

# Concert Presentations: Family Missions



*April 2022: Issue 2*

“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ ”     Jeremiah 29:11

## *Pratt Family Update:*

Spring has sprung! Up in northern New Hampshire, patches of snow may still be seen spotting the greening forest. However, mud season, and yes, that is truly a season here, is in full swing. For us, that means parking at the top of a San Francisco style hill, and walking to and from our home, which is three-quarters of a mile away at the bottom. We get few visitors at this time of year, though our persistent piano students will don their mud boots and rain gear to complete the trek.

This time of year is a blessed time, where neighbors who do maple sugaring may let us try some of their best batch. The May flies and mosquitoes are not out to pester, as we take walks or just sit under crisp, ever-warming blue skies. The ducks exuberantly try out their new “pond,” while the rooster suspiciously, with an eager air of authority, guards his ladies from the circling hawk.

For the Pratts, Spring means early rising, of 5 am or 6, as we make ready the garden, and plan other homestead projects that need attending. Piano and music start early, followed by schooling and business. By the afternoon, obligations, such as lessons or groups, are in action. Evening brings more music, followed by wind-down time. During this busy season, of new life and new beginnings, it is nice to make sure we are not speeding up too fast, but more closely resembling the tortoise. Slow and steady wins the race! Perhaps with a few bursts of sprinting, now and again 😊

### **The Homestead News:**

Spring brings miracles everywhere, but none so apparent as the miracle of new life! Imagine my surprise as I was tucking Nevaeh and Ruth to bed in the barn, lovingly closing the stall door, when I caught sight of a small dark shadow. This tiny being was standing, though barely, against the side of the stall, wobbling on tiny little stick-like legs. I caught sight of a splash of white on the head. A plaintive small bleat pushed out of its mouth when it caught sight of me and heard my voice. "Who in the world are YOU?" I exclaimed to this creature, smaller than the ducks. Then I promptly dropped everything and ran into the house shouting, "Come and see; come and see!! Bruce, Elijah, Marietta, come and see!!" An excited Bruce and Marietta followed me to the barn, while a slightly less exuberant Elijah watched from the window. Just recently, we had begun the discussion of rehoming the Houdini's that liked nothing more than the goods of Elijah's hard-earned garden. Now here was another one, although he had to admit, an extremely cute one.



*Star, quite the surprise, still needing to be dried.*

Marietta took one look at the little doeling as I dried her with a towel and voiced the thought that had been resonating in my head. "We should name her Star." And so Star it is! Star Joy, to be exact, as we watched her joy at discovering every part of her new world, from a blade of grass, to a curious chicken. A tentative little soul, who still likes to explore, Star Joy is never found too far from her mother, Ruth. Looking at her, we see the miracle and joy of life and God's plan. Spring certainly began with a celebration!!

**Bruce:** Bruce has been practicing, practicing, and, well, practicing! He has been having great fun working with Elijah on various recordings and projects. They very much like to tease each other throughout the day, and practice sessions are no exception!! Bruce continues to give lessons to children, adults, and families, and this has been incredibly rewarding. As concert season approaches, Bruce is finding himself in top shape, and is so excited to share the music he has been working on!



*Bruce with Mrs. Red*

Like everyone, Bruce has been relishing the return of more hospitable weather. One of his great delights was to construct a duck "pond," which is closer to the size of a large puddle. He found an indent in the ground, lined it with plastic, bordered the plastic on all sides with rocks, and filled it up! I do believe that the ducks, with all the quacks and flaps of delight, feel that they have found heaven. The family delights in sitting back and watching all the barn animals enjoy our homemade pond!!



Bruce has been doing a fantastic job supporting everyone he knows during this time we call: Life. His never-ending love, empathy, and focus on Jesus are truly an inspiration!

**Marietta:** still practices 2 hours every day, sometimes more!! Sometimes, I am not sure if I am hearing Bruce or Marietta. (For ye skeptics, this is a definite tribute to Marietta, and not an insult to Bruce! 😊 ) In addition to her practice routine, she continues to move forward with academics. She has become more and more self-motivated, which is truly a blessing! Marietta's newest discovery, in the realm of reading, has been the Nancy Drew detective series from long ago. It has become rather difficult to have her put the book down!!



*Marietta, trying on her concert attire.*

Marietta also finds time to devote herself to at least two chapters in the Bible a day, 1 in the New Testament, 1 in the Old. This has been very interesting, as we are studying World History 1 at the same time!

Lately, Marietta has been spending more and more time outside. As she gears up for her big birthday (Number 10!), she will look around the property in grand hopes of the big day. Indeed, she feels the celebration began early, with the addition of baby Star to the family!



In her extra time, Marietta has enjoyed working on art projects, doing her Bible readings and writings on *youtube*, and participating in the homeschool group. It turns out that Marietta is quite a natural at kick-ball!!! It will be so exciting to see where her interests lie by the time the next newsletter comes out, as she is always growing and exploring.

**Elijah:** is our computer expert, extraordinaire! Not only did he design and implement the website, but he also worked out how to take and edit recordings. He is a man of many interests, with a steadfast eye on the Lord.



One of Elijah's fun interests is a computer game called Minecraft. He explains this to me by saying that it is like advanced Legos. Interestingly, there are many formats in which this game can be played. This is also a game fraught with spells, magic, and enchantments. Elijah is the only player that we know of that plays Minecraft in conservative Christian mode, meaning he makes no use of the "magic," part of the game. This puts him at a disadvantage when he is up against the other players....or does it?? 😊



Elijah has been rising at 5 am, doing chores and practicing his violin with gusto, before the lights are even able to be turned on! Bravo, Elijah!

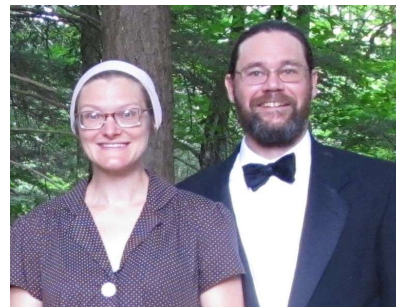
**Jessie:** Life has simplified a bit for Jessie. Her time helping the another homeschool family transition after the loss of their mother has reached a positive ending, as they made major life decisions to tackle what lay before them. Now, Jessie again finds herself with one student, Marietta, who is highly independent and motivated, even though she would *prefer* Mom at her elbow for every assignment. Jessie is taking this time to breathe, and make goat decisions, before jumping full-bore into the garden with Elijah and Marietta. Using this time wisely, she is enjoying solitary walks with the still boisterous Pony, our German Shepherd younger dog. She also is able to get a bit more reading and journaling in than before. Jessie is still enthusiastically doing livestream Bible readings on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays at 7:30 am.



Jessie is still passionate about helping, in any way she can, the plethora of people who she feels blessed to have in her life. This can include a WIDE variety and amount of people, as she has been quite involved in the Homeschool Group, the Christian Mom's Group, and groups at Church. Often, the needs we see are not just the needs of food, shelter, and clothing. We also see people's emotional and spiritual needs shouting to be filled. Jessie tries very hard to do all of this wherever the Lord calls her, however He calls her. And, she would like to point out, it is very much a sort of "spiritual-growing-boot-camp" for herself, as it's not always easy, and there's always more to learn and correct...in oneself!!



Jessie always says that the bottom line is 1 Corinthians 16:14. Everything you do, do it with love! To *everyone*! That should always be the guide. Of course, we are human, but we strive towards the perfection embodied in Jesus! And we are oh, so grateful for His patience and forgiveness!!



The next issue of Concert Presentations: Family Missions will arrive in Summer 2022! If you would like your name added to our mailing list, please contact 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  
9 Post Office Lane #487 Rumney, NH 03266  
(603) 786-2782 [ConcertPresentations@yahoo.com](mailto:ConcertPresentations@yahoo.com)  
[www.ConcertPresentations.com](http://www.ConcertPresentations.com)



*Pratt Fun Facts: Which of our pets is your favorite?*

-Bruce: Grey, our rooster. He attacks; I conquer him with love.

-Jessie: Moose, the outdoor cat. And Rocky, my Betta fish. And the goats, even if they are mischievous. Also, the ducks; they are so funny!! The bunnies, too; they are so soft and friendly.

-Elijah: Mendelssohn, my Bourke's parakeet. Birds are the only way to fly. All other pets are just annoying.

-Marietta: Tobit, my indoor cat. I can dress him up, twirl him, bounce him, and he purrs the whole time! He loves to snuggle, and he's my baby.

A Moral Consideration:

***For you who are suffering, our hearts ache.***

Unfortunately, “you who are suffering” encompasses so many people. This can be the neighbor who just lost his or her spouse. This can be the parent whose child was just given the diagnosis of a mood disorder. This can be a person who has to deal with the daily pain of an age-old injury. This can be physical, spiritual, or emotional pain, and none of these can be discounted as “worse” than another.

As I write this, and I think of all the brave souls I know who have suffering in one form or another in their lives (does anyone not?). I am also encouraged. Almost all of these people meet their suffering head-on. They see the good that exists in their lives, and that by no means is their entire life comprised of pain.

For those who are engulfed in their suffering; that is when people whose burdens are a bit lighter, even if just for the moment, can offer to help however they can.

God does not want His children to suffer.

Of course, at this moment, as I write this, in the forefront of my mind (though there many right behind), I think of the terrible suffering in Europe, in the Ukraine, and, dare I say it? In Russia. If you are a soldier, you do your job, period. Or you are not a soldier. Are you responsible for the atrocities you commit? Yes. Are there innocents among the soldiers? Yes. Are the Ukraine civilians and soldiers who have died also among innocents? Yes.

The urge is to villainize. And, indeed, truly there are those who are fighting who are villains. But that is up to God to decide, and perhaps, in this physical place, world leaders who keep such things in check. The bottom line is that I believe most of those who have died, on both sides, are children of someone. Parents of someone. His children.

I do not speak of those who committed these atrocities with glee in their hearts, or from payment. My feeble mind cannot and does not want to fathom such darkness. I, gratefully, leave that to God.

But I do speak of those on both sides who are trying to be good citizens, who are trying to live. And

the suffering, the dominoes of suffering, is enough to sink a truly unsinkable Titanic.

That being said, nothing is too great for the Lord. While suffering is truly part of life, who can fathom His ways or reasons? We can only trust in His plan and try to love and care for each other as we have been instructed.

***Scripture Says:***

“God did not destine us for wrath, but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do.”

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

“...admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all. See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good [both] for each other and for all.”

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

“All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. [And] be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.”

Ephesians 4: 31-32

“But I believe I shall enjoy the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord, take courage; be stouthearted and wait for the Lord!”

Psalms 27:13-14

“Be brave and steadfast; have no fear or dread of them, for it is the Lord, your God, who marches before you; He will never fail you or forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

“I know, Lord, that your edicts are just; though You afflict me, You are faithful. May Your love comfort me in accord with Your promise to Your servant.

Psalms 119 75-76

I pray that whatever suffering is occurring in your life, the Lord brings you strength and comfort, and that when you are able, you may pass this on to others. “For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

Acts 13:47

