. He also thoroughly enjoys his piano, and relaxing with his classical guitar. Did I mention he finally was given a cello? And he actually sounds quite good! His goal: A quartet.



Elijah set up the harpsichord that was in waiting, near the organ and piano. It is so fun to be upstairs, looking out over the garden, goats, and chickens, trading who is on what instrument, just improvising! Although I will never convince Elijah to pursue any other music other than classical!

Walking by Elijah’s door, I hear: “I can play faster than you, louder than you, and longer than you,” he sternly warns his parakeets, as they, shrieking, rival his sound.

Christopher: Graduated!! CONGRATULATIONS!!! In the fall, Christopher will be off to the University of Nebraska to learn to be a pilot. Although, because of the virus, it may be actually in Colorado where he resides, with virtual learning. Still, it will keep him close to his friends! Sadly, it seems we will not see Christopher this summer, as most travel plans have been placed on hold. But thankfully we live in the age of communication!!



Tobit: Tobit has some rather astonishing talents. It appears that he, too, is rather musical. In fact, one of his favorite activities is to prance up and down the keyboard, making charming sonatas, which I'm sure other cats would appreciate. His favorite time to practice is when another person is attempting to practice (on that specific piano), or at midnight, if someone forgets to close a piano.



He is also fond of strumming Marietta's classical guitar. If someone forgets to put it away and leaves it lying down, he finds that his teeth make a handy pick. This was the case the other day, as we all paused during suppertime Grace, as mysterious guitar chords floated from the guest room, where I had left said guitar on the bed....



Pony: Have you guessed? Yes, Pony is actually canine rather than equine. However, now Marietta can say that she has a pony *and* a puppy! Pony is a 16 week old German Shepherd mix puppy from Arkansas. We found her through a New Hampshire rescue named *Mary's Dog Rescue*. She is a sweet girl who likes nothing more than plopping down in her kiddie pool. I am *told* that she is quite calm, for a puppy...And I think that the chew marks with which she decorated my rocking chair really give it unique character. I have since bought her bones.



She really tries to entice **Molshky** to play, but like many of us, he prefers his memory foam bed.

Jessie: finds great pleasure in living a "simple" life, focusing on what is truly important. It has, of course, been a challenge, to make so many adjustments all at once, while still meeting the high expectations for schooling, housework, and business. However, it has been most rewarding! Between petting affectionate goats, listening to violin music from upstairs, or delving into academics with Marietta, or simply getting a warm hug from Bruce, Jessie is pretty sure that God, in all his Grace and Mercy, has blessed her far more than she deserves, and she thanks Him with her whole heart!!

BEFORE and AFTER

The Garden



A garden musical joke: Those weeds sure are Haydn!

Movie Recommendations

The Case for Christ

God's Not Dead (1, 2, and 3!!)

The Adventures of the Wilderness Family

For Netflix fans, check out Pureflix!!

Pepere's Shop



(Bruce's dad, Pepere, loves it!)



Pepere was led by his wife, **Memere Joan**, blindfolded into the shop (after being spun around several times.) The blindfold was only removed after Pepere was IN the shop. We watched from the side window on the right. Pepere was HAPPY! All the tools, organized. Two floors for more tools! His precious backhoe, which is used to maintain our private road, finally under cover on the left, with a pully to manage the tarp. The generator shed is on the right for those cloudy, short winter days when the solar panels just won't allow for more power tools!



The Barn

The five goats and seven chickens are now happily in the barn. We are quite happy about that, too... The two boys have the stall on the left, the three girls share the stall on the right. Boulders for jumping and climbing scatter both pens.



The chicken coop can be seen on the right, with the run going behind the barn and stretching for just about the entire length. The chickens enter and exit above, while the ducks are below. The entire "coop" is in the barn, with everyone being locked in safely at night to keep the bears, coyotes, etc. out!



Turns out that goats are just as affectionate as dogs, and SO much fun to watch!!

*The next issue of Concert Presentations: Family Missions will arrive in October 2020! If you would like your name added to our mailing list, please write to us and we will gladly do so! We also love hearing about the lives, experiences, and wisdom of those whom we meet in the community. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Pratts
89 Vista View Dr. Dorchester, NH 03266
(603) 786-2782 ConcertPresentations@yahoo.com



Pratt Fun Facts: How do YOU like your noodles?

-Bruce: With as much meat as possible, garlic, olive oil, and marinara all mixed together. Minimal cheese. I'm hungry.

-Jessie: Vegetables, please! With a thick, spicy tomato based sauce. Perhaps a chili flavor, with some cheese mixed in. Would anyone else like to cook tonight? Anyone?

-Elijah: Meat, cheese, but very little sauce. It takes away from the flavors I like to add, such as garlic, basil, oregano, cumin, crushed red pepper, Buffalo Hot sauce, and whatever else looks appealing. Can I cook? Bread and butter on the side, please. May I help with the dishes by ensuring that there are no left overs that need to be put away? What snacks do we have? Is there any more?

-Marietta: A little meat, but not too much. Some sauce, but not too much. Some spices, but not too much. Not too much cheese....I'm not sure what you call that dish, Mommy, but....it was good (she says reassuringly.) I can cook next time, if you would like!!

Next Issue Available in October 2020

A Moral Consideration

Black Lives Matter. With a shake of my head, I strongly thought, "*ALL lives matter! Why is this being pushed, to so clearly stir hatred and division?*" I decided to *try* to see from a different viewpoint.

There I was, on my drive, in rural New Hampshire. If I were lost, I would thankfully pull over to ask directions from an officer. I then imagined that I was a woman of color. I felt...mistrust. I then imagined myself to be a man of color, well, a black man. I felt...fear.

Yes, I would go to an officer...As a last resort. But would I fear for my life, simply approaching an officer to request assistance? As a black man, my answer was: absolutely.

While I do feel that various groups with not-the-best intentions may have ulterior motives for hidden agendas, there is no doubt that black lives have simply not been seen to "matter" as much as white lives in this country. Until they do, I now see reason for why the signs read "Black Lives Matter," rather than "All Lives Matter."

Scripture Says:

Deuteronomy 10:17 The Lord, your God...has no favorites, accepts no bribes.

Leviticus 19:15 Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your fellow man justly.

Romans 2:11 There is no partiality with God.

Peter says in *Acts 10:34* "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him."

Paul charges Timothy in *1 5:21* "before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels to keep these rules without prejudice, doing nothing out of favoritism."

It is very much time for us to be "imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering..." *Ephesians 5:1-2*

My fellows, we are urged to "live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." *Ephesians 4:1-6*