

# Sarah Begaj Music

## January 2020 Newsletter

### God who gives the increase!

Dear friends and family

Firstly I'd like to wish you a slightly late but heartfelt blessed New Year! It has been in the back of my mind for a while to write this newsletter which is both a praise report of all the Lord is doing and a thank you for your support in coming along this musical faith journey with me!

One morning earlier this month I woke up with the words "God will give the increase". Often times the Lord will give me a verse in this way and so I have learnt to dig deeper and discover what it is He is saying to me. This quote comes from 1 Corinthians 3: 6-7 where Paul says ***"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase"***. In recent months the Lord has also given me the purpose of my music ministry: ***'to sow seeds of faith through song'***. In my June newsletter I wrote about God breaking up the fallow ground, preparing the soil so that His seeds may go out. There are those who have watered the seeds, taken them to new ground but it is ultimately God who brings the increase. This is a work that I cannot do alone and I'm thankful that you can be part of sharing the message of hope God has given me. With the promise the Lord has given that He will bring the increase, I would greatly appreciate your prayers relating to His leading. As many of you are aware, there have been new developments in recent months.



**2019** was both a year of rejoicing and sadness. Earlier on in the year a dear friend Linda Bennett passed away. I was privileged to lead the songs at her funeral. What a wonderful remembrance service it was, full of the hope of the Gospel. Later on in July my lovely friend Ruth (who has been a great encourager in this ministry) married Donovan Hall. I was again privileged to be asked to sing a song during their wedding service (pictured adjacent).

### Homegrown Worship

In August while we were on a family holiday at Creationfest in Cornwall, I met Andy Baker the founder of Homegrown Worship. Homegrown was born out of Andy's devotional time with the Lord whereby he penned a song for every week of the year. It is a music label which gives the opportunity to songwriters like myself to share worship songs as part of a wider community and hear and utilise songs of others in our churches. After seeking the Lord on the matter I decided to invest in this opportunity and wrote 3 songs for Homegrown due to be released this year, (the first on 11<sup>th</sup> February). One of the songs the Lord led me to write is called **'All For Your Kingdom'**. It is a song inspired by Mary's offering to Jesus. Mary



poured fragrant oil - the equivalent to one years wages, upon Jesus as an act of worship. The disciples were not impressed at this 'waste' but Jesus did not despise her offering but rather deemed it as a good thing. In the same way, my offering to Jesus of these songs and album, cost me all I had earned teaching piano and from my CD sales. I often think of King David's words in 1 Chronicles 21:24; ***I will not offer "that which costs me nothing"***. The Lord has been so good and also raised up others that have also contributed to making both my work with Homegrown and the new album possible. As part of the agreement with Homegrown, Andy organised the audio mixing and artwork of my album ***'The Battle Belongs To The Lord'*** in time for its release in December. This open door came at a time I was praying for God to enable me to work with others. He also provided me with the advice I needed to improve my recordings at home.

The Battle Belongs To The Lord Album cover

## The Battle Belongs To The Lord Album Launch

It is with great thanks to my husband Ilir helping me at home that I was able to re-record all of the songs intended for the album within the space of 4 weeks! This was at a time that our car was vandalised beyond repair. All praise to God how He miraculously provided us with another car beyond all our expectations! The Lord laid it on my heart to host an album launch and invite people to come along to listen to the songs and the testimonies behind them. Although this both filled me with excitement and fear, I knew that if I stepped out in faith the Lord would come through. One of the lines of my song "By Faith" from my previous album is "by faith I know that Jesus will come through". God was challenging me to hold to these declarations! He certainly did come through. I was so blessed by all the people who came alongside to help musically, practically and pray faithfully for God's Word to go out. It was also a wonderful opportunity to hear from Hope Prosser, the founder of 'Hope and Soul' – a charity helping street children and orphans in Tanzania. Both believers and non believers were present on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December including the families of my piano pupils. The Lord filled the hall - all glory to Him!

Abby Bennett, James Begaj, Jana Stetinova  
and Sarah Begaj – Album launch 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## 2020 Vision



- I'm truly blessed by the support from friends and family. It is my desire to continue to sow seeds of faith and hope through the songs and testimonies the Lord has given me.
- My **CD** is now available from my website and as digital downloads from all the major digital stores.
- The first of **3 songs** being released with **Homegrown** this year will come out around 11<sup>th</sup> February.
- Continuing **collaborating** with other Christian songwriters.
- I now have 11 **piano pupils** (including my two children), which is such a joy and provision from the Lord.
- Lord willing and providing we will convert a small room in our house into a **simple studio** which will help me develop my own recording as I always have many songs to share!
- I will be sharing with the ladies at **Cowplain Evangelical Church** soon, praise God!
- **Please pray** that the Lord would use my family and I for His Kingdom purposes.

May the Lord richly bless you, much love in Jesus,

*Sarah Begaj*

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